

**Entrance Antiphon:** Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

**Communion Antiphon:** How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

### **FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR**

Dear Parishioners,

**The St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal** is continuing over a second weekend because, due to circumstances beyond our control, it was not possible to have a speaker at the Vigil Mass and the Sunday night Mass. Accordingly, we will have speakers at these two Masses and the opportunity to put a donation towards the 'Vinnies' Winter Appeal 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.

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

**The Priests' Retirement Foundation Father's Day Appeal** will be held on 5 and 6 September 2020. Your donation will help care for our sick and retired priests, so please consider a gift towards this appeal.

**Bernard Mooney RIP:** Bernard died on 20 August 2020 (St Bernard's Day) at the RPA after a brief battle with cancer. He was a long-time parishioner of Balmain Parish. He is survived by his sister Maureen Ayton. We extend our sympathy to her and to Bernard's wider family and friends. His funeral will be a Requiem Mass on Friday 4 September 2020 at 11am in St Augustines' Church.

**First Communion Masses:** Please note that we have had to make special arrangements regarding the Masses at which the children of our two parishes make their first Communions. See below for details.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation** will be administered by Bishop Terence Brady in the parishes of Balmain and Rozelle on Saturday 28 November 2020 at St Augustine's (times to be advised). Details of the preparation for Confirmation will be provided in the near future.

**Altar Servers:** Arrangements are progressing (slowly) with respect to setting up a Servers' Guild.

Fr Richard Waddell  
*Parish Administrator*

## PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

**First Communions 2020:** Special Masses will be celebrated to enable the maximum number of family members to accompany the children making their first Communion this year.

These Masses will be celebrated as follows:

- Sunday 13 September at 12 noon at BALMAIN
- Sunday 20 September at 12 noon at ROZELLE
- Sunday 27 September at 12 noon at BALMAIN

At each Mass, there will be a limit on the number of people present. At Balmain, there will be a maximum of 20 children making their first Communion and at Rozelle a limit of 15 children. Each child may have four guests, making a total in the congregation of 100 at Balmain and 75 at Rozelle, which is the limit under the current regulations, having regard to the size of the buildings.

**Parents are invited to register their child** for one of the Masses with the Parish Office together with the names of the family members, relations, or friends, who will also be attending, not exceeding four persons (making a total of five for each family). The numbers are calculated by reference to each child. If the same family has more than one child making his or her first Communion, they may bring four persons for each child or they could make their extra places available to other families. The regulations count children as persons but there is nothing that I can find about babies. Parishioners should take their own counsel on this point.

**Where a family is unable to attend one of the dedicated First Communion Masses,** it would be quite appropriate for the family to attend one of the regular Sunday Masses in either parish. If they inform the Parish Office of their plans, special arrangements regarding seating and for the child receiving Holy Communion first and with any other children can be made.

**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://staugbalmmain.org.au/first-reconciliation-first-eucharist-confirmation/>

**Confirmation preparation:** Details will be provided in the near future.

## OTHER NOTICES

**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/>

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

## **COVIDSAFE**

- The NSW Government has recommended parishioners wear face masks
- We ask parishioners to register their attendance at Mass.
- 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.
- Please limit your visits to the Parish office, we suggest you email or phone us.

## **COMING EVENTS (for your diaries)**

- **Spring Equinox Wine Festival:** After consultation with our sommelier, it has been decided to postpone the Wine Festival to later in the year. First, we will await a relaxation of the limitation of attendance to 20 persons so as to make the occasion(s) more viable. Secondly, top soil has just been added to the lawn between the old Church and the Presbytery, so the grass needs to become a bit more established before being walked upon. Thirdly, the weather will be warmer and more suitable for an outdoor occasion. The Festival is not cancelled but it is postponed. Some other event in the cycles of nature or of the ecclesiastical year will be found as a pretext for a later celebration, the proceeds of which will be given to St Vincent de Paul. Please continue to 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. 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) and places are being filled rapidly.

### 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: *Pope St Gregory the Great*)

**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.

### 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.

**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, David Martin (17.08.20), Romony Tucker (18.08.20), Bernard Mooney (20.08.20), and Margaret Gye (21.08.20).

**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 McMahon, 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.*

### 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.

## 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).

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

#### **THE LORD CALLS**

10. All this is important. Yet with this Exhortation I would like to insist primarily on the call to holiness that the Lord addresses to each of us, the call that he also addresses, personally, to you: "Be holy, for I am holy" (*Lev* 11:44; cf. *1 Pet* 1:16). The Second Vatican Council stated this clearly: "Strengthened by so many and such great means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord – each in his or her own way – to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect".<sup>[10]</sup>

11. "Each in his or her own way" the Council says. We should not grow discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable. There are some testimonies that may prove helpful and inspiring, but that we are not meant to copy, for that could even lead us astray from the one specific path that the Lord has in mind for us. The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts (cf. *1 Cor* 12:7), rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them. We are all called to be witnesses, but there are many actual ways of bearing witness.<sup>[11]</sup> Indeed, when the great mystic, Saint John of the Cross, wrote his *Spiritual Canticle*, he preferred to avoid hard and fast rules for all. He explained that his verses were composed so that everyone could benefit from them "in his or her own way".<sup>[12]</sup> For God's life is communicated "to some in one way and to others in another".<sup>[13]</sup>

12. Within these various forms, I would stress too that the "genius of woman" is seen in feminine styles of holiness, which are an essential means of reflecting God's holiness in this world. Indeed, in times when women tended to be most ignored or overlooked, the Holy Spirit raised up saints whose attractiveness produced new spiritual vigour and important reforms in the Church. We can mention Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Saint Bridget, Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. But I think too of all those unknown or forgotten women who, each in her own way, sustained and transformed families and communities by the power of their witness.

13. This should excite and encourage us to give our all and to embrace that unique plan that God willed for each of us from eternity: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you" (*Jer* 1:5).

#### **THE PARISH IN CATHOLIC TRADITION AND CANON LAW (continued)**

##### **JESUS AND THE JERUSALEM CHURCH**

After Jesus' resurrection, as he prepared to depart from this earth, he gave this charge to his followers: 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judaea, and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1: 8). He instructed them to continue the mission he had begun.

Jesus had assured his disciples that 'where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them' (Matt 18: 20). He chose his first disciples individually, calling them from their work to follow him. But the church, which continues the work of Christ in the world, consists not only of individual Christians but of the followers of Christ *gathered into communities*.

From its earliest appearances the church was a communion of communities. It existed as local congregations of the baptised, gathered together in communities and linked to other local congregations in other places in a network called 'communion'.

After Jesus' ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit, the community of Jesus' followers in Jerusalem is described in this way:

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers (Acts 2: 42).

The picture is of a close-knit group whose members cared for and were dependent on one another. They were intent on learning from those whom the Lord had chosen as his companions and witnesses. They commemorated the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus at the eucharistic meal in their homes, and they devoted themselves to prayer in the temple. They lived in harmony and experienced remarkable growth.

The community of believers was of one heart and mind...more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them (Acts 4: 32 and 5: 14).

(from JAMES A. CORIDEN, *The Parish in Catholic Tradition: History, Theology and Canon Law*, New Jersey 1997, pp. 9-10).



### THE INTELLIGENCE OF ANIMALS AND THE BEAUTY OF PLANTS

Admire the instinctive intelligence of animals and explain it if you can. Look how the birds build their nest, between rocks, in trees, under roofs. They make them in such a way that they be safe and have a nice, comfortable place in which to raise their young.

And look at the bees and spiders. Where do their love of work and their ingenuity come from?

I am not speaking of the ants, which have stores where they pile up great quantities of provisions, nor of their continual comings and goings, nor of their leaders, nor of the order they keep while they are working.

Can you explain all that and arrive at an understanding of the wisdom they point to?

Look in addition at the different kinds of plants, at the elegance of their leaves. They are delightful to the eye, and useful for the fruits they produce.

No! We cannot understand the nature of these things. Much less are we likely to be able to understand the nature of the first Being, the unique Being who is the fullness of everything.

GREGORY NAZIANZEN, *Oration 28*, 25 (PG36, 60) cited in THOMAS SPIDLIK (ed.), *Drinking from the Hidden Fountain – A Patristic Breviary*, London 1992).

### 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

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