

**Sunday Masses:**

Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)  
 Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am, 5:30pm

**Weekday Masses:** Monday to Saturday: 9:15am**First Friday of the month:** 7:00pm**Rosary:** Monday to Saturday: 8:50am**Sacred Heart Devotions:** Friday, after morning Mass**Reconciliation:** Saturday: After morning Mass & 10:30—11:30am**Baptisms:** Second and Fourth Sunday after 10:00am Mass**Weddings and Funerals:** Please contact the Parish Office**Planned Giving Program**

For many years our Planned Giving Program has made a significant contribution to the running of our Catholic school. Most of the contributors today have been supporting our program for many years. We would like to invite new parishioners and those who are not part of the program to join. Any weekly contribution is greatly appreciated.

To join our Planned Giving Program, please fill in the below slip and return to the Parish Office or email to [sefton@oblates.com.au](mailto:sefton@oblates.com.au)

Name

*(please PRINT)*

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Address

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Post Code

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Home Phone No.

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Mobile Phone No.

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Email:

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**Parish Contacts****Immaculate Heart of Mary Church****Parish Priest:** Fr. Pat Moroney, OMI**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Vin McGillicuddy, OMI**Parish Office:** Tue—Thu (9:00am—2:30pm)**6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton NSW 2162****Ph:** 02 9644 4026, **Fax:** 02 9743 7407**Email:** [sefton@oblates.com.au](mailto:sefton@oblates.com.au)**Immaculate Heart of Mary****Primary School****Principal:** Mr. John Kennedy**School Office:****30 Proctor Parade, Sefton, NSW 2162****Ph:** 02 9644 3555, **Fax:** 02 9644 8214**Email:** [info@ihmsefton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@ihmsefton.catholic.edu.au)**Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Sefton***Under the care of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton, NSW 2162

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Pat Moroney, OMI; **Assistant Priest:** Fr Vincent McGillicuddy, OMI**The Ascension of the Lord Year C****8th May 2016**

Dear Parishioners,

The Ascension of the Lord Jesus is the climax of his victory over sin and death, it marks the end of his earthly journey and his triumphant return to the Father. But the Ascension of Jesus was not a departure ceremony for Jesus which the apostles attended but rather marks the beginning of a new relationship between Jesus and his followers beginning with the Apostles. Once again he missioned his followers to give witness to his Passion, Death and Resurrection and to do so in the whole world. As he left them it was not their role to stand there sadly looking up into the empty sky, but rather Jesus left them with the command to go out and to get busy spreading his word. When we read the account of the Ascension in today's account by Luke, we realise he is telling us that he left them with a genuine sense of mission. They returned to Jerusalem, full of joy as they awaited the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. It was the beginning of the life of the new Church which he founded. The community which we call Church was to be the continuation of Christ in the world through its members. All that was lacking now was the gift of the promised Spirit or Advocate and the disciples returned to Jerusalem as commanded to prepare themselves for the Spirit's coming.

Today's feast reminds us that the work of Jesus in his human body here on earth is now completed. But it also reminds us that we have not been left abandoned or alone, but rather through His Spirit Jesus continues to remain a part of us, helping us in our struggles at different and difficult times. Today's Gospel ends with Jesus' missioning his followers (including us) and promising to remain with his disciples always. Now that he is reunited with His Father, He is present wherever God is present, and that is everywhere. In His earthly life Jesus was in Jericho or in Jerusalem or Nazareth at various times but not at the same time. Now He is able to be in all places at the same time. The first Christians understood this very well. They knew that Jesus was still with them, even if not in the same way as before. They believed he still shared their lives and that their death would mean being reunited with him for ever. In the meantime, for them and for us, the great mission was to ensure that the Gospel was preached and lived.

God bless

(fr) Pat Moroney omi