

An Unlikely Saint - John Bradburne

John Bradburne, whose cause for sainthood has been introduced in Zimbabwe, was one of those wild, holy people.

Some saints live at the centre of the world – St Ambrose, for example. He the Roman Governor of a large province before being made Bishop by popular acclaim. Others, like St Francis of Assisi, lived at its edge, fascinating and appalling for the freedom they found in following Jesus who had no roof over his head.

His life began conventionally – the son of an English Anglican minister, educated at a Public School. When the Second World War broke out, however, he left the standard path. He joined the Indian army and was sent to Malaysia shortly before the Japanese invasion. He escaped by walking for a month through the jungle to the coast, capturing a sampan that sank, capturing another, catching the last British frigate out of Sumatra to India, and fighting in Burma with the guerrillas of the legendary Orde Wingate. (*Sampan - common boat*)

In Malaysia he had experienced a powerful religious awakening that shaped his post-war life. He, stayed with the Benedictines at Buckfast Abbey where he became a Catholic. For twenty years then he travelled the world with all his belongings in a small bag, briefly joining the Carthusians, the Benedictines and a small congregation in Jerusalem, living as a hermit near Dartmoor, and staying in monasteries and churches, as he camped out in his wandering around Europe and England. During these twenty years he continued to write poems, some explicitly religious and all expressing simply his wonder at the beauty of the natural world. He became a member of the Secular Franciscans, following the way of life of Francis of Assisi. His life and poetry revolved around the hours of the Franciscan Office of Our Lady which he sang each day.

He found the work that has defined his life after he made contact with a similarly wild priest with whom he had served in the army. He asked the priest to find him a place in Zimbabwe where he might pray. In 1969 he came to a leper colony at Mutemwe, some distance from Harare, and was appointed Warden. The lepers there were isolated and neglected. He cared for them, washed and dressed their wounds, and above all showed them respect and love. This angered the Committee that controlled the colony and also the local villagers who wanted to be rid of the lepers. It led to his dismissal for refusing to cut their rations and make them wear name tags. He subsequently lived in a tin shed near the lepers, where he continued to support them and to write poetry. Local hostility to him led eventually to his murder in 1979 in midst of the civil war against colonial rule in Zimbabwe.

John's life could be described in many ways. Many people would have seen him as a misfit and a tramp, who could form no firm commitments, make no home, and hold down no job. Others may have seen him as both hero and victim of a war that left him traumatised; others as a man who gave himself to the rejected of a far country and died rejected by it.

To the lepers and those who came close to him, however, he was a man of God who saw in them a dignity that others denied. His poems, written on scraps of paper during his life, reveal a man whose life was focused on God, fascinated like St Francis of Assisi by the beauty of nature and the lure of poverty. This spirit is caught in the verse of a poem that he later wrote about his first visit to Assisi.

*Up, up, my soul,
With gladness now
Resume by grace of God
To tell the glory of the Plough
Seen from the stubbled clod
Whereon I slept if slept I not
In the roadside ditch;
O the nights were hot
And bright they were
And the Plough stood fair
With its jewelled points
Above in the lovely air.*



Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin



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Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

**DUE TO COVID-19, PUBLIC
MASSES AND CHURCH BUILDINGS ARE
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**
**CHURCHES ARE NOT BEING CLOSED.
BUILDINGS ARE BEING CLOSED.
YOU ARE THE CHURCH!
YOU ARE TO REMAIN OPEN.**

DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

A Poem to Sit With

*Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said,
"This saying is hard; who can accept it?" (Gospel)*

Crying for a Vision

To cry for a vision
is a sacred task

after hearing a holy man
after taking a sweat bath
with sage and sweet grass

one must climb a mountain alone -

here a song may be heard
here a vision may be given

here a dance may be learned -

one must then leave the mountain

to sing the song
to live the vision
to begin the dance.

J. Janda

THE FIRST READING

John 6:60-69

This saying is hard; who can accept it?

Holy One of God,
you built up galaxies from nothing at all,
and wheat fields from barren earth.
You come to us too as the
grain of the land:
our bread
our life.

You ask if
we could ever leave you.

Well, where would we go?
Others have no Spirit or life.
Please set our hearts on fire with your love!

Help us to always choose to love you
in every joy and every sorrow,
in all your hungry people,
in a crying earth,
always love,
always!

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69

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.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33:2-3, 16-23

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

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.

Next Week: Deut 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

We acknowledge the Darug and Gundugarra people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to elders both past and present.



Recently Deceased: John Redwood Baker

Sick: Lisa Vaughan, Susie Ziino, James Wallace, Mischa Damaguc and family, Margaret Day, Adam McCully, Christopher Coombs, Kate Moore, Luca Hurley and all Private Intentions.
Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.

Parish and Local Community News

YEAR 12 STUDENTS: Are you a Year 12 student interested in a career in IT? You should definitely consider CEDP's successful IT traineeship program - a chance to work and learn in a school environment that you are already familiar AND did you know over **95% of graduates obtain jobs in the IT industry?** For further information and to register for a special webinar on the **24th August** go to <https://bit.ly/3lVWzjf>.

LEARNER DRIVER OR P-PLATE SAFER DRIVER COURSE: Are you teaching a young person to drive or about to? Would you like some tips to help your learner driver become a safer driver? The workshop covers Learner Driver and P-plate licence conditions, planning on-road driving sessions, tips and trips for supervising a learner driver and more. Register for a **FREE online workshop via ZOOM**. Wednesday, 8 September 2021, 6:30 – 8pm. Registrations are via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/helping-learner-driver-workshop-tickets-166463915051> or email Councils Road Safety Coordinator at: council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au if you have any further questions.



VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRES ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN NEED: St Vincent de Paul Support Centres across Greater Sydney are still available and taking calls to arrange for food vouchers or other items to be provided to those in need. If you need assistance, call the Support Centres in Blacktown on (02) 8861 9777, Harris Park on (02) 8861 9757 and Penrith on (02) 8861 9770. To find out more about what support is available, visit <http://vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>.

SPRINGWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE COOPERATIVE LTD: You can access food parcels from Springwood Neighbourhood Centre if you live in the Blue Mountains. During the lockdown, SNCC are delivering them straight to your front door. Would you be interested in a book with your food parcels? SNCC have a selection of novels ranging from crime mysteries and dramas to autobiographies and thrillers at the Centre. Anyone receiving an emergency food parcel who would also like a book or two, let them know! You can call SNCC on 4751 3033 or email reception@sncc.org.au

ST THOMAS AQUINAS RECORDED MASS: Fr Paul would be honoured if you could join him each week - Every week since March 2020, Fr Paul has recorded Mass at Lawson and it is uploaded onto our Website and Facebook pages every Saturday morning. You are able to view at any time. Web: www.stchurchspringwood.org.au or Facebook: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL LIVESTREAMED MASS: Mass will be livestreamed daily from St Patrick's Cathedral via their Facebook page and YouTube channel. Copy the link to join on YouTube. <https://tinyurl.com/stpatsyoutube>. Livestreamed Mass Times: Monday to Friday 6.30am and 12.30pm, Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 11.00am.

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME: Many people who are isolated, in hospital or do not have the internet, rely on Mass For You at Home. The Catholic Mass is broadcast free-to-air each Sunday morning on Channel 10 and WIN at 6.00am. Find some familiar faces from the Diocese of Parramatta celebrating Mass over the coming weeks. Find out more at www.massforyou.com.au.

MISSION - ONE HEART, MANY VOICES CONFERENCE 2021: Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd September, Catholic Religious Australia and Catholic Mission offer a unique opportunity for parishes and schools to attend the MOHVM virtual conference. This virtual conferences gives the opportunity of participants to experience a diverse range of international and local speakers with broad-lived and practical experience in their respective field. This MOHVM conference will encourage participants to explore 'Leadership for Mission Now' through the frame of an open mind, open heart and open will, embracing curiosity, compassion and courage. Participants can register for 1, 2 or all 3 days of the event. **Registration - 3 days: \$185 Daily: \$70. Saturday September 4, 2021: \$60 (This is a special day with young people exploring issues that are especially relevant to them and for us all. It is open to all).** For further information relating to individual registration visit www.mohmv.com.au. Ph: 1800 257 296 and Email: mohmvconferenceteam@castholicmission.org.au



QR-CODE/CHECK-IN CARD: If you know of anyone in our lovely Parish community who is struggling with QR-Codes / Checking in, please help them to register for a check-in card. Service NSW are ready to help. Customers can now register for a COVID-19 check-in card which can be presented to supermarkets and other essential retail businesses to scan. You can download and print the COVID-19 check-in card or have a plastic card mailed to you. Your contact details will be securely stored within the QR code, which will prepopulate the webform when scanned by the business: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/create-covid-19-check-card>.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRST COLLECTION while in lockdown: With the continued lockdown of our Church, you may wish to make an EFT contribution to support your Clergy, i.e. what you would normally place on the first collection. To do, please use the following details: BSB: 067950 Account No: 00004265, Account Name: Diocesan Clergy Reference: 6036 SPRINGWOOD. This will enable us to credit your donation to your parish. **Thank you for your contributions – they are much appreciated.**

The Perspective of Justice - Lasting Joy

The opening prayer tells us what to consider in our reflection on the readings: "the values that will bring us lasting joy in this changing world." What are our values? What is important to us? To put it another way: Who or what is our god?

The Israelites were tempted to serve other gods, for they were in a new land occupied by the worshipers of idols. Joshua challenged them to serve only Yhwh, and they accepted the challenge: "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods."

Jesus challenged his followers to believe in the one, true God: "Does it shake your faith?" he asked them. Peter responds for the others, saying that they will not forsake Jesus, who has the words of eternal life.

Jesus challenges us also to remain faithful to the one God. There are many in the world who worship other gods: power, money, pleasure, comfort, security, self-interest. Our prayer is that "all these attractions of a changing world serve only to bring us the peace of your Kingdom which this world does not give." We want to say with Joshua and his people: "We will serve the Lord."

If certain forms of modern 'imperialism' were considered in the light of these moral criteria, we would see that hidden behind certain decisions, apparently inspired only by economics or politics, are real forms of idolatry: of money, ideology, class, technology.

Pope John Paul II,
Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, 1987: 37

Gerald Darring
Gerald Darring is an adjunct instructor of Theology at Spring Hill College, Alabama

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

With the various NSW Government announcements regarding lockdowns in recent days, please be assured of our support for you as parishioners, clergy, and staff.

We are in constant liaison with public health officials about this pandemic and looking into ways to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

Our Chancery office remains open, and you can still contact us via these details: parracatholic.org/contact-us. Alternatively, information related to COVID-19 can be found on the Diocesan website: parracatholic.org/covid19.

Recent announcements: For all the latest public health orders, please visit the below link(s). This information is updated regularly and is subject to constant change. www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx. Importantly, this site also includes information about case locations and the new "single bubbles" which have been created for those that live alone. I include two links to this information as it affects some LGAs in our Diocese.

Please note, some of these changes will come into place from Saturday 21 August 2021.

Affected LGAs: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/affected-area#nominated-visitor Non-affected LGAs: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/greater-sydney#nominated-visitor

Livestreaming of Masses: A full list of Masses that are livestreamed in the Diocese of Parramatta can be found here: parracatholic.org/covid19. Clergy in the Diocese of Parramatta may continue to travel (including out of their LGA) to broadcast a service at a place of worship.

With my prayers,
Very Rev Peter G. Williams Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia
16 August 2021

