



## Not from the Pulpit: Fr Andrew Bullen SJ



As Lent moves on, the current drawing us towards the drama of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection gets stronger and stronger. The drama we also call "the Paschal Mystery", through death into life, and as ever with intense truths of our faith, the Church gathers many symbols and images to point us towards the mystery, e.g. "the Paschal Lamb". Over the next fortnight we have two events providing an opportunity for us to enter into the current more fully: a reading of the full text of Mark's Gospel, the briefest and most austere of all the gospels, at St Francis Xavier's, Lavender Bay (details below);

and, reprising an event from last year that proved so successful, an evening of music and poetry "Darkness into Light", at St Mary's, North Sydney (details below).

## Parish Notices

### First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Information Evening

Tues 13 March @ 6.00pm, Ron Dyer Centre Hall

Candidate registration CLOSES Fri 13<sup>th</sup> April @ 5.00pm ( last day of Term 1)

Registrations cannot be accepted after this date. Register now at : [http:// www.trybooking.com/TVIV](http://www.trybooking.com/TVIV)



### Experiencing Mark

Wed 14 March @ 6.30pm, St Francis Xavier Church

Join the parish community for a reflective evening, exhibiting a full reading of the Gospel according to Mark, featuring a new translation by parishioner Alan Hogan. Running time approx. 2 hours with interval.



### OMG - It's back for 2018!

Fri 16 March @ 6.00-8.00pm, Ron Dyer Centre

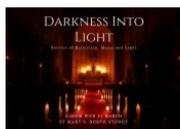
Giant Outdoor Games, Jumping Castles, Slushies, Pizza and more throughout the year!

OMG is a youth initiative that seeks to involve children in senior primary (years 5 & 6) into the Parish community. As an integral part of their faith formation journey, OMG is an opportunity for fun, friends and faith in a safe environment. Children can discover what it means to be a part of a caring and supportive parish community. OMG involves supervised fun and food in the Ron Dyer Centre playground. This is followed by a brief reflection where children take some time out to connect with themselves and what it means to be part of this Parish Community in a meaningful way that is relevant to them. Register at: <http://www.trybooking.com/UIVZ>

### Loreto Kirribilli Campus Mass

Sun 18 March @ 6.00pm, St Mary's, North Sydney

Please join us next Sunday in welcoming the Loreto Community.



### Darkness into Light – Service of Reflection, Music and Light

Wed 21 March @ 8.00pm, St Mary's Church

Reflect on the Lenten season with inspiration from stirring poetry and heavenly a capella choral music. Not to be missed!

### Roster Sunday

Sun 25 March – After the family Mass, join us for morning tea and get involved in the 9am liturgy.



### Project Compassion - Week 4 – Evangeline Wugularr Community ( NT )

Evangeline is strengthening Aboriginal culture, while making a living for herself and creating opportunities for her community. Featured in Project Compassion 2016, Evangeline was employed by the Caritas Australia supported Djilpin Arts Aboriginal

Corporation and quickly rose to the role of Senior Artsworkeer. Read the full story at: [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)  
 Donation boxes and envelopes at the back of the churches. Please give generously.

\*\*\* **Volunteers Needed for Easter Liturgies** \*\*\*

Sign-up forms will be left in the sacristies at St Mary's Church and St Francis Xavier Church from this weekend. Alternatively, you can please email Diana Baird [diana.baird4@bigpond.com](mailto:diana.baird4@bigpond.com) or phone 9460 0747 / 0490 313 847

**Ecology Group 2018: Off to a flying start!**

Our first meeting, on February 12<sup>th</sup>, identified our key projects for the year and established Sub Groups (SG's) to action them. The EG will meet each second month and the SG's will meet as often as is necessary. The SG's are;

- Laudato Si Group covers LS Mass and other liturgy and educational events (*Convenor Michael Gill*)
- Advocacy and Activism Group covers Fossil Fuel issues and the need to cap CO2 emissions; Protecting our environment, air, land and water from damage caused by Coal mining (incl. Adani) and Coal Seam Gas (incl. fracking in the Pilliga); supporting the Time2Choose strategy (including supporting the campaign rally on March 24<sup>th</sup>) and activities and others as they arise.
- If you are interested in participating in the Time2Choose Rally behind the banner of the North Sydney Ecology Group, please contact Group Convenor Gill Burrows on [gill@ozburrows.com](mailto:gill@ozburrows.com), 0490 400 324.
- Parish Change Group covers Sydney Catholic Schools Clean Energy strategy and project with Justice and Peace Office of the Archdiocese (JPO; Felicity Wade) including bringing it back to the Parish and assisting the Parish with initiatives identified in the RWC survey response (*Convenor Ann Austin*)
- Community Change Group covers assisting with a Plastic Bag project, working with JPO on the Solar Energy Project and opportunities presented by the Wallace Global Fund. (*Convenor Tony Borger*)
- Parish Survey. Over the Christmas break and with assistance from Humphrey Nolan, we completed the Parish response to the environment survey conducted by the Jesuit Province through the Reconciliation with Creation Advisory Group (RWC). Our response can be found on the Parish Website. When the consolidated results are available, we will also post them on the website.
- Laudato Si Mass and Conversation. Our year actually started with a Laudato Si Mass and Conversation lead by Pedro Walpole SJ at St Mary's on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We organised this event with the RWC. Participants came from well beyond the Parish and a number of our network groups. A report published in Australian Jesuits can be found at: <http://www.jesuit.org.au>
- Climate Change Petition. The Federal Member for North Sydney presented the petition (signed by 1,483 residents) to the House of Representatives last Monday. In doing so, he said:

*"Addressing climate change is self-evidently one of the critical issues of our time. I am always conscious of the duty of care we have to ensure our actions secure a better future economically, socially and environmentally for those who will inherit our island continent"*

Our thanks to all who supported this petition. More opportunities to come. If you are interested in our Ministry and may like to join, please contact me (Michael Gill) at [mjg60@internode.on.net](mailto:mjg60@internode.on.net)

**Sunday's Readings**

**First Reading**

2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

After seventy years, the Israelites are released to rebuild the temple.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 136. R. v.6

Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

**Second Reading**

Eph 2:4-10

Salvation is not earned but a gift from God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Jn 3:16

**Gospel**

Jn 3:14-21

Jesus converses with Nicodemus.

**In Our Prayers**

**Baptisms**

Alba Mulrone, Freddie Rosenthal, Victoria White, Isla Guilfoyle, Andrew Bayliss, Daisy Richardson, Harry Buttenshaw, Ted Crowe

**Weddings**

Vincenzo Puglia & Kiera Taylor

**Sick**

Ron Whitmore, Sr Natalina Todeschini, Brian McClosky, Rosa Maria Santos, Bruce Horsfield, Tony Breslin, Gavin O'Connor, John Fitzgerald, Sandra Tsui, Mary O'Connor, Joyce Paton, Josephine Rowe, Lew Smith

**Recently Deceased**

Fr Anthony Smith SJ, Domenic Cioffi, Sharon Collins, Judy Flitcroft, Gerard Forsythe

Helen McCauley, David Dalton, Fr Peter McGrath cp, R. Ignatius Soehardjo Wiryohartono, Craig Chase

**Anniversaries**

Celie Scott