

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 16 August 2020

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your eyes, O God our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

Covid-19: Please make sure you are well acquainted with the latest Covid-19 regulations. They are set out below. In particular, please try to observe physical distancing when coming to Communion. It is strongly recommended that we wear masks. I think I should do so, given that I am exposed to many people and, during the Mass, am projecting my voice and, presumably, various aerosol sprays.

St Vincent de Paul: Parishioners will have noted a clash between the times set for the meeting of the Parish Council and the St Vincent de Paul Society. The Parish Council will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month and the **Society will meet on the first Tuesday of the month**, as was the custom prior to the pandemic. Details of the monthly meeting will be provided in due course.

The First Communion programme has commenced with good attendances. The meetings in the church conform with the directives of the Minister of Health – this has been checked and confirmed by the Archdiocese. Nevertheless, the reintroduction of some further restrictions seems inevitable and, accordingly, the Spirituality Day for the children on 8 September 2020 has been cancelled. Alternative arrangements will be made for smaller groups to meet for their final preparation and the opportunity for the children (and their parents) to make their Confessions. I will be inviting at least one visiting priest to assist with Confessions.

Sunday and weekday Masses: While attendance at Sunday Mass is a matter of obligation for Catholics, I think we all recognize that there are many competing obligations, usually centred around children and young people but also on account of work demands, which make going to Sunday Mass sometimes very difficult if not impossible. May I recommend to parishioners who find themselves in this position the possibility of attending a weekday Mass in *lieu* of the Sunday Mass. The underlying principle is being honoured, namely, giving time to the Lord and making a weekly offering of our thoughts, words, and deeds, to the service of God and of each other. Moreover, the weekday Masses are efficient, quiet, prayerful, and refreshing. Why not come and see what a difference starting with the Mass makes to your weekday.

Plenary Council discussions: At the Parish Pastoral Council meeting on Tuesday, it was decided that we will set a date and a time for anyone interested in the developments of the Plenary Council to come together and be brought up to date. This will be organised in the next couple of weeks. John Dickie is the contact person: jdickie@bigpond.com. Please note that there will be a **Communion Service at Balmain on this coming Wednesday** at 7.30am.

Fr Richard Waddell
Parish Administrator

NOTICES

Altar servers: There are 30 pupils at the Parish School who would like to become altar servers. Already, a team of six has served at a recent school Mass. It would be wonderful if our young volunteers had the opportunity to serve at our weekend Masses – subject to their parents' cooperation, of course. Meanwhile, we really need some adult volunteers who could assist with the general organisation of the altar servers so as to enable this to happen. Ideally, two married couples could share the task. It would be appropriate for the husband(s) to be admitted as Acolytes. As with all parish voluntary tasks, the responsibilities would be subject to annual renewal, recognizing that from year to year individual and family circumstances can change. This is a great opportunity and we must respond to the enthusiasm of the children. If you are able to help, please let me know.

Application of Regulations at Balmain and Rozelle generally: It is preferable for parishioners to line up for communion coming to the altar along the outside aisles and returning by the centre aisle. This will prevent standing side by side, as we do when lining up in the centre aisle. Parishioners are also asked to keep a distance from the communicant in front of them, if possible. Please continue to receive Holy Communion only in the hand.

Latest Regulations regarding attendance at Mass:

1. No more than 100 persons in a church at a time (no matter what the size of the church);
2. Baptisms, Anointing, and giving Holy Communion is regarded as no greater risk than the service of food and drinks in restaurants, which is allowed;
3. Congregational singing is still not allowed. Recent health advice has indicated that while droplets fall quickly to the ground, the aerosol emissions during singing promote too great a risk even for those adhering to the specified 1.5 m physical distancing;
4. Singers are permissible, provided they are 1.5 m from each other and 4 m from the congregation;
5. Members of the congregation should be discouraged from mingling before, during, or after the service.
6. It is no longer necessary to register for attendance at Sunday or weekday Masses in either of our churches. Parishioners are asked, however, to fill in the attendance forms at the entrances to the churches, giving their names and telephone numbers.
7. The four-square metre rule still applies.

Music at Mass: As you know, for the time being, we cannot have congregational singing but at 9am and 10.30am a cantor *only* will sing the Entrance Antiphon, The *Offertorium*, and the Communion Antiphon, plus the *Kyries*, the *Sanctus*, and the *Agnus Dei*. There will be musical interludes from the organ and other musical instruments.

Collections at Mass: You are invited to make your offering by putting something in each of the two boxes at the entrance to each of our churches, clearly labelled 'First Collection' and 'Second Collection' or by making your donations by visiting the Parish Office.

Planned Giving Envelopes: There are still envelopes awaiting collection at the entrances to our churches. If you would like to join the planned giving scheme, please be in touch with our Parish Office.

Catholic Weekly available again in parishes: With all churches reopened for Mass across the Archdiocese of Sydney, the hard copy edition of the Catholic Weekly is available again in parishes this weekend for \$2.00

Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19: To help parishioners with any questions they may have around COVID-19 and its impact on sacraments such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, you may find the FAQs page on the Archdiocese of Sydney website helpful at this time by clicking – <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/>

COVIDSAFE

- We ask parishioners to register their attendance at Mass.
- The NSW Government has recommended parishioners wear face masks when attending religious services as an additional safeguard to help combat the spread of COVID-19.
- We comply and complete the NSW Government & Archdiocese Safety Plans for Places of Worship documented monthly as requested.
- We ask those who are unwell or at high risk due to compromised immune or respiratory system to not attend; and those that are over 70 should exercise caution.
- We ask parishioners to maintain the 1.5 social distancing rule when moving within the Church.
- We ask parishioners not to mingle when leaving Mass.
- We ask that you sanitise your hands when entering Church.
- We ask attendees to observe good hygiene practices when coughing or sneezing.
- The sign of peace is offered without any physical contact.
- Holy Communion is distributed & received on the hand only.
- There is no hand-to-hand passing of collection plates, First and Second collection stands are placed at the Church entrance.
- After every service Mass, Funeral, Wedding and Baptism, our Church is cleaned for the wellbeing of others.
- We are asking for Church monitors to comply with the COVID - 19 Places of Worship requirements to keep our Church open.
- We email our Parish bulletin weekly to keep you informed. Also available in Church for collection or download from our Parish website.
- We have asked that you limit your visits to the Parish office, we suggest you email or phone us.

COMING EVENTS (for your diaries)

- **St Vincent de Paul:** the Vinnies Winter Appeal will be held on Sunday 23 August. There will be a Vinnies member speaking VERY briefly at each Mass, and envelopes will be available together with a weblink to enable parishioners to make donations. For further details contact Maureen Robinson 0414 634208 and maureen.e.m.robinson@gmail.com.
- **Contemporary Music Mass:** 6pm on Sunday 23 August 2020 at St Augustine's Church.
- **Family Masses and Brunches:** Sadly, because of new regulations, it will *not* be possible to have the Family Masses and Brunches at 10.30am on Sunday 30 August at St Augustine's and on Sunday 29 November at St Joseph's.
- **Spring Equinox Wine Festival:** Tuesday 22, Friday 25, and Saturday 26 September. This festival will be over three evenings because there will be three themes organised by our sommelier. Sadly, there is a real possibility that we will not be able to proceed with this. Watch this space for more details to come.

- **Our Lady in English Poetry:** On Tuesday 20 October 2020, in the Presbytery, Professor Barry Spurr, *quondam* Professor of Poetry and Poetics at Sydney University, will be introducing us to a theme in English poetry not often acknowledged but which has provided a rich vein of inspiration throughout the entire course of the history of the English language from the very beginnings until the most modern of poets – Our Blessed Lady, the Virgin Mary. There have already been expressions of interest in this event. We will begin at 6.30pm and drinks and something to eat will be provided. Please notify the Parish Office if you would like to come. Numbers will be limited to 20 (under current regulations).

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

First Communions 2020: The First Communion Classes have commenced. The children will make their First Communions at the Parish Masses over the weekend of Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September. There will be an announcement in the near future about arrangements for rehearsals and also the opportunity to go to Confession before First Communion.

First Confessions (Reconciliation): Children in Year 2 who are baptised Catholics are eligible to be prepared for making their First Confessions at St Augustine's & St Joseph's in **October and November**. Parents are invited to apply for their children to be registered as participants in the preparation programme which includes children from Church & State Schools. Applications for registration are to be made online through the parishes' websites: <http://staugbalmain.org.au/first-reconciliation-first-eucharist-confirmation/>

PARISH INTERCESSIONS

The sick who have asked for our prayers: John, Bruce Fernandez, Patricia Webster, Anna Pasqua, Christine Forner, Jenni McEntee, Martha Lucia Gomez, Sylvia Gallagher, Henry Shiner, Shirley Lowe, Joe Fakhri, Margo Buckingham, Karen, Charles Borg, Ann Diver, Ray and Brenda Atkinson, Margaret Gye and Romy Tucker.

And, of your charity, pray for the souls of the faithful departed:

Those whose year's mind occurs at this time: Francesco Trunzo (08.08.17), Madeleine Barbagallo, Richard O'Neill (04.08.03) & Elizabeth Catherine (Betty) Clark (20.08.50).

And those recently deceased: William (Bill) Tease (20.07.20), Barbara Anne Howard (23.07.20), Raymond Slattery & Elsa Geale.

As well as for: Joyce Josephine & Bertie Joseph Clark, André, Michel & Ginette Comolle, Mary Anne, Anthony & Hugh Mulligan, John & Jackie Lowe, Mable & Catherine Miles, Vicky Pisani, Ron Bovey, Peter Modellino Charlie Camilleri, Martin Camilleri, Violet & Emanuel Camilleri, Winifred & David Preece, Hazel & Bernie Olson, Maria Roach, Sr Marie McMahan, Doris Falzon, Rita Agius, Kate Kenna, Antoinetta Scalone and deceased members of Manuli, Nitopi & Scalone families, Bertie Joseph & Joyce Josephine Clark, Charlie, Teresa, Rose & Lawrence Borg, Sydney, Edna & Cecilia Edmonds, Anthony & Ron Barnes, William, Irene & Gertrude Briggs, Kathleen & Maxwell Harris, Bill Gallagher, Gary Dollar, Susan Hanchard, Mollie Monan, Joyce Shiner, John Bransby. *Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Requiescant in pace. Amen.*

PLENARY COUNCIL – A NOTE FROM JOHN DICKIE

The *Discernment Papers* which outline matters for consideration at the forthcoming Plenary Council have now been published. They can be accessed at: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au. For further enquiries about available reading material, contact John Dickie at jdickie@bigpond.com.

What you should know about SAFEGUARDING

St Augustine's, St Joseph's and the Parish community is responsible for creating a safe and nurturing environment for *children and young people up to 18 years of age*. The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, in response to the deep concern in the Church and the broader community about child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, requires all (without exception) who wish to assist in Church activities have to meet three requirements (a) **Working with children Clearance** (Police Check), (b) to sign the Archdiocese's **Code of Conduct**, and (c) to attend an **Induction Safeguarding Training Course** which is available on line or conducted at St Augustine's Parish, as and when required. These requirements apply to all who have or may have any contact with children in Church related activities i.e. all employees, clergy, religious Brothers and Sisters, Extraordinary Ministers, acolytes, readers, musicians, choir members, plate collectors and counters, welcomers, contractors, handymen, gardeners, volunteers etc. Only when all three requirements are met can a person undertake their activity in support of the Parish.

Under the national safeguarding arrangements, all Parishes are required to ensure that all Parish volunteers have met the requirements. Parishes are audited to ensure that this has occurred. At St Augustine's there are some 90 who have nominated to assist the Parish in its work throughout the Parish community, however, only 40 Parishioners have met the required 3 requirements. Future arrangements are being put in place to ensure that the preconditions are met before a volunteer can become active in St Augustine's and St Joseph's Parishes. David Kelaher (0458 352257) and Kathleen Curry (0410 877227) are working to contact those already on the list who have not completed all the requirements. If this is not completed by **30 September 2020** then those who have not completed all requirements will have to be deleted from the list or have to commence again under proposed new procedures.

PARISH FINANCES

Anyone who requires a tax receipt for the 19/20 Financial Year, please contact the office via email or phone. Parishioners have continued to respond very generously to the parishes' continuing needs under the lockdown and a large number of deposits in the various accounts have been received. If you would like the banking details of the parish, please call or email the Parish Office. Many, many thanks.

SUNDAY MASSES

Balmain: Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5pm; Sunday at 9am and 6pm

Rozelle: Sunday 10.30am

DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK (Year II)

(Thursday: *St Bernard*; Friday: *St Pius X*; Saturday: *Queenship of the BVM*)

Balmain: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 7.30am; Saturday at 9am (Extraordinary Form on the third Saturday of the month).

N.B.: On Wednesday this week, there will be a Communion Service at Balmain.

Rozelle: Wednesday at 7am

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION

After the 7.30am Mass at Balmain on the First Friday of the month.

CONFESSIONS

Balmain: After Saturday morning Mass and 4.15 to 4.45pm; after any other Mass; and by appointment.

Rozelle: Before or after any Mass.

THE MEMORARE



REMEMBER, O most loving Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this assurance, I flee unto thee, O Virgin or virgins my Mother; to thee I come; before thee do I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer them. Amen.

Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exultate* of the Holy Father Francis on the call to holiness in today's world

1. "REJOICE AND BE GLAD" (*Mt* 5:12), Jesus tells those persecuted or humiliated for his sake. The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence. The call to holiness is present in various ways from the very first pages of the Bible. We see it expressed in the Lord's words to Abraham: "Walk before me, and be blameless" (*Gen* 17:1).
2. What follows is not meant to be a treatise on holiness, containing definitions and distinctions helpful for understanding this important subject, or a discussion of the various means of sanctification. My modest goal is to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities. For the Lord has chosen each one of us "to be holy and blameless before him in love" (*Eph* 1:4).

CHAPTER ONE THE CALL TO HOLINESS

THE SAINTS WHO ENCOURAGE AND ACCOMPANY US

3. The Letter to the Hebrews presents a number of testimonies that encourage us to "run with perseverance the race that is set before us" (12:1). It speaks of Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Gideon and others (cf. 11:1-12:3). Above all, it invites us to realize that "a great cloud of witnesses" (12:1) impels us to advance constantly towards the goal. These witnesses may include our own mothers, grandmothers or other loved ones (cf. *2 Tim* 1:5). Their lives may not always have been perfect, yet even amid their faults and failings they kept moving forward and proved pleasing to the Lord.
4. The saints now in God's presence preserve their bonds of love and communion with us. The Book of Revelation attests to this when it speaks of the intercession of the martyrs: "I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne; they cried out with a loud voice, 'O sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long will it be before you judge?'" (6:9-10). Each of us can say: "Surrounded, led and guided by the friends of God... I do not have to carry alone what, in truth, I could never carry alone. All the saints of God are there to protect me, to sustain me and to carry me".^[1]
5. The processes of beatification and canonization recognize the signs of heroic virtue, the sacrifice of one's life in martyrdom, and certain cases where a life is constantly offered for others, even until death. This shows an exemplary imitation of Christ, one worthy of the admiration of the faithful.^[2] We can think, for example, of Blessed Maria Gabriella Sgheddu, who offered her life for the unity of Christians (to be continued)

ST AUGUSTINE'S & ST JOSEPH'S DETAILS

St Augustine of Hippo's Church, Eaton Street, Balmain

St Joseph's Church, Cnr Victoria Road and Gordon Street, Rozelle

The Presbytery/Office: 3 Jane Street, Balmain NSW 2041

Parish Office: Tuesday to Thursday 9am to 3.30pm

Parish Secretary: Lorraine Thomy

Ministry Coordinator: Barbara Howard

Parish Safeguarding Officers: David Kelahe 0458 352 257 & Kathleen Curry 0410 877 227

Phone: 61 2 9810 1157

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Rozelle Website: www.stjosephrozelle.org.au