

**Mass Times:**

Monday to Saturday : 9:15am
 Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)
 Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am, 5:30pm
 First Friday of the month: 7:00pm

Rosary: Monday to Saturday: 8:50am**Sacred Heart Devotions:** Fridays, 9:50am**Reconciliation:** Saturdays: 10:30—11:30am**Baptisms:** 2nd and 4th Sundays, 11:00am**Weddings and Funerals:** Contact Parish Office**Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Sefton***Under the care of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton, NSW 2162

Administrator: Fr James Jeyachandran OMI**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B****Sunday, 4 Feb 2018****HOMILY by Richard Leonard SJ**

In the time of Jesus almost everything they couldn't understand was put down to a demon or an evil spirit. In the Talmud, (a large book dating from around the time of Jesus that contains the collected teachings of the Rabbis), several pages are devoted to the healing of 'fevers'. Even though we have become more advanced in our medical knowledge, it's surprising how this thinking still persists. While most people don't blame evil for their ailments, they can think God has a direct hand in sending an illness or an injury. Such faulty theology cannot be reconciled with the New Testament.

There is not a single instance where Jesus inflicts pain and suffering on others. He regularly tells us we have to carry our cross and bear our burdens, but this is vastly different from personally laying a cross on our shoulders or giving us the burdens in the first place. By contrast, every time that Jesus encounters suffering and pain he works to heal it and restore the person to new life.

The differences between the healing of Peter's mother-in-law and the other healing stories in the first chapter of Mark's Gospel are striking. Rather than in a public space and in front of crowds this personal healing occurs in the privacy of Peter's house. By contrast to the command for the demons to be gone, in his bedside ministry Jesus never mentions a demon and uses no words. Instead he gently takes her by the hand and helps her to her feet. Unlike the others Jesus heals, of whom we never hear about their response, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law leads her to an act of service. Given all the details Mark give us of this encounter it's a pity he never tells us her name.

Sometimes we can think of Jesus' miracles, then and now, as acts of dazzling power. The problem with this idea is that if we see Jesus as going around 'zapping' people it's hard to figure out why there were times when he could not perform any miracles at all, or that they happened in stages. Whatever else miracles are, they are deeply personal encounters of faith.

As Catholics we believe in the power of miracles and that the source of them is always the grace of God. But we do not have to see them as something done to us from without. Rather, we can see them as unlocking something from within. For some people Jesus' word or touch set free the healing power God had placed in them. For others it came through another person's intercession. The same holds true for us today.

Furthermore, being anointed, celebrating Reconciliation or Eucharist, going to a place of pilgrimage, fasting, being prayed over or meditating can have a similar effect. Looked at in this way we can see why some people are healed and others are not. If a personal encounter with Jesus did not always lead to healing, then why should it surprise us that some other encounters these days do not always unlock God's healing within us.

Small and large-scale miracles are happening everyday. Today's Gospel reminds us that they do not happen for show or for the sake of the crowd. They are realisations of faith. Taking Peter's mother-in-law as our model we are healed and strengthened so that we can witness to God's saving power, serve the Kingdom of God in any way we can, and continue to wait on the Lord.

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Catechist Meeting

Very important Catechist Meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th February 2018, 10:30am—12:30pm, at Parish Centre**. Also a reminder, please check your Catechist mail box in the Parish Centre every week for Catechist information & communication.

Parish Office Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Leisa Farlow to our parish office. Many parishioners would know Leisa from her active involvement in our parish ministries including Readers and Extraordinary Ministers. Leisa will join the parish office every Tuesday and Friday. Elizabeth will continue to work in the parish office on Wednesday and Thursday. Fr James.

Rosters—10th & 11th February

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	T Kelly	L Cavallo	C McDermott	E Lobo
Readers	M Flanagan	T Evans	M Keep	M Farlow
Ministers of Communion	T Flanagan Yolla Sassine	B Murphy P Foran	K Hicks K Marson	I Abraham M Williams
Musician/Choir	IHM Choir	A Tran	Ed & Ann Luis	O Nguy-Lobo/ A Tran
Flower Arrangers	L Jones, S Johns			
Counters	J DeMartin, N Vanden Nieuwenhuizen, I Culpan			
Bankers	P Howe, S Saidi			

PARISH CONTACTS**Immaculate Heart of Mary Church****Administrator:** Fr James Jeyachandran OMI**Parish Secretary:**

Leisa Farlow (Tue & Fri) / Elizabeth Bui (Wed & Thu)

Office Hours: Tue—Fri (9:00am—2:30pm)**6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton NSW 2162****Phone:** 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****Phone:** 02 9644 3555, **Fax:** 02 9644 8214**Email:** info@ihmsefton.catholic.edu.au**Family Educator:** Mrs Claude Bourizk

Readings

This Week: Jb 7:1-4. 6-7 1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23 Mk 1:29-39
Next Week: Lv 13:1-2. 44-46 1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1 Mk 1:40-45

Oblate Farewell Planning Meeting

Wednesday 7th February 7pm, Oblate Room. All welcome

As announced last week, the Parish Council is planning an "Oblate Farewell" event to celebrate the Oblates 70 years of service at Sefton, and to express our appreciation for the Oblates priests who have faithfully ministered our parish over years. We would like to invite, as many as possible, of the priests who have served Sefton parish to join us in this special event.

Many thanks to parishioners who have already volunteered to help in this special event, we will be in contact with you shortly. More volunteers are still needed to assist with the planning and organising for the Celebration Mass and the Dinner afterwards. If you are able to help us, please leave your contact details with the parish office on 9644 4026 or email sefton@oblates.com.au.

There will be a planning meeting on **Wednesday 7th February at 7pm in the Oblate Room**. Volunteers are invited to attend this meeting to provide suggestions and nominate tasks that they are able to help with. All parishioners are also welcome to attend.

Please note the following date:

- **Oblate Farwell, Easter Monday April 2nd, Mass to be celebrated at 4pm and Dinner in the Parish Hall from 5:30pm**

Please also spread the words to any former parishioners who would be interested in attending this event.

Further details will be provided in the Parish Bulletin over the coming weeks.

Tentative Dates—Sacramental Program

Confirmation: 19th June

First Holy Communion: Weekend 8th/9th September

Reconciliation: Wednesday 21st November

These dates will be confirmed as soon as possible, and further details given throughout the year close to enrolment time for each of the Sacraments.

Catechist Sunday

Today we celebrate *Catechist Sunday* to acknowledge our parish Catechists who generously give their time to teach the Catholic faith to our local public primary and high school students. We recognise their response to their baptismal call to evangelise, the voluntary nature of their generosity, and their love for the children in a work which is often unseen and unrecognised yet crucial and rewarding. Special thanks to our parish Catechists: Adam, Terry Evans, Anna Parasyn, Carmel Wonson, Carol Wood, Mariah Lawlor, Sandra Livingstone, Colin McDermott, Felicia Perera.

May God continue to bless you in bringing the hope and joy of Jesus to the children entrusted in your care.

New catechists are always needed to continue this important mission. We welcome new volunteers to join our team as Catechist or Catechist Assistant. For more information, contact **Adam on 9743 7185**.

Mass Intentions:

Vigil 3rd	5:30pm	Bob Rolfe — RIP
Sun 4th	8:00am	Michael Patrick O'Brien (rec RIP)
	10:00am	Frank Lonergan (RIP Ann 5th Feb)
	5:30pm	Intentions of all parishioners
Mon 5th	9:15am	Sabrina, Savio, Errol (Healing)
Tue 6th	9:15am	Joseph & Grace Rodrigues (Silver Wedding Anniversary)
Wed 7th	9:15am	William Loos (RIP Ann)
Thu 8th	9:15am	Vincent Massarella (RIP)
Fri 9th	9:15am	Michael John Howe (RIP Ann 5th Feb)
Sat	9:15am	Welfare of all parish volunteers

Upcoming Events

Wed, 7th Feb

- Oblates Farewell Planning Meeting

Thu, 8th Feb

- Catechist meeting, 10:30am – 12:30pm, Parish Centre

Wed, 14th Feb

- Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:15 am & 7:00pm
- School Mass at 11:30am

Sun, 18th Feb

- Project Compassion begins

Thu, 23rd Feb

- Opening School Mass at 9:15am

Mass Intentions

Mass intentions are often scheduled 1-2 months out; if you have a special date, please contact the parish office as soon as possible. When requesting Mass Intention, please write in BLOCK letters name of the person Mass is being offered to & the intention. Please also include a contact number in case we need alternative date or clarification.

We Pray...

Recently deceased - Michael Patrick O'Brien

RIP Anniversary

Fr T Conway, Frank Lonergan, Michael John Howe, William Loos, Gregory John Maycock, Johanna Eyndhoven, Terence Joseph Waring, Mary Ancilleri, Keith Augustus Rush, Hugh Gerald McCafferty, Mary Hanran Cook, John Thomas Rush, Raeleen May Brigden, Janet Farrell, Peter Nicholas Evic, Jack Byrnes,



Our Sick

Bishop G Robinson, Sister Marie O'Dea, Laurie Horsley, David McGeachie, Lena Theuma, John Mealing, Kath Coughlin, Mary Keane, Lidia Stuccio, Kevin & Moira Magnussen, Bob Rodrigues, Spiteri family, Leslie Cotter, Louise & Anne Maher, Matthew Barrington, Lydia Gwynne, Leo Hackett, Lucia Iacono, Brian Cochrane, Ted O'Connell

Names will be taken off the list after a short time, unless advised otherwise. Please contact the parish office for names to be added to the list.