



**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



**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 sacrament.

**Announcements in parish bulletin**

To have an announcement published in the bulletin, please send the text, ready for publication to the parish office by Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. for publication that weekend.

**Ministry Roster - 24th & 25th February**

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
<b>Acolytes</b>	W Khouw	L Cavallo	J Rodrigues	B Freeburn
<b>Readers</b>	J Toinette	M Cowan	A Pham	M Heim
<b>Ministers of Communion</b>	M Flanagan T Flanagan	L Abouchabake N Walker	K Hicks M Lonergan	J Freeburn M Williams
<b>Musician/Choir</b>	IHM Choir	A Tran	O Nguy-Lobo	O Nguy-Lobo/A Tran
<b>Flower Arrangers</b>	NO FLOWERS DURING LENT			
<b>Counters</b>	J DeMartin, N Vanden Nieuwenhuizen, I Culpan			
<b>Bankers</b>	L Farlow, M Farlow			

**PARISH CONTACTS**

<p><b>Immaculate Heart of Mary Church</b></p> <p><b>Administrator:</b> Fr James Jeyachandran OMI</p> <p><b>Parish Secretary:</b> Leisa Farlow (Tue &amp; Fri) / Elizabeth Bui (Wed &amp; Thu)</p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> Tue—Fri (9:00am—2:30pm)</p> <p><b>6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton NSW 2162</b></p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 02 9644 4026, <b>Fax:</b> 02 9743 7407</p> <p><b>Email:</b> sefton@oblates.com.au</p> <p><b>Parish Website:</b> www.seftoncatholicchurch.org.au</p>	<p><b>Immaculate Heart of Mary - Primary School</b></p> <p><b>Principal:</b> Mr. John Kennedy</p> <p><b>School Office:</b> <b>30 Proctor Parade, Sefton, NSW 2162</b></p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 02 9644 3555, <b>Fax:</b> 02 9644 8214</p> <p><b>Email:</b> info@ihmsefton.catholic.edu.au</p> <p><b>Family Educator:</b> Mrs Claude Bourizk</p>
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**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



**Sunday, 18 Feb 2018: First Sunday of Lent - Year B**

**HOMILY by Richard Leonard SJ**

Have you ever noticed that Jesus begins and ends his public ministry in the wilderness? These deserts are the geographical bookends of the greatest story ever told. In today's Gospel we have Jesus in the desert for forty days. Much later, when condemned to death, Jesus is led out of the city and crucified at Golgotha, another dry and desolate location. In both places Jesus is tempted. In Mark we are never told what Satan's temptations in the desert were about. Luke and Matthew fill in those details. On the cross, however, Mark tells us that the crowd tempts Jesus to work a miracle, come down from the cross and save himself. In the first desert Jesus is ministered to by the angels and emerges to proclaim that the kingdom of God is close at hand. In the later desert Jesus is ministered to by his women disciples and is put to death as a consequence for the way he lived out the Kingdom he proclaimed.



It's clear from all the Gospels that the desert and the temptations stayed with Jesus throughout his life. What a comfort this is to us. Many of us do not need to go out and find a physical desert to know its claim on our lives. Temptations do not know geographical limitations. Indeed, the greater the number of options, the more temptations we have to take a destructive path.

When we look at how the desert is used in the Bible, mythology, art, literature and the cinema two competing images emerge. The first is that the desert can be a place of loss and ruin where some great heroes have gone and not returned. In another equally venerable tradition journeys to the desert, while filled with a mixture of pleasure and pain, are abundant with revelation, transformation and recreation.

These two descriptions do not have to be contradictory. As we find in Jesus' example, we do not have to give in to the temptation that the desert is only about loss, but we need to find a path there to negotiate a way out of it so that we can emerge recreated, the richer for the experience.

It's important to remember in our own particular deserts that temptation is not sin. To be tempted by something is not the same as doing it. Temptations are the allures that make destructive choices look good. In one sense, the bad news is that we know from the lives of the saints that the closer we get to God, the more temptations increase. The good news is that we can learn how to deal with them.

Usually, temptations have a context and a history. They can come when we are feeling most deserted and vulnerable and they normally strike us at the most susceptible points in our character. To deal with them we need to be aware of their pattern, the way they con us into believing that the destructive behaviour is 'not that bad', will be 'just this once', or 'for the last time'. As well, it helps if we are aware of the danger signs in our lives that can weaken our defences. Tiredness, boredom, anger, alcohol and drug use, lack of good communication and a poor self-esteem are common realities that can leave us more exposed than usual.

This Lent, as we venture with Christ into our figurative deserts, let's do anything that helps our self-esteem, deal with our anger, attend to why we might work or drink too much, and ensure that we are less stressed. Contrary to what we might think, these activities could be the most helpful ways we can make sure we emerge from our desert the better for having been there.

## Readings

**This Week:** Gen 9:8-15      1 Pt 3:18-22      Mk 1:12-15

**Next Week:** Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18      Rom 8:31-34      Mk 9:2-10

## DAYS OF PENANCE

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, *must* be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain.
2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
  - a. prayer - for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary.
  - b. self-denial - for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
  - c. helping others - for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

## Pope Francis' Guide to Lent: What You Should Give Up This Year

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "A Just Future", celebrating the Year of Youth.

As Pope Francis said, "Cultivate with love the seeds of goodness, beauty and truth that God sows in every new generation."

Through your generosity during Project Compassion this year, you are empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.

**World Day of Prayer** this year will be held at **St Mary's Church, 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall on Friday 2nd March commencing at 10:30am**. All are welcome to join with our local churches of all denominations in prayer and fellowship. Light luncheon to follow. Enquiries to Margaret Flanagan 9644 1868.



## Mass Intentions:

Vigil	5:30pm	RIP - Augustine Tinh Nguyen
Sun 18th	8:00am	RIP - Lionel & Deon Vellis
	10:00am	RIP - Michael Patrick O'Brien
	5:30pm	Welfare of All Parishioners
Mon 19th	9:15am	Healing—Maria Brosolo
Tue 20th	9:15am	Peace of the world
Wed 21st	9:15am	RIP—Mariano Dalla Riva
Thu 22nd	9:15am	RIP - Margaret Fox
Fri 23rd	9:15am	Welfare of IHM School Community
Sat 24th	9:15am	

## Upcoming Events

### Sun, 18th Feb

- Project Compassion begins

### Fri, 23rd Feb

- Opening School Mass, 9:15am
- Mass at Chester Hill Village, 11am
- Stations of the Cross, 2:30pm

### Sat/Sun, 24th & 25th Feb

- Dinner tickets for Oblate Farewell available after weekend Masses

### Wed, 28th Feb

- Mass at Abel Tasman Village, 10am

### Fri, 2nd Mar

- Stations of the Cross, 2:30pm
- Mass at 7:00pm

## We Pray...

### RIP Anniversary

Fr J Weldon OMI, Fr S O'Dwyer OMI, Bro Frank Thornton OMI, Zillah Doreen Gilbert, Alexis Max Renotte, Margaret Scerri, Giuseppe Stramandinoli, Mary McCabe, Antonio De Grandis, Barbara Dakkache, Ross Kelly

### 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, Matthew Barrington, Lydia Gwynne, Leo Hackett, Lucia Iacono, Ted O'Connell, Noel Rigney-Johnson



## Oblate Farewell Mass & Dinner

Please join in a celebration of Thanksgiving and Farewell to our much-loved Oblates of Mary Immaculate priests for their 70 years of care of Sefton Parish. **A Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on Easter Monday, 2nd April at 4:00pm. Dinner will follow in the Parish Hall from 5:30pm.** Save the date for this special celebration!



Tickets for Dinner will be available for purchase after weekend Masses from 24th February to 18th March. Cost Adult \$10, Child \$5. It will be a wonderful celebration for present and past members of our parish community.

## Catechist Seminar

All parish catechists are required to attend a seminar on "**Safeguarding Children**" on **Wednesday 28th February 2018 from 1:00—3:00pm in the Parish Centre**. Enquiries to Adam on 9743 7189.

**Flower Arrangers**—No flowers during Lent.