



Not from the Pulpit: Fr Andrew Bullen SJ



This week most of the parish staff went down to Gerroa on the south coast for some time of reflection (aided so much by Fr Chris Gleeson's input on Ignatian leadership) and some time for forward dreaming/planning. I have been going to the Jesuit holiday house at Gerroa from 1977, so have been there in blistering heat, or under the haze of bushfires, or in pelting rain and in dramatic storms, in summer mostly but winter too, sometimes virtually alone or more often with the place crammed with Jesuit scholastics, and indeed with Riverview Year 11s on retreat. I have even walked a far distance along Seven

Mile Beach, years ago. I have watched dolphins in the waves, and recall a huge shark beached just below the house (an I-can-eat-you shark).

On Monday last, for the first time ever, in all these years, I saw a whale, breaching quite a way out to sea near the point; then more whales further out in the bay. I have never seen live whales before, but my imagination is full of Moby Dick, a book in which the whale gets away from all who pursue, including the author and reader. Whales create wonder, not only when one breaches into our sight and experience, but also into our knowledge that somewhere out there deep down are whales. Out there in the Shoalhaven Bay. How good that even familiar places can keep springing surprises, especially upon the older salts among us. What else is out there, maybe to breach one day a surprise, a wonder?

Parish Notices

Thank you from Bishop Terry Brady

Following his visitation, Bishop Terry Brady wrote to Fr Andy: "Thank you for having me visit your Parish over the last couple of weeks. It was wonderful to have so many doors open within the Parish and to be able to spend time with you and the various groups that make up the Parish community. I thank you on behalf of the Archbishop, Priests and Religious and people of the Archdiocese for all that you do". *Terry*



Healing Masses

Wednesday 25th October

The 1030 healing Mass at the Ron Dyer Centre will be celebrated by Fr Chris Gleeson SJ. Due to Archdiocesan commitments for the clergy, the 130pm healing Mass at James Milson Village will be replaced with a communion service.



Jesuit Mission Sydney Golf Day

Thurs 26 Oct @ 12.00pm (tee off) Manly Golf Course

Please join us for a day of golf and dinner in support of Jesuit Mission.

Funds raised from the Golf Day enable Jesuit Mission to support local Jesuit partners in 10 countries across Africa and Asia. Bookings and queries at golfday@jesuitmission.org.au or (02) 8918 4109.



Jesuit Refugee Service Parish Appeal

NEXT WEEKEND - Sun 29 Oct

"At JRS we accompany people seeking asylum at every step of their journey – from those who have just arrived in Australia, to those for whom we are the last hope. With our wonderful volunteers and partners, we run our support services in two small centres in Parramatta. People seeking asylum drop in or are referred to us, and they can access a wide range of services – legal advice, specialist casework support, emergency financial relief, English classes, employment help, yoga for relaxation, food supplies, groups, community cooking, health and education referrals and more. We work with people on bridging visas, people coming from detention, some have no English, all have limited rights, and are struggling to hold on to hope. They are the most vulnerable people. Please support our appeal next weekend. Read more at www.jrs.org.au





Spring Concert – St Mary’s Primary School Parents & Friends Choir

Sat 28 Oct @ 7.00 for 7.30pm, School Hall, North Sydney Demonstration School

An evening of music featuring, ‘Unaccompanied Baggage’, The Shwa trio.

All proceeds go to support of Mary’s House – a shelter in the Lower North Shore of Sydney supporting women and their children who need help because of domestic violence. Cost \$20/\$15 includes supper. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/323838>

Frank Brennan SJ on Q & A, ABC TV



Mon 23 Oct @ 9.35pm AEST- Streamed live on ABC iView

Panellists: Fr Frank Brennan SJ; Magda Szubanski, actress and comedian; Glenn Davies, Anglican Archbishop of Sydney; and Karina Okotel, No Campaign spokesperson.



The Australian Dictionary of Jesuit Biography 1848-2015 by David Strong SJ

Copies of Fr Strong’s new edition are available at the Parish Office. Cost \$75.00



Mary MacKillop Place – Museum guides needed

Mary MacKillop Place is looking for willing women and men who are able to give two and a half hours a week to share the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop by joining our museum team of guides. Training and support provided. Interested parties should contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Sr Niesha Allport: volunteer.coord@mmp.org.au or 8912 4880



Melbourne Cup High Tea – its on again!

Tues 7 Nov @ 2.00-4.00pm

Bring your friends to watch the race in the Gathering Area at the Ron Dyer Centre.

Enjoy a glass of sparkling on arrival and sumptuous afternoon tea in front of a big screen. Tickets \$5 with all proceeds going to the Emerton Parish Community.

Bookings essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/SKLM> or call Judy Tusino: 8918 4147

Host Families Wanted for Youth travelling to ACYF

Wed 6 Dec – Sat 9 Dec

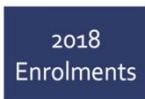
The Parish will be hosting Young Catholics from Jesuit Parishes across Australia as they come to participate in Australian Catholic Youth Festival, and are seeking families willing to host two or more pilgrims in their home. You will only need to provide minimal sleeping accommodation, and drop/pick up youth each morning and evening. Please contact Michael at michaelp@northsydneycatholics.com



2017/18 Service Opportunities – “Transforming lives through service experiences”

The Two Wolves Abroad in an initiative of The Cardoner Project, a not-for-profit, student-focused hub for volunteering. Opportunities exist for 2017 immersion in Mexico: Nov 26 - Dec13 and Nepal: Dec 5 – 22.

2018 dates: Mexico: Jan 21 – Feb 6, Guatemala: Jan 20 – Feb 7, Belize: Feb 7 – 22, Nepal: Feb 9 – 26
Zambia: July Holidays and Sri Lanka: July holidays. More Information: www.thetwowolvesabroad.org or call 0433 419 300.



2018 Enrolments – Jesuit College of Spirituality

JCS is a work of the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus. JCS specializes in the study of Ignatian spirituality, leadership and pastoral formation for ministry in the Ignatian tradition. Enrolment Period: 20 Nov to 20

Dec 2017 & 9 Jan to 9 Feb 2018. Contact the Registrar, Katica Buccheri: registrar@jcs.edu.au

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Is 45:1,4-6

[I am the Lord, there is no other.](#)

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10, R. v.7](#)

Second Reading

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

Paul greets the Thessalonians.

Gospel Acclamation

[Phil 2:15, 16](#)

Gospel

[Mt 22:15-21](#)

Render to Caesar what is Caesar's.

In Our Prayers

Baptisms

Alexandra Toledo, Frederick Finnane, Christian Smith, Stella Lopez, Oliver Foley

Weddings

Joe Natoli & Catherine Dawson

Sick

Ron Whitmore, Sr Natalina Todeschini, Brian McClosky,

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

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

John Fitzgerald, Margaret Mary Collis, Sandra Tsui,

Recently Deceased

Fr John Witcken SJ, John Goldrick, Harris John van Beek, Margaret McDonald, Fr Paul Coleman SJ, Fr John Doenau SJ, Didier Bertini,

Rosemary May Middleton (mother of Fr Chris SJ), Connie Koning (mother of Fr Robin SJ), Fr Ken McNamara SJ, Tony Bland

Anniversaries

Michael Roche, John and Dorothy Rosenthal, John Hord

Conversations

An Attentive Moment – Andrew Hamilton SJ

As a young Jesuit I learned philosophy. Most of it has washed away, but the saying that ‘all that exists is true, good and beautiful’ stayed with me. It seemed then to be the triumph of wishful thinking over



experience. But lately it has come to mind again, not as an intellectual claim, but as the fruit of attending at leisure to the world, as we Australians do most readily in the countryside or when fishing. Imagine yourself sitting outside one spring morning when the sun turns the wattle blossom electric and picks out the moist green of eucalypts, black green of sheoaks and the drier green of acacia and melaleuca; when the wind stirs in the high tree tops, rocking the white cockatoos and magpies; when blue wrens with their silver paper rustling scavenge in the undergrowth among the running postman, pink heath and egg and bacon

plant; when currawongs with their brassy call crash land in the ti tree, white napped honey eaters fossick in the blossom trees and, amid the squawking, carolling and intimate calling of unseen birds, two bush thrushes sing variations on their five note song, while on the ridge stands a solitary buck kangaroo, guarding his court grazing in the scrub.

Long and quiet attention breeds stillness. You find yourself placed in this scene, not as observer but as part of it, caught in wonder and gratitude for the gift of sharing this world of beauty, goodness, and possibility. Of entering momentarily the truth of things, while at the same time recognising how undeserved is the gift, and how your self-regard and self-preoccupation mark you as a stranger here.

If you remain attentive you may gradually notice the competitive business that bankrolls this idyllic scene: trees competing for light; plants and birds deploying colour in order to seduce raiders to carry on their seed; wedge-headed kookaburras – trained killers – dashing worms against a rock and leaving them for eating; all the exclusion zones marked out by carolling and whistling; birds seeking the food that will give enough energy to continue seeking food: all creatures poised between life and death, giving life and yielding it. Their brief lives in this festival of light are candles that flare a while and return to darkness having given their bit, done their work.

That perhaps may lead you to wonder that an incompetent like you should be invited into this seething world to live for a space, your own life a passing arc in this cycle of living, dying and regeneration, your dying as well as your living a matter for gratitude, a gift from the God who placed you here.

Then you may find yourself astounded by the larger gift of being called to follow Jesus of whom all this life and movement, all this beauty, goodness and truth, are images, to follow him not only in being part of this world, not only in wondering at this gift and being thankful for it, but also in drawing others to wonder and be grateful for its glory, so that together you may shape a human world based, not on competition, but on respect for the unique place of each person, each being, within it.

It is difficult to listen to yourself thinking such elevated thoughts without seeing the weakness, self-absorption, habitual inattention and competitiveness that make you totally inadequate for the task. Like Sarah, when told at the age of one hundred or so that she would fall pregnant, you might laugh aloud – laugh with delight at the ridiculous thought slowly overtaken by sneaking surmise at the impossible possibility: that a broken-winged bird might be asked to help others to fly, a skeletal tree could harbour the ants, beetles and nests that will feed and shelter others, and that a dung beetle could form the seedbed in which seeds can germinate and later produce a multitude of seeds that will be carried on the wind, be swallowed and dropped far afield, be burned in bushfire, crack open and germinate.

And out of that laughter might come the realisation that, although nothing that exists is perfect, nevertheless all that exists is indeed true, good and beautiful if you only attend to it.