

**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**Celebration of the Nativity of our Blessed Mother Mary**

The parish's Legion of Mary invites all auxiliary members and parishioners to a morning tea in celebration of our Blessed Mother. The **morning tea will be held on Saturday 9th September (after the morning Mass), in the Parish Centre.**

The Catholic Weekly Newspaper

Is available each week at the entrances to the Church for \$2. Kindly put money in the Poor Box in the wall inside the Church. Please do not leave money in the collection basket or on tables in the Church foyer.

Yoga at IHM

Starting Monday 4th September there will be no Yoga classes at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre until further notice. Classes on Fridays at 9:30am will still continue. Inquiries Betty Hollis 0407 917 431.

Volunteers Required - Abel Tasman Village, Chester Hill.

I am looking for volunteers to help out on Wednesday mornings for our 10am Mass at the Abel Tasman Village, Residential Care, in Chester Hill. It involves setting up for Mass, checking which residents are needing Holy Communion in their rooms, selecting appropriate music for the Mass, doing the readings and accompanying Father distributing communion to room-bound residents. Cleaning up after Mass etc. I am able to support and train. I have done this for many years, but need replacement when away or sick.

If you are interested or willing to assist, please contact Clara Kempers on 9786 4604 or 0407 364 257.

September 9 th /10 th				
Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	W. Khouw	T. Kelly	J. Rodrigues	L. Cavallo
Readers	J. Toinette	L. Abouchabake	A. Pham	M. Farlow
Ministers of Communion	M. Flanagan & T. Flanagan	C. Wood & N. Walker	K. Hicks & I. Vellis	S. Garrett & M. Williams
Flower Arrangers	N. Zalloua & R. Khoury			
Counters	Group 1: J. DeMartin, N. VanDen Nieuwenhuizen & I. Culpán			
Bankers	Group 1: P. Howe & S. Saidi			

PARISH CONTACTS

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

**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

Assistant: Fr Vincent McGillicuddy, OMI



22nd SUNDAY In ORDINARY TIME - Year A

3 Sep 2017

**HOMILY by Fr. Richard Leonard SJ**

At the morning parade in Dachau on 22nd July 1943, six prisoners were found to have escaped. Retribution was swift and brutal. Randomly selected, 12 people were hanged. As the other prisoners watched their 12 fellow inmates gasp for breath, someone in the crowd cried out, 'Where is God?' Silence descended on the yard. The 12 bodies were now in spasm, jerking and struggling for breath. As everyone watched, the voice came again, this time more urgently, 'Where is God now?' 'My God', another voice yelled back, 'My God is hanging there'.

This sort of faith is what today's Gospel is all about. Christianity is the only world religion that holds that God took our flesh, suffered, died and was raised to life.

It is certainly true that we have domesticated the scandal of the cross, even to the point that, these days, it dangles from various parts of people's anatomies. I often wonder, had Jesus been electrocuted to death, whether we would have little golden chairs around our necks? But while we have tried to tame the reality of Jesus' tortured hours in Jerusalem, the reality of the cross in each of our lives cannot be so commercially soothed.

Christians are not meant to be smiling masochists. We are not meant to be lovers of pain – just bearers of it.

We are invited, by Jesus, to see the burden of suffering in our lives as an opportunity to be faithful to his example. It also gives us an opportunity to be in solidarity with all those who suffer in our world. This is easier said than done. When we suffer in our daily lives, thoughts of others rarely come to mind easily, but it can be consoling to keep our suffering in context and know that we are not facing it alone.

We are encouraged to see that suffering can be an opportunity to grow in love. If we understand our crosses as our particular schools of love, then we learn more about ourselves and God and are able to help others carry their crosses as well.

Carrying our cross, however, is not just about bearing physical, personal, sexual, spiritual or emotional pain; it can also be in the sharing of our gifts and talents, our love and compassion. In every gift, there is a burden. Following Christ's example, we are called to share our gifts heroically with anyone in need, even to the end.

Some people complain these days that God is often presented as a big marshmallow, all sweet and soft. Today's Gospel shows the 'edge' involved in being a follower of Christ. I don't know of a more demanding vocation in our world than that of taking up the cross of being faithful, loving and selfless.

And while we are invited to take up our cross and follow Jesus, we never do it alone. If we have the eyes to see it and the humility to accept it, Christ, literally, hangs in there with us every step of the way.

So let's recall the first cross from which we take comfort as we bear our own crosses. 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.'

© Richard Leonard SJ.

Readings

This Week: Jer 20:7-9 Rom 12:1-2 Mt 16:21-27
Next Week: Ezek 33:7-9 Rom 13:8-10 Mt 18:15-20

In Sympathy - The Weston Family

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr Thomas Weston and his extended family on the passing of his beloved wife **Joan Mary Weston** on Wednesday, August 30th. The Weston family has been longstanding members of our parish and she will be greatly missed by all the family and those who knew her. The funeral will be held at our church on **Thursday 7th September at 10:30am**. Please keep the family in our prayers as we extend our love and sympathy to them.

Weekday Reader Required

As one of our weekday readers has retired after many years we are looking for a replacement. If you can help please contact Marie Lonergan 0418 227 312. No experience necessary.

First Holy Communion 5:30pm Saturday 9th and 10am Sunday 10th September

Please continue to keep in your prayers the 49 children, and the families that are preparing the children to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we come to Your sacred table to nourish ourselves, not with bread but with Yourself, true Bread of eternal life.
Help us to recognize and celebrate Your presence every day in our lives.
Walk with us on our journey of faith as You once did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
Be with our children as they prepare to encounter You more deeply in the celebration of the Eucharist.
For the bread that gives everlasting life so that we can love God with all our strength,
We thank You Lord.
For the wine that gives everlasting joy and strength to serve our brothers and sisters,
We thank You Lord.
For offering us Your body and blood, We thank You Lord.
For the Eucharist that proclaims Your glory, We thank You Lord.
For You, Christ Jesus, who are always with us, We thank You Lord.

Fr Pat

Fr Pat is recovering well with no complications. Each day, he goes walking and tries to stretch it a little each time. Father sends his thanks to all parishioners for your prayerful support and is looking forwards to coming back in October.

Petition - Assisted Suicide Bill NSW

This weekend and next weekend you will have an opportunity to sign the petition against the Voluntary Assisted Dying bill tabled in NSW parliament on 14th September.

This bill allows persons to kill themselves or be killed by a physician assisted injection. It is impossible to safeguard such legislation against coercion and abuse. Many in the medical professions oppose this bill. You are invited to sign the petition available at the back of the church.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2017

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) 2017 is being hosted by the Archdiocese of Sydney between **Thursday, 7th December and Saturday, 9th December 2017 at Sydney Olympic Park**. The Festival is a wonderful event for the young staff and students of our system of Catholic schools and will be an exciting time in Catholic education. It is anticipated that around 15,000 Catholics will attend and in order to successfully manage an event of this magnitude, 500 volunteers per day will be required. All adults are invited to volunteer.

Volunteers will be rostered onto shifts at the Festival of 7.5 hours. Volunteers can complete a maximum of one shift on each day of the Festival. The shifts are:

6:30am-2pm 9:00am-3:30pm 2:00pm-9pm

If you are available to volunteer your time on any or all of those days follow this link for more information and to register: <https://arinex.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/acyf2017/mainregistration>

Mass Intentions:

Vigil	5:30pm	Fr Peter Dinh & deceased members of Dinh & Pham Families
Sun 3	8:00am	Intentions of all parishioners
	10:00am	Intentions of Jim, Frances McDermott & Family
	5:30pm	Claude Toinette & Philippe L'Olive (RIP)
Mon 4	9:15am	Giacobe Nguyen & Souls in Purgatory
Tue 5	9:15am	Yousef & Najla Sater Family (RIP)
Wed 6	9:15am	Fr Con Campbell (RIP)
Thu 7	9:15am	Veronique Henrison (Good Health)
Fri 8	9:15am	Intentions of Visevic Family
Sat 9	9:15am	Eileen Henrison (Good Health)

Parish Diary:

Sun 3	22nd SUNDAY In ORDINARY TIME
6:30pm	J-Walker Senior Youth Meeting (Every second week)
Mon 4	Weekday, Ordinary Time 22
Tue 5	Weekday, Ordinary Time 22
10:00am	Legion of Mary Meeting
Wed 6	Weekday, Ordinary Time 22
Thu 7	Weekday, Ordinary Time 22
7:00pm	J-Walker Youth Meeting
Fri 8	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9:30am	Yoga
Sat 9	Weekday, Ordinary Time 22
9:45am	Morning Tea at Parish Centre

Please pray for

Recently Deceased:

Joan Mary Weston



RIP Anniversary:

Frs. G. Alwines, M. Heywood & J. Neville OMI. Doris A. O'Neill, Olive A. Blake, Cyril (Frank) Freeburn, Bradley J. Starling, William P. Higgins, Lillian Lennon, Gwynneth P. Burr, Patricia Swindell, Amelia A. Dalley, Ronald White, Violet Deguara, Kevin Gwynne, Edward G. Ross, Honora M. Moran, Thomas M. F. Bryant, Jane C. Camilleri, Gregory Hamilton, Roland Barbeau, Phillip Carmichael, Ziga Matta, Wladyslaw (Winston) Szalatkiewicz. Danny S. Burton, Marie L. Collet.

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, Cheryl MacKlin, 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.

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.



Valuing dignity
Strengthening families
Connecting communities



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