



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;
 Ph: 02 9644 4026, Email: sefton@oblates.com.au



The Legion of Mary

Wishes all parishioners and auxiliary members a Blessed Christmas and Joyous New Year.

Lost / Found

A Mass book was found in the church last Saturday 17th after the 5:30pm Mass. The owner can pick up the Mass book from the piety stall.

Christmas Lunch on Sunday 25th December

Anyone who is in need of company and wishes to share the joy of Christmas with others are welcome to attend a Christmas lunch at The Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala, Jubilee Hall, 64 Kingsland Rd, Berala (next to church) at 11am to 3pm. Enquiries: 9643 7794. Flyers in the Church foyer.

Columban Calendar 2017

Columban Calendar 2017 at a cost of \$8 available at the Piety Stall.

DECEMBER 31 ST /1 ST				
Mass	5:30pm Vigil	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	C. Kelly	C. McDermott	E. Lobo	B. Freeburn
Readers	J. Toinette	M. Abraham	T. Tierney	M. Farlow
Ministers of Communion	P. Kelly & M. Flanagan	C. Wood & M. Lonergan	K. Hicks & I. Vellis	J. Freeburn & P. I. Akeje
Musicians/Choir	IHM Choir	TBA	Jess Zhu	Ollie Nguy-Lobo
Flower Arrangers	Y. Sassine & D. Abraham			
Counters	Group 3: D. Corbett, P. Kelly & M. O'Brien			
Bankers	Group 3: P. Page & J. Page			

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
Parish Website: www.seftoncatholicchurch.org.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
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

Parish Priest: Fr. Pat Moroney, OMI; **Assistant Priest:** Fr Vincent McGillicuddy, OMI

The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas) - Year A

25th Dec 2016



Dear Parishioners,

It is that lovely time of the year when families endeavour to get together to celebrate all the good things that are so much a part of our lives. It is a time when we give thanks for each other, for our children, for our memories and for those whom we may recently have painfully lost. But it is fundamentally a time for gathering, for happiness and for sharing. It is a season when we endeavour to emphasise what it is that unites us, to strengthen our bonds and, indeed sometimes, it is a time to try and repair and patch up differences that may have occurred especially in our families. It is as we all know at its core a time of goodwill, forgiveness and celebration.

It is, of course, a profoundly Christian celebration which we are delighted to share with all people of good will. For us Christians it marks the birth of Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour. It is ironic, isn't it, that we have to work so hard to instil into our younger children the real meaning of our celebration, so much is it in danger of being lost in the all the hubbub of the commercial aspects that are in danger of swamping us. Nonetheless it would be somewhat churlish of us to shout too loudly against the commercialization and publicity the season engenders. It really is announcing to the whole world that we are celebrating a marvellous event in human history. The historical fact that Jesus the Son of God actually walked among us. As we walk through our various shopping malls, town squares and even local streets at night we see all around us reminders of the Child in Bethlehem and that should give us pause to reflect on why it is such a marvellous time of the year. As we take our children and grandchildren shopping and we come across the crib in the malls, it is good to pause and to chat with the children about the crib and its profound meaning. So often, one sees in the newspapers articles or letters decrying the loss of the true meaning of Christmas; people saying it is lost in all the advertising, Sales, celebrations and accompanying hype. Possibly true! But there is ample scope and opportunity to talk to our children and to each other as adults on the true meaning of the celebration. Much is up to us!

Fr Vin and I would like to wish all of our parishioners a very happy and a very blessed Christmas. There is so much that we, as a parish, have for which to be grateful. We give thanks for the life, Faith, unity, generosity and mutual help and support that is so characteristic of IHM and its people that we are in danger of taking it for granted. These are marvellous gifts that thrive among us and we thank God for that.

God bless

(fr) Pat Moroney omi

Readings

This Week: Is 9:1-7 Titus 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14
Next Week: Num 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

Thank You to All

As this is the last Parish Bulletin for the year and we intend to give our computers and photocopier a well earned rest it is appropriate that we acknowledge the very many people in the parish to whom we owe a debt of thanks. It is always difficult once to name individuals but may I simply mention some of the roles that are so essential to the life and liturgy of the parish. Thank you to our wonderful and faithful sacristans, to the extremely generous lady who for years has undertaken the ministry of presenting us each week with beautifully and freshly laundered altar linen, to those involved in the Music Ministry, both in its preparation and presentation, to those who take care of our various charitable collections, not to mention our Sunday Collectors. Thank you to our Coordinator of Readers and to those who volunteer to read on a regular basis and thus enhance our worship. To our Flower Ladies, to those who clean the Church and help to make it a more welcoming place for all. Finally, thank you to our Acolytes, Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers.

One of the very much hidden ministries in the parish is that of our Catechists who not only prepare our children for the Sacraments but also, on a weekly basis, venture into our local Government Schools to teach the Catholic children. I thank them most sincerely and also our thanks to our Parish Sacramental Coordinator. Finally to those who help to run our Youth Programme in the Parish, which is currently gearing up for considerable expansion, I say thank you in conclusion I express my appreciation to those who very kindly and pleasantly prepare and look after our Sunday Children's liturgy.

I could go on, but as you can see the parish is blessed with so many generous and caring parishioners, and to all of them we owe a debt of sincere gratitude. To those whom I may have inadvertently omitted my apologies, and I have no doubt the Good Lord will more than adequately make up for my omission.

Welcome Bro Joshua Nash OMI

We have been very fortunate to have one of our Oblate seminarians with us over the Christmas period. We welcome Bro Joshua who has been having some pastoral experience in our midst for some three weeks. Joshua is a native of our parish of Tea Tree Gully in Adelaide and before joining the Oblates managed to finish his Law Degree at Adelaide University and also worked as a Youth Coordinator with the Archdiocese of Adelaide. He is now in the midst of his seminary training to be an Oblate priest under the careful guidance of Fr Daniel who is very much a part of the Sefton parish. We thank Josh for his much appreciated help during his time here and for his willingness to undertake various chores from pastoral / youth guidance to Archdiocesan Questionnaires!! We shall be sad to see him go.

Welcome Fr Eric Alleaume OMI

Some parishioner must have written to our Fr Provincial and complained that they were being neglected because I am delighted to say that we have been given another priest to minister in the Parish from early next year. It is a great pleasure to announce the forthcoming arrival of Fr Eric Alleaume OMI to the parish staff. Fr Eric comes to us having just celebrated his Silver Jubilee of Ordination in our Parish in Tea Tree Gully in South Australia. Prior to that Fr Eric spent some 7 years in Rome working in the General Administration. Prior to that, like all great Oblates he was teaching in our Colleges in Queensland and Western Australia. Fr Eric will be most welcome in our midst.

The Parish Youth Group ... The J - Walkers

Our current parish youth group has very happily been in existence for a little over two years and has been very ably guided by Lenita and Sesilia in that time. Now it is felt that thanks to the great foundation work by our first two leaders, it is both time and possible to expand it and devote more time and resources to it. As a consequence, the Parish has chosen to appoint three Youth Coordinators on a paid and part time basis. The Three Youth Leaders will be led by Supi Taufa'ao and he is joined by Tayla Abraham and Phil Grech. We welcome all three to their new role. Needless to say many things are still in the planning stage, but we look forward to having two Youth Groups, a Junior and a Senior, each with their own meeting. I look forward to having their Leader(s) speak at Church in due course. It is expected that each of the Groups will begin to come together beginning in early January. I have no doubt the parents will give the youth ministry their full support. It is planned to have a meeting of the parents of the young people in the not-too-distant future.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 25	8:00am	Barry Boyle (RIP)
	10:00am	Intentions of Joseph Rodrigues
Mon 26	9:15am	Karin Marijan (RIP)
Tue 27	9:15am	John McEneaney (RIP)
Wed 28	9:15am	Will Seymon (RIP)
Thu 29	9:15am	Diego Codozo (RIP)
Fri 30	9:15am	Intentions of David McGeachie
Sat 31	9:15am	The Sisters Intentions

Parish Diary:

Sun 25	The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas)
Mon 26	St Stephen
Tue 27	St John
Wed 28	The Holy Innocents
Thu 29	5th day in the Octave of the Nativity
Fri 30	The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sat 31	7th day in the Octave of the Nativity

Please pray for

Recently Deceased:

Margaret Janssen

RIP Anniversary:

Floris Roberts, Patrick T. Burgess, Bill Elderton, Allan A. Kemp, Lionel R. Carroll, Catherine M. Hallstrom, Jeanette James, Van Hien Pham, Sarah McTaggart, Eugene D. Robinson, Colin F. Gagan, Therese B. Gee, Lionel Carroll, June Donaghey, Ivy M. Callaghan, William Seymon, Joan M. Clifford, Mary G. Berry, Catherine Boyd, Mary Earle, Daphne V. Gowlo, Winnie A. Mercieca, Patricia A. Spicer, June McCarthy, James Woods, Alma Cooper, Stanislaw Pioro.

The Sick:

Archbishop A. Fisher, Bishop G Robinson, Fr John O'Doherty, Sister Marie O'Dea, Laurie Horsley, Marie Banham, David McGeachie, John Mealing, Tony Asaf, Kevin Kabalan, Margaret Barker, Leslie Cotter, Matthew Barrington, Carolyn Palmer, John O'Brien, Pat Smith, Dulcie Cullen, Spiteri family, Michael Chambers, Noel Watson, Elfrieda Kubousek, Noel Rigney-Johnson, Brian P. Scaysbrook, Lydia Gwynne, Anita Rendulic, Fred Pisano, Derek Rodrigues, John Rodrigues, Ben Rodrigues, Rosita Rodrigues, Vita Barbagallo, Carol & Richard, Prudence Pinto, Iona Velis, Sarah, Melissa Long, Lena Theuma, Bob Rodrigues.

Note: Please notify the Parish Office when you or your family member are well again.

