

Province Retreat September: 28th September

RS Thomas (Counterpoint 1990)

Perhaps a poem can say what our hearts can yearn for, silence, quietness
some desire to set right in ourselves what is not right.

We go and offer our time in any way we can, to what we do not know, to what
we can only imagine, and then we wait in this silence away from our normal
and daily lives.

We give time to prayer and reflection, sinking into a capacity to while time
away, to relax, and to see in that quietness what is happening, who we are,
and let our hearts turn toward the light. There are no pressures from the
outside, just meals to be had, a talk to listen to, and space.

We are mostly so deeply tired that we don't even know how tired. We come
to retreat strained and desirous to work hard, but that is not what is needed.
Only an open listening heart, and a mind and body that will probably need to
sleep and restore before being even ready to arrive. But that is not a worry;
God is working with us, delighted to be just with us. He shows us the way in
the silence.

Come and rest a while, and let the God who loves you have this precious
time with you.

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But the silence in the mind

by R. S. Thomas

*But the silence in the mind
is when we live best, within
listening distance of the silence
we call God. This is the deep
calling to deep of the psalm-
writer, the bottomless ocean.

We launch the armada of
our thoughts on, never arriving.*

*It is a presence, then,
whose margins are our margins;
that calls us out over
our own fathoms. What to do
but draw a little nearer to
such ubiquity by remaining still?*

What can I expect on this Retreat?

A retreat is a planned time of spiritual refreshment, with the opportunity to rest, unwind and pray. It offers the chance to reflect in an unhurried way on your life, your relationships and your experience of God; to ponder the meaning of what has happened to you and to prepare for the future.

The Program

Participants may choose from two retreats:

- Eight day—6.00pm on Sunday, September 28th to 9.00am Tuesday morning, October 7th.
- Four day—6.00pm on Sunday, September 28th to 9.00am on Friday, October 3rd.

Note: Each retreat begins with dinner at 6.00pm and ends at 9.00am after breakfast.

Our Presenter Brendan Byrne SJ

Brendan Byrne, SJ, has taught New Testament for over three decades at Jesuit Theological College, Parkville, Victoria, where he is also Rector of the formation community. While the chief focus of his academic research has been upon the Letters of Paul, especially Romans, he has published works for wider audiences on the four Gospels, including *The Hospitality of God* (on Luke) and, most recently, *Life Abounding* (on the Gospel of John). He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and to date the only Australian biblical scholar to have served on the Pontifical Biblical Commission (Rome). Besides academic teaching and writing, he regularly gives workshops to clergy, teachers and parish communities across Australia.

The Venue

The venue for the 2014 Province Retreat is Peter Canisius House at Pymble. Located within the extensive grounds of Canisius College on Sydney's leafy North Shore, 30 minutes from the CBD by public transport, 45 minutes from the Airport. Public transport is by train from Central Station to Pymble Station, and a short taxi ride from there to Peter Canisius House. The 45 minute taxi ride from the airport to Pymble is in excess of \$90.00.