



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: 10:30—11:30am

Baptisms: Second and Fourth Sunday after 10:00am Mass

Weddings and Funerals: Please contact the Parish Office



Bereavement Support Reflections Mornings.

Third Wednesday of Every Month 10:00am – 1:00pm. For family and friends who grieve and their companions. Understanding and managing life's changes in Loss, Grief & Bereavement. Morning tea provided. For further information please contact Bereavement Support Ph: 02 9646 6908 or bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au

'Of Life and Love' Marriage Preparation Courses

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is offering marriage preparation courses for engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. **2017 Dates: November 11th and 18th** (two consecutive Saturdays). For more information please go to our events page at www.lifemarriagefamily.org.au or please contact us at LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org

Direct Employment

Having a job builds a person's dignity and wellbeing. It is empowering being in the workforce and contributing to society but for some people there are barriers. Direct Employment is a fee-free recruitment agency, helping people with disabilities overcome these barriers to find meaningful and sustainable work. It is the not-for-profit disability employment agency of the Archdiocese. Employers are only introduced to candidates who have the right availability, skills and ambitions. Candidates like Direct Employment because employment opportunities are tailored to each person's skills, individual goals and the needs of employers.

Call us on 13 18 19 for more information.

September 30 th /October 1 st				
Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	C. Kelly	L. Cavallo	J. Rodrigues	E. Lobo
Readers	M. Flanagan	V. Nwaoha	T. Tierney	M. Farlow
Ministers of Communion	P. Kelly & T. Flanagan	L. Abouchabake & B. Murphy	K. Hicks & K. Marson	S. Garrett & M. Williams
Flower Arrangers	Y. Sassine & D. Abraham			
Counters	Group 2: M. Lonergan, P. Rolfe & J. Horsley			
Bankers	Group 2: I. Prygiel & M. Enright			

PARISH CONTACTS

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church	Immaculate Heart of Mary - Primary School
Acting Parish Priest: James Jeyachandran, OMI	Principal: Mr. John Kennedy
Parish Office: Tue—Thu (9:00am—2:30pm)	School Office:
6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton NSW 2162	30 Proctor Parade, Sefton, NSW 2162
Ph: 02 9644 4026, Fax: 02 9743 7407	Ph: 02 9644 3555, Fax: 02 9644 8214
Email: sefton@oblates.com.au	Email: info@ihmsefton.catholic.edu.au
Parish Website: www.seftoncatholicchurch.org.au	Parish Family Educator: Mrs Amal Francis



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Sefton

Under the care of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton, NSW 2162

Acting Parish Priest: Fr James Jeyachandran, OMI



25th SUNDAY In ORDINARY TIME - Year A

24 Sep 2017



The film Forrest Gump was once described as the 'battler's triumph'. On one level it was about how the last will be first. This story picks up where the film left off.

Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. On arrival St Peter informs him that there are three questions he has to answer before he can enter.

- 1) What days of the week begin with the letter T?
- 2) How many seconds are there in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?

Forrest answers straight away, 'Shucks, there are two days in the week beginning with the letter T - Today and Tomorrow.' St Peter replies,

'That's not what I was thinking, but you have a point. How about the next one?' 'I think the only answer can be twelve.' 'Twelve?' St Peter asks. 'Shucks, there's gotta be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd. . . .' 'Hold it', interrupts St Peter, 'I see where you're going with this. Let's go to the final question.' 'Sure', says Forrest, it's Andy!' 'Andy?' exclaims an exasperated St Peter. 'OK, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with Andy as God's first name?' 'Shucks, that was the easiest one of all', Forrest replied. 'I learned it from the hymn . . . ANDY walks with me, ANDY talks with me, ANDY tells me I am his own.' St Peter opened the pearly gates and yelled, 'Run Forrest, run!'

In today's Gospel, in which the first labourers are paid the same wage as the afternoon workers, what the early birds didn't reckon on was that they could have come much later and got the same deal.

We would cynically call the afternoon workers, 'Johnny-come-latelies' and chances are if we were confronted with the same situation we would be with the complainers.

This story was important to the early Church because generations of Jews waited and longed for the Messiah and, like the first workers, they were the first to respond to the call of Jesus and to work in the field of his Kingdom. For some of the early Jewish-Christians, including St Peter, it came as a surprise that the Lord was calling Gentiles to the life and work of Jesus' Kingdom as well.

We can imagine that it rankled some of the early birds to see these Johnny-come-latelies taking charge of the Christian mission. This wasn't how it was supposed to be!

This story, then, is a wonderful commentary on how fickle we are and, luckily for us, how extraordinarily generous God is. What we see in ourselves and others is only a glimpse of what God is like. God is so much more: more loving; more forgiving; more compassionate; and more just.

And because God is so much greater than anything we could ask or imagine, we are constantly surprised at how he turns our expectations, our fears and predictions upside down. We constantly look for God in the big and spectacular and he comes to us poor, naked, sick, in prison and hungry. God speaks through the most surprising people at the most surprising times.

That's why those people who have decided that God can only work in certain ways, places, people, institutions and times so often end up at the end of the line when it comes to religious wisdom. Michael McGirr in his excellent book, Things You Get for Free argues that there is a crisis of belief today, but that it's not the way we often think. In a brilliant turning of the tables, McGirr says that the crisis of belief is that people inside the Church sometimes cannot believe that people outside its traditional structures can experience the love of Jesus. God loves and guides the Church, but is not bound by it. God is busy about making sure those who might be last have a chance to come in first.

Rather than resent this, however, let's thank God for being bigger than we are and for being just to all of us, no matter when, or how, we get the Word.

© Richard Leonard SJ.

Readings

This Week: Is 55:6-9 Phil 1:20-24, 27 Mt 20:1-16
Next Week: Ezek 18:25-28 Phil 2:1-11 Mt 21:28-32

Wedding Congratulations



To Alex Ali Darwich and Hannah Jean Smith on their marriage this Saturday 23rd September at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The celebrant of the marriage is Fr James OMI. On behalf of the Parish we extend our best wishes and prayers for their future together.

Condolences

IHM Parish extends our condolences and prayers to Rosemary, Adam and Leslie and the Burchett family on the passing of Patrick Leslie Burchett. The funeral Mass will take place at IHM Church on Thursday 28th September at 11am followed by cremation at Rookwood cemetery. May the comfort of God help you during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

Readers Meeting

Next **Wednesday 27th September at 7:30pm in Parish Centre.** Please make an effort to attend.

IHM Parish ‘Cuppa’

Held **this Sunday 24th September after the 10am Mass.** All welcome.

IHM Parish Retreat 2017

When: Friday 20th October to Sunday 22nd October

Where: Carmelite Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville

This annual gathering has always proven to be a most enjoyable and restful experience for the participants and we look forward to the same reports this year. This is an opportunity to benefit from a relaxing and spiritual experience.

Enquiries: Kath 9644 8163. Registration forms available in the Church Foyer.

Lost and Found

A bracelet was found in the Church on Thursday 14th September. Please contact Parish Office to collect your bracelet.

Parish Office Hours from 18th September to 9th October

Will be open on **Tuesday 9-12pm and Friday from 9-3pm** whilst Elizabeth Bui is away for three weeks. During this time Patricia Loos will be in the Parish Office.

Oblates Fathers Annual Retreat from 1st October to 6th October

The Oblates Fathers will have their annual retreat in Melbourne from **Sunday 1st October to Friday 6th October.** There will be **no weekday Masses from Monday 2nd October to Friday 6th October.** During this week the Church will be open for personal prayers from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Mass Intentions:

Vigil	5:30pm	Claude Toinette (RIP)
Sun 24	8:00am	Thanks giving for family reunion
	10:00am	Peter Vu & Maria Nguyen (RIP)
	5:30pm	Intention of all parishioners
Mon 25	9:15am	Joan Weston (RIP)
Tue 26	9:15am	Intentions of Garate Family
Wed 27	9:15am	Eustine’s Intentions
Thu 28	9:15am	Dulcie Cullen’s Intentions & Marie Banham & Family
Fri 29	9:15am	Frank Lonergan (RIP)
Sat 30	9:15am	Mr & Mrs Grasso (RIP)

Parish Diary:

Sun 24	25th SUNDAY In ORDINARY TIME
11:00am	Parish Cuppa after the 10am Mass
6:30pm	J-Walker Senior Youth Meeting (Every second week)
Mon 25	Weekday, Ordinary Time 25
Tue 26	Weekday, Ordinary Time 25
10:00am	Legion of Mary Meeting
Wed 27	St Vincent de Paul
7:30pm	Readers Meeting
Thu 28	Weekday, Ordinary Time 25
7:00pm	J-Walker Youth Meeting
Fri 29	Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels
9:30am	Yoga
Sat 30	St Jerome

Please pray for

Recently Deceased:

Patrick Leslie Burchett



RIP Anniversary:

Frs. P. Abramo & J. Dunlea OMI. Mary McDonald, Kevin Conway, Frederick Moore, Anna Zagninski, Allen J. Rutherford, Gina DeMartin, Joseph Skeen, Anna Juraszek, Clive L. Martin, Kathleen Flint, Sue-Ann Dzenis, Frederick T. Jonns, Maria Wiacek, Shirley J. Willson, John McVicar, Keith F. Goodwin, Zilla D. M. Clear, Maria Breust, Laura Parawa, Marion Nowak, Anna Zagminski, Krystyna Zatorski.

The Sick:

Archbishop A. Fisher, Bishop G Robinson, Fr Pat Moroney, Fr Charlie Burrows, Sister Marie O’Dea, Laurie Horsley, Marie Banham, David McGeachie, Pat Wilson, Lena Theuma, John Mealing, John O’Brien, Kath Coughlin, Mary Keane, Lidia Stuccio, Kevin & Moira Magnussen, Bob Rodrigues, Spiteri family, Noel Rigney-Johnson, Leslie Cotter, Louise & Anne Maher, Matthew Barrington, Lydia Gwynne, & Dulcie Cullen, Leo Hackett, Ngoc Hai Ngo, Vinnie Stashinsky, Lucia Iacono, Brian Cochrane, Tom Weston.

Note: If you wish to be included or you know anyone who would like to be included in the sick list please notify the Parish Office.



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Connecting communities



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