

**NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISHES OF BALMAIN AND ROZELLE,
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
PENTECOST**

(YEAR B) 23 May 2021



FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners,

Today at the 9 am Mass at Balmain, **Fr Gregory will baptise and confirm Natasha Annalea**. Natasha completed the RCIA at Gymea, where Fr Gregory was previously placed, but did not have the opportunity to complete her Christian Initiation. Now, Covid seemingly having abated, she has the opportunity to complete her Christian Initiation on the great feast day of the Holy Spirit. We congratulate her and assure her of our prayers.

This weekend is the last of the four census (or Mass count) weekends. Accordingly, we will try to remember to arrange for a count of the congregations – the best time is during the homily when usually the latest of the latecomers has or have arrived and, one hopes, no one has yet left.

The painting of the Balmain Church doors continues, despite sporadic inclement weather. The doors require three coats and the colour will therefore become a bit darker but without losing its warmth. The Balmain Hall doors will be painted green – probably a variation of olive green – and not red, since the building is no longer a church. The red paint on the doors of the Hall was a mistake! For those of you who have not read last week's *Bulletin*, the colour is a heritage red; for absolute accuracy refer to British Standards 2660 and 381c.

Thanks to the provider of our new **internal phone system**, the parish was re-joined to the NBN on Monday morning. The process usually takes two or more weeks so we are very grateful to **Atlas Communications** (Brendan Gallagher) for rising to the occasion.

The work on **the lighting** continues. I have now been initiated into the very high tech operation of the window lights and Stations lights – there is no such thing as 'On' and 'Off' nowadays – it is all very complicated.

The final **Confirmation Preparation Class** will be conducted this Wednesday 26 May at 7 pm in St Augustine's. The two **Confirmation liturgies** will be celebrated on Saturday 29 May at 11 am at Rozelle and 2 pm at Balmain. Candidates will have an opportunity to make their Confession in preparation for receiving the Sacrament after the Class on Wednesday 26 May and on Friday 28 May at St Augustine's between 6 and 7 (or however long it takes).

Father Gregory marked the **10th anniversary of his priesting on Friday 21 May 2021**. He celebrated the 7.30 am Mass, received some gifts and congratulations from kind parishioners, spent the morning lecturing at Notre Dame University, and then had a modest luncheon celebration at a pleasant location in the city. Our congratulations to and prayers for Fr Gregory – *ad multos annos!!!*

The Sunday evening Mass this weekend is a **Family Mass** at 6 pm at Balmain. It was originally intended to have the Mass at Rozelle at 10.30 am but competing soccer commitments have made the rescheduling necessary. There will be a supper afterwards in the Hall. Thank you so much to Angela Mills for organizing this. It takes a lot of work and thank you also to everyone who has helped her. The Principal, Kevin Bryson, will speak briefly at the end of the Mass.

There will be a **School Mass** on Monday 24 May 2021 for the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians at 9.30 am.

The **St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal** is to be held over the weekend of 5/6 June. There will be speakers at each of the weekend Masses in both parishes. Your interest and support is greatly appreciated.

John Dickie, the Chairman of our Balmain Parish Pastoral Council, is very involved in the preparations for the **Australian Plenary Council**. He and a number of other parishioners were the authors of our parishes' submissions which were made in the preliminary processes. Our former parishioner, John Menadue, who has now (sadly for us) moved with Suzie to Canberra (to be closer to his family), has an online public policy journal, and has published an article by David Timbs, "Catholicism must grow up", to which John Dickie would like to draw our attention and, also, there is a video of a talk by Sr Joan Chichester OSB available at: <https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/the-future-of-catholicism-australia/>.

Greg Stewart has been inspired by the beautiful autumn weather we have experienced recently to insist that **Gerard Manley Hopkins' poem 'God's Grandeur'** be included in this week's *Bulletin*. Whilst in a poetic mood, I would also like to recommend a collection of poems given to me by Bishop Brady – A

Street Spirituality – The Poetry of David Christopher Marsh. I include one of his poems, reproduced without permission but with the purpose of promoting his book of poetry, published in 2020 by David's Place.

Fr Richard Waddell
Parish Administrator



FORTHCOMING BAPTISM

Oliver Cameron HOLLAND on Sunday 25 July at 12 noon



PARISH INTERCESSIONS

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers (1 Thess 1: 2)

For the sick and those in old age: Martha Lucia Gomez, Jaime Aponte, Roger Parsons, John, Bruce Fernandez, Patricia Webster, Anna Pasqua, Christine Forner, Jenni McEntee, Martha Lucia Gomez, Sylvia Gallagher, Shirley Lowe, Margo Buckingham, Karen, Ann Diver, Ray, Brenda Atkinson, Vincent Erskin, Marcella Holsten, Keith Yates, Pina Borg, Beverley Kerin, Vincent, Catherine and Eric Erskine, Nela and Brian Blakemore, Joan Leonard, Marie Meyrick, Mary Ferguson, Tony Carbon. Rosemarie Longworth, John Blunt, Lyn Wilson, Brent Egan, Paul Joseph Clark.

For the faithful departed – those recently deceased: Red O'Connor (06.02.21), Millie Leung (22.02.21), Veronica Jardin (27.02.21), Wendy Wheatley, Harry Fullerton, and Charlie Veech, Millie Leung, Pat Britton, Mary Haylen (23.04.21), and Carmelo Battaglia (30.04.21).

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, Sr Mary Constable, Sr Marie McMahan, Marcia Cadiz McIlvenna, Mary Houghton.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Requiescant in pace. Amen.

Catholic Weekly – Pulpit Points May 23 2021

- The conversions that rocked Sweden
- A new parish for Sydney
- Frank Brennan: Stop looking up at the sky
- Monica Doumit: Catholics who won't shut up
- Books: Philippa Martyr review on Gabriele Kuby's new book
- Fr Flader: How do I respond to a transgender child

God's Grandeur

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ

ABOUT MY POETRY

The desk is not self
The paper is not self
The pen is not self
But only an instrument

The readers are not self
The poems are not self
But the poet is self
Though only an instrument

Christopher Walsh 2002

SUNDAY MASSES

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

Rozelle: Sunday at 10.30am.

DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK

(Monday: *Our Lady Help of Christians*; Wednesday: *St Philip Neri*)

Balmain: Monday to Friday at 7.30 am and Saturday at 9 am (Tridentine Mass on the 3rd Saturday of the month). **Rozelle:** Wednesday 7.30 am.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION ON THE FIRST FRIDAY

After the 7.30am Mass at Balmain.

CONFESSIONS

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

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

CHAPTER FOUR

SIGNS OF HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD

JOY AND A SENSE OF HUMOUR

122. Far from being timid, morose, acerbic or melancholy, or putting on a dreary face, the saints are joyful and full of good humour. Though completely realistic, they radiate a positive and hopeful spirit. The Christian life is "joy in the Holy Spirit" (*Rom 14:17*), for "the necessary result of the love of charity is joy; since every lover rejoices at being united to the beloved... the effect of charity is joy".^[99] Having received the beautiful gift of God's word, we embrace it "in much affliction, with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit" (*1 Thess 1:6*). If we allow the Lord to draw us out of our shell and change our lives, then we can do as Saint Paul tells us: "Rejoice in the Lord always; I say it again, rejoice!" (*Phil 4:4*).

123. The prophets proclaimed the times of Jesus, in which we now live, as a revelation of joy. "Shout and sing for joy!" (*Is 12:6*). "Get you up to a high mountain, O herald of good tidings to Zion; lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem!" (*Is 40:9*). "Break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and he will have compassion on his afflicted" (*Is 49:13*). "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he" (*Zech 9:9*). Nor should we forget Nehemiah's exhortation: "Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!" (*8:10*).

124. Mary, recognizing the newness that Jesus brought, sang: "My spirit rejoices" (*Lk 1:47*), and Jesus himself "rejoiced in the Holy Spirit" (*Lk 10:21*). As he passed by, "all the people rejoiced" (*Lk 13:17*). After his resurrection, wherever the disciples went, there was "much joy" (*Acts 8:8*). Jesus assures us: "You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy... I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (*Jn 16:20.22*). "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (*Jn 15:11*).

125. Hard times may come, when the cross casts its shadow, yet nothing can destroy the supernatural joy that "adapts and changes, but always endures,

even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved".[\[100\]](#) That joy brings deep security, serene hope and a spiritual fulfilment that the world cannot understand or appreciate.

126. Christian joy is usually accompanied by a sense of humour. We see this clearly, for example, in Saint Thomas More, Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Philip Neri. Ill humour is no sign of holiness. "Remove vexation from your mind" (*Ecc/ 11:10*). We receive so much from the Lord "for our enjoyment" (*1 Tim 6:17*), that sadness can be a sign of ingratitude. We can get so caught up in ourselves that we are unable to recognize God's gifts.[\[101\]](#)

127. With the love of a father, God tells us: "My son, treat yourself well... Do not deprive yourself of a happy day" (*Sir 14:11.14*). He wants us to be positive, grateful and uncomplicated: "In the day of prosperity, be joyful... God created human beings straightforward, but they have devised many schemes" (*Ecc/ 7:14.29*). Whatever the case, we should remain resilient and imitate Saint Paul: "I have learned to be content with what I have" (*Phil 4:11*). Saint Francis of Assisi lived by this; he could be overwhelmed with gratitude before a piece of hard bread, or joyfully praise God simply for the breeze that caressed his face.

128. This is not the joy held out by today's individualistic and consumerist culture. Consumerism only bloats the heart. It can offer occasional and passing pleasures, but not joy. Here I am speaking of a joy lived in communion, which shares and is shared, since "there is more happiness in giving than in receiving" (*Acts 20:35*) and "God loves a cheerful giver" (*2 Cor 9:7*). Fraternal love increases our capacity for joy, since it makes us capable of rejoicing in the good of others: "Rejoice with those who rejoice" (*Rom 12:15*). "We rejoice when we are weak and you are strong" (*2 Cor 13:9*). On the other hand, when we "focus primarily on our own needs, we condemn ourselves to a joyless existence".[\[102\]](#)

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 Friday 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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