



Not from the Pulpit: Fr Andrew Bullen SJ



A painting and a poem: the painting “A Woman in Blue Reading a Letter” by Jan Vermeer of Delft, and the poem “Vermeer” by Tomas Tranströmer, the Swedish poet who received the Nobel Prize for literature in 2011. The painting is presently in the exhibition of Dutch Art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

There are only 32 Vermeer's: most of them show a woman in a room. They are acts of stillness. The poem, translated by the American poet Robert Bly, begins in the room next door, outside the stillness, refers to the devastating explosion in the city of Delft in 1654, and by its end we are somewhere else again. Why not visit them both?

Andrew Bullen SJ

Vermeer

It's not a sheltered world. The noise begins over there, on the other side of the wall where the alehouse is with its laughter and quarrels, its rows of teeth, its tears, its chiming of clocks, and the psychotic brother-in-law, the murderer, in whose presence everyone feels fear.

The huge explosion and the emergency crew arriving late, boats showing off on the canals, money slipping down into pockets—the wrong man's—ultimatum piled on ultimatum, wide-mouthed red flowers whose sweat reminds us of approaching war.

And then straight through the wall—from there—straight into the airy studio and the seconds that have got permission to live for centuries. Paintings that choose the name: *The Music Lesson* or *A Women in Blue Reading a Letter*.

She is eight months pregnant, two hearts beating inside her. The wall behind her holds a crinkly map of Terra Incognita.

Just breathe. An unidentifiable blue fabric has been tacked to the chairs.

Gold-headed tacks flew in with astronomical speed and stopped smack there as if they had always been stillness and nothing else.

The ears experience a buzz, perhaps it's depth or perhaps height.

It's the pressure from the other side of the wall, the pressure that makes each fact float and makes the brushstroke firm.

Passing through walls hurts human beings, they get sick from it,

but we have no choice.

It's all one world. Now to the walls.

The walls are part of you.

One either knows that, or one doesn't; but it's the same for everyone except for small children. There aren't any walls for them.

The airy sky has taken its place leaning against the wall.

It is like a prayer to what is empty.

And what is empty turns its face to us

and whispers:

“I am not empty, I am open.

Parish Notices



Charitable Works Fund Appeal – 18/19 November

The final CWF appeal for 2017 is this weekend. The CWF is a centralized fund that supports charitable and pastoral programs that extend beyond the limits of any single parish. Your donation will go a long way towards fulfilling the CWF's mission by providing services and support to people living with HIV/AIDS, physical and mental disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers, family and youth services, the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and others. Donations of \$2 or more are 100% tax deductible. Envelopes will be at the back of the church. We ask for your generous support of this appeal. More information: cwf@sydneycatholic.org or www.cwf.org.au



Spring wine offer

The Jesuit Refugee Service will benefit through a pre-Christmas wine offer from the Sevenhill Cellars. For every six-pack sold, Sevenhill will donate \$10 to the Parish's fundraising for JRS. Order forms are available at the back of all churches. Free delivery.



Emerton/ JSS Christmas Appeal

This Christmas we are looking to support Jesuit Social Services in the Emerton and Wilmott area through a toy appeal. We welcome gifts of unwrapped toys for children of various ages (as below) which can be left in the sacristies or under the steps in the Ron Dyer Centre. Toys should be new and gifts of food non-perishable. Toys & games - Babies through to 17 yrs. - Christmas party food: Cakes, sweets and biscuits. Cash donation will also be most welcome. Appeal envelopes located at the back of all churches.



Charity Donation Bins at Harris Farm Markets

The Ignite Food Store at Emerton is very grateful to parishioners for their generous support of the annual food appeal. You can now donate groceries anytime, in store at Harris Farm Markets, Mosman and Cammeray.

Christmas Breakfast

Sat 25 Nov @ Ron Dyer Centre

Join us for breakfast after Mass on Sat morning in the Gathering Space. Stalwarts of this group are Anna and Michael Fox, an Irish couple, who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on that day.



St Aloysius' College Community Mass

Sun 26 Nov @ 6.00pm, St Mary's

Next Sunday senior students from St Aloysius' College will be leading the Youth Mass and afterwards will be throwing a BBQ in the Ron Dyer Centre to raise funds for their Immersion Programme. Please join us in welcoming the SAC community.



LAST OMG FOR 2017! – For Years 5 & 6

Fri 24 Nov @ 6pm-8pm, Ron Dyer Centre

Join us for fun outdoor games and pizza dinner. Hosted by students from St Aloysius, Loreto and Inigo Youth. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/SYQW>



Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Wed 13 Dec @ 8.00pm, St Mary's North Sydney

Join the Parish for Reflections on Advent, accompanied by Chamber Choir and Orchestra. This is a not-to-be missed event. No bookings required.

Catechists needed to teach children from Kinder – Year 10

Full training provided. If you can help please contact the parish office: 8918 4101

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

[A worthy wife is invaluable.](#)

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 127:1-5, R.v.1](#)

Second Reading

[1 Thes 5:1-6](#)

You are children of the light.

Gospel Acclamation

[Jn 15:4, 5](#)

Gospel

[Mt 25:14-30](#)

Parable of the rich man, going on a

Mt 25:14-15, 19-21

In Our Prayers

Baptisms

Paxton Testa, Joseph Toomey, Zoe Ware, Isla Karam, Isabel Karam

Weddings

Cameron Stewart & Melanie Keech

Sick

Ron Whitmore, Sr Natalina Todeschini, Brian McClosky,

Craig Chase, Rosa Maria Santos, Vedran Simunovic, Rosa Pessaro, Bruce Horsfield,

Veronica Johnson, Tony Breslin, Gavin O'Connor, Barry Collis, Fr Tony Smith SJ, Joseph Meagher

John Fitzgerald, Margaret Mary Collis, Sandra Tsui, Neave Mackey (17 yrs), Mee-Na Cheok, Mary O'Connor

Recently Deceased

Robin Pearce, Clive Jewel

Anniversaries

Phil Ryan, Fr Tom O'Hara SJ, Michael and Anna Fox (50th Wedding Anniversary),

This month we pray for All Souls and the Jesuit Fathers' recently deceased who had strong connections with the Parish, Peter Quinn SJ, Ardi Handoseno SJ, Ken McNamara SJ, Paul Coleman SJ, Tom O'Hara SJ and John Wilken SJ.