

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 23 August 2020

**Entrance Antiphon:** Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**Communion Antiphon:** The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

### FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

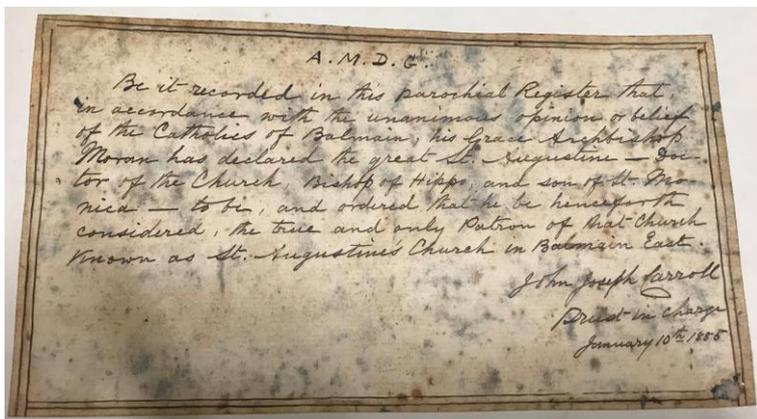
The **St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal** is being conducted this weekend at Balmain and Rozelle. At the conclusion of the Vigil and Sunday Masses, a member of the Society will speak briefly to us about the work of Vinnies and invite us to make a donation in an envelope which will be available in the seats or payable on line at

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/rozelle-region-covid-19-fundraiser-2020> .

Please note that, when you go to this site, there is a reference to the 'Rozelle Covid 19 Appeal. This has been combined with the Winter Appeal.

Our local Vinnies branch has resumed its **monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month**. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 1 September 2010 at the home of Maureen Robinson our President. Non-members are especially welcome. For further details contact Maureen Robinson 0414 634208 and [maureen.e.m.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.e.m.robinson@gmail.com) .

**Balmain's Feast of Title:** The Parish of Balmain has St Augustine of Hippo as its heavenly patron and this coming Friday is his Feast. Thursday is the Feast of St Monica, his long suffering and patient mother. Although it has been suggested that the English Benedictine monks who established the parish of Balmain may have been thinking of St Augustine of Canterbury when they chose the dedication of the new parish, the succeeding generations of Balmain Catholics have rejoiced in the patronage of the Bishop of Hippo who is, arguably, the most prominent Christian thinker of the early centuries of the Church, perhaps not having an equal until St Thomas Aquinas in the thirteenth century, 800 years later. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, we are unable to celebrate this occasion as we would have wished, particularly with the family Mass that we had planned for Sunday 30 August, but we will look forward to doing so next year.



A.M.D.G

*Be it recorded in this parochial Register, that In accordance with the unanimous opinion or belief of the Catholics of Balmain, His Grace, Bishop Moran has declared the great St Augustine – Dr of the Church, Bishop of Hippo and son of St Monica to be, and ordered that he be henceforth considered the true and only Patron of that church known as St Augustine's Church in Balmain East.*

*John Joseph Carroll  
Priest in Charge  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1885*

Fr Richard Waddell  
Parish Administrator

## NOTICES

**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](mailto:jdickie@bigpond.com).

**Altar servers:** There has been one offer from a couple to assist with nurturing our young altar servers. It would be good if another couple, either a married couple, or two people (one male and one female), could consider taking up this task. The programme will evolve gently as we establish our expectations and people's availability. The school Masses this term have had a team of servers. It would be good to have teams at our Sunday Masses in both parish churches. At present, there is much uncertainty about gatherings and what is permissible so progress on this front will probably be slower than we would wish. Let's hope that by the end of the year, we will have some structures in place, especially for our liturgies over Christmas.

**Latest Regulations regarding attendance at Mass:** Parishioners will have seen the various notices around the churches advising of the current limitations on our physical interaction at Mass and other gatherings. Please take the time to familiarise yourselves with the rules and do your best to comply with them. Many thanks.

**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. We are all very grateful to both David Hinder and Michael Murphy. In due course, we hope to re-establish the various singing groups that the parish has enjoyed in the recent past.

**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 electronically (see below) or 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

- 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 ask parishioners to register their attendance at Mass.
- 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 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)**

- **Contemporary Music Mass:** 6pm on Sunday 23 August 2020 at St Augustine's Church.
- **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, here 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 and 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 and 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

**For 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 Bernard Mooney.

**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).

- **those recently deceased:** William (Bill) Tease (20.07.20), Barbara Anne Howard (23.07.20), Raymond Slattery, Elsa Geale, Romony Tucker (18.08.20).

**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](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) . For further enquiries about available reading material, contact John Dickie at [jdickie@bigpond.com](mailto:jdickie@bigpond.com).



### What you should know about SAFEGUARDING

David Kelaher (0458 352257) and Kathleen Curry (0410 877227) are working to contact our volunteers who have not completed all the requirements of Safeguarding. Please contact us so that we can proceed more expeditiously to arrange to complete any missing requirement(s) you may have. 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

If you would like the banking details of the parish, please call or email the Parish Office.

## SUNDAY MASSES

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

Rozelle: Sunday 10.30am

## DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK (Year II)

(Monday: *St Bartholomew, Ap*; Thursday: *St Monica*; Friday: *ST AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*; Saturday: *The Beheading of St John the Baptist*)

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

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.



### A PRAYER OF KING HENRY VI (1421-71)

*Domine, Jesu Christe, qui me creasti, redemisti, et preordinasti ad hoc quod sum, tu scis quid de me facere vis; fac de me secundum voluntatem tuam cum misericordia. Amen.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who hast created and redeemed me, and hast brought me unto that which now I am, thou knowest what thou wouldst do with me; do with me according to thy will; for thy tender mercy's sake. Amen.

*Attributed to King Henry VI and translated from the Latin by Eric Milner-White (1884-1963)*

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

### **THE SAINTS "NEXT DOOR"**

6. Nor need we think only of those already beatified and canonized. The Holy Spirit bestows holiness in abundance among God's holy and faithful people, for "it has pleased God to make men and women holy and to save them, not as individuals without any bond between them, but rather as a people who might acknowledge him in truth and serve him in holiness".<sup>[3]</sup> In salvation history, the Lord saved one people. We are never completely ourselves unless we belong to a people. That is why no one is saved alone, as an isolated individual. Rather, God draws us to himself, taking into account the complex fabric of interpersonal relationships present in a human community. God wanted to enter into the life and history of a people.

7. I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence. We might call them "the middle class of holiness".[4]

8. Let us be spurred on by the signs of holiness that the Lord shows us through the humblest members of that people which "shares also in Christ's prophetic office, spreading abroad a living witness to him, especially by means of a life of faith and charity".[5] We should consider the fact that, as Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross suggests, real history is made by so many of them. As she writes: "The greatest figures of prophecy and sanctity step forth out of the darkest night. But for the most part, the formative stream of the mystical life remains invisible. Certainly the most decisive turning points in world history are substantially co-determined by souls whom no history book ever mentions. And we will only find out about those souls to whom we owe the decisive turning points in our personal lives on the day when all that is hidden is revealed".[6]

9. Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church. But even outside the Catholic Church and in very different contexts, the Holy Spirit raises up "signs of his presence which help Christ's followers".[7] Saint John Paul II reminded us that "the witness to Christ borne even to the shedding of blood has become a common inheritance of Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants".[8] In the moving ecumenical commemoration held in the Colosseum during the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, he stated that the martyrs are "a heritage which speaks more powerfully than all the causes of division".[9]

### THE EMERGENCE OF LIFE

Sir Frederick Hoyle, a British astronomer and non-believer and Chandra Wickramasinghe, a mathematician and also a non-believer, in the early 1980s pondered the question of how life began in the universe. They set out to calculate the probability of the first living thing, the simplest living organism, putting itself together by chance through the random shuffling of amino acids in the 'prehistoric soup', or atmosphere, surrounding the earth. They came up with the infinitesimal probability of one in  $10^{40,000}$ ! That is one in ten with 400000 zeros after it. They naturally concluded that life could not possibly have arisen by chance and that there had to be a creator. But rather than admit the existence of God, they considered this creator to be a superintellect somewhere in outer space which sent the first living thing to earth! Hoyle once said that the probability that life just occurred by chance on earth is about as great as a tornado blowing through a junkyard and constructing a 747 aircraft.

- from JOHN FLADER, *Journey into Truth*, Connor Court 2014, p. 6.

### 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 Kelaher 0458 352 257 & Kathleen Curry 0410 877 227

Phone: 61 2 9810 1157

Email addresses: [office@staugbalmain.org.au](mailto:office@staugbalmain.org.au) (Lorraine Thomy)

[balrozparishes@gmail.com](mailto:balrozparishes@gmail.com) (Barbara Howard)

[office@stjosephrozelle.com.au](mailto:office@stjosephrozelle.com.au) (Lorraine Thomy)

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