



**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

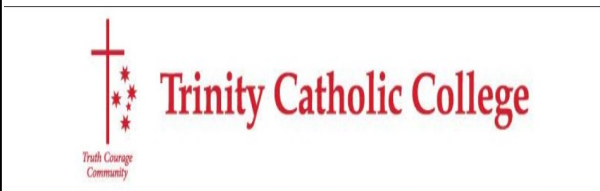
**Baptisms:** 2nd and 4th Sundays, 11:00am

**Weddings and Funerals:** Contact Parish Office



**KINDERGARTEN 2019**

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School Sefton are looking at enrolments for next year already! If you have a pre-schooler who turns 5 before 31/7/19 and would like to enrol him/her at **IHM for 2019, enrolment forms are now available.** If you know of anyone else who may be considering a Catholic education for their child, please let them know about Immaculate Hear of Mary Catholic Primary School.



**OPEN DAY—AUBURN CAMPUS**

**March 7, 4pm –8pm**  
 13 Park Road, Auburn

**MINISTRY ROSTER - 3RD & 4TH MARCH**

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
<b>Acolytes</b>	C McDermott	D Bui	T Kelly	E Lobo
<b>Readers</b>	R Toinette	M Abraham	T Tierney	Lynn Quinn
<b>Ministers of Communion</b>	A Pham P Loos	B Murphy P Foran	E Torres K Marson	I Abraham P Inmidowojo Akeje
<b>Musician/Choir</b>	IHM Choir	A Tran	Tongan Choir	O Nguy-Lobo/A Tran
<b>Flower Arrangers</b>	NO FLOWERS DURING LENT			
<b>Counters</b>	M Lonergan, P Rolfe, J Horsley			
<b>Bankers</b>	I Prygiel, M Enright			

**PARISH CONTACTS**

<p><b>Immaculate Heart of Mary Church</b>  <b>Administrator:</b> Fr James Jeyachandran OMI  <b>Parish Secretary:</b>                  Leisa Farlow (Tue &amp; Fri) / Elizabeth Bui (Wed &amp; Thu)  <b>Office Hours:</b> Tue—Fri (9:00am—2:30pm)  <b>6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton NSW 2162</b>  <b>Phone:</b> 02 9644 4026, <b>Fax:</b> 02 9743 7407  <b>Email:</b> sefton@oblates.com.au  <b>Parish Website:</b> www.seftoncatholicchurch.org.au</p>	<p><b>Immaculate Heart of Mary - Primary School</b>  <b>Principal:</b> Mr. John Kennedy  <b>School Office:</b>  <b>30 Proctor Parade, Sefton, NSW 2162</b>  <b>Phone:</b> 02 9644 3555, <b>Fax:</b> 02 9644 8214  <b>Email:</b> info@ihmsefton.catholic.edu.au  <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, 25 Feb 2018: Second Sunday of Lent - Year B**

**HOMILY by Richard Leonard SJ**

At the end of The Laws of Our Fathers, Scott Turow has one of his characters, Seth Weissman, preach at a memorial service. The text for that service is today's first reading and his words capture the challenge before us.

'I always return to the story of Abraham and Isaac ... the founder of the Western faiths ... He was a visionary, a prophet ... But despite this, Abraham's God decided to test him. He asked Abraham to make a sacrifice of his and Sarah's only child, Isaac, their miracle, who was born to them when Sarah was ninety years old and Abraham was one hundred. And ... Abraham complied.'



'He did not ask what was wrong with a God who would demand such a thing, or question whether He was worth worshipping. He did not, so far as the Bible tells us, even beg for Isaac's life, as he had done for the people of Sodom. Abraham simply walked his child up Mount Moriah. I imagine he even made the boy carry the wood for the fire ...'

'... I have regarded for some years now the story of Abraham and Isaac a strange story, a grim tale of how a father would sacrifice his son to his own faith ... What kind of a starting point is this for ... all the Western faiths? ... Why do we re-tell this story? Is it to remind us that every parent since has been better?'

'... One of the thousand morals of the story of Abraham and Isaac is that ... it is also a tale of survival and of mercy. In the end Abraham heard his God instruct him not to set his hand against his son ... Isaac survived ... He became a parent, blind to Jacob's defects, but one who, pointedly, attempted no sacrifices of his own ...'

'So let us think of Isaac ... the first son of the Western faiths – and think about the story that is told again and again. We hear it first as children, and repeat it throughout our lives. We tell it by way of apology. And warning. We tell it with some measure of hope. We tell it because we have all been the child, we have all been Isaac, and we know the part of the story that is never mentioned. For the Bible does not record Isaac's responses. We do not know if he, like Jesus, asked, "Father, why have you forsaken me?" We do not know if he begged the way most of us would, for his life. We know only this: that he obeyed ... That because he knew nothing else, he did as his father required. We know he allowed himself to be bound in rope. We know that he let his father lay him on the altar of pyramided firewood which together they had raised to God. We know he watched his father on the mountaintop raise the gleaming knife above his breastbone. We know ... he was a child, the son of a man with a Big Idea, who in his longing and confusion, even in his final instant, could only look to his father with that eternal if foundering hope for love.'

May this story and our Eucharist give us hope that no matter what altar of sacrifice we feel sometimes laid upon, God does not abandon us in our need, and never wants us to sacrifice ourselves, or anyone else. Lent is about mercy and survival because true obedience to God, even in its demands for a hard love, ALWAYS leads to life.

## READINGS

**This Week:** Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18      Rom 8:31-34      Mk 9:2-10  
**Next Week:** Ex 20:1-17      1 Cor 1:22-25      Jn 2:13-25

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS—FRIDAY 2.30PM

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross, is a popular Lenten Devotion. Our school and parish communities will join as a group and pray the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent to call to mind the Passion of Christ, that is, the journey Jesus took from his condemnation to his death. Last Friday, Year 6 joined us in the church for prayers and were a great example as our school leaders. I invite all families to attend at least one Friday, bring your toddlers and bring a friend, everyone is welcome.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

During Sundays of Lent Mrs Claude Bourizk, Family Educator, will be running the children's liturgy, which is a liturgy for the proclamation of God's **Word** for **children** appropriate to their understanding. The children spend time listening to the Gospel and talking about the message in the readings and how we can relate it to our everyday lives. All children between the ages of 4-12 years are most welcome at **10am Mass on Sundays**.

## BAPTISM

Please pray for **SIPA MANATUOFA ALO** and **MISINALE NAU** as we welcome them into our parish community through the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, 25th February. Let us pray also for their parents and godparents, that the Lord may help them in raising Sipa and Misinale in the practice of the faith.

## INVITATION TO CLERGY, RELIGIOUS AND PARISHIONERS

Clergy, religious and parishioners are invited to join Archbishop Anthony Fisher, OP and his auxiliary bishops in their Prayers of Forgiveness and Reparation for all people who have been affected, directly or indirectly, by abuse within the Church. Survivors of abuse who feel able to attend this liturgy are warmly welcome.

The prayers, centered around the **Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary**, will be in **St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney at 6.30 pm on Friday March 2nd**, which is an Ember Day of prayer and fasting throughout Australia.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

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.



## 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.

## READERS MEETING

Will be held on **Wednesday 28th February at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre**. Please make an effort to attend as we prepare for Holy Week.

## MASS INTENTIONS:

Vigil	5:30pm	All souls in purgatory
Sun 25th	8:00am	RIP - Mary Carrigan
	10:00am	RIP - Fr Muldoon
	5:30pm	RIP - Michael Patrick O'Brien
Mon 26th	9:15am	RIP - Ana Karin
Tue 27th	9:15am	Andrew & Jackie Grabowskyj - Spiritual Healing
Wed 28th	9:15am	RIP - Christine McDonald
Thu 1st	9:15am	RIP - Gosepina Salal
Fri 2nd	9:15am	
	7:00pm	
Sat 3rd	9:15am	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- Dinner tickets for Oblate Farewell available after weekend Masses
- Parishioner photos to be taken after each weekend mass in Church foyer

### Tue, 27th Feb

- 9.15 am—Kindergarten & Yr 6 attend Parish Mass

### Wed, 28th Feb

- 10am—Mass at Abel Tasman Village
- 1-3pm—Catechist Seminar
- 7.30pm Readers Meeting

### Fri, 2nd Mar

- 2:30—Stations of the Cross
- 7pm = First Friday of The Month Mass



## Oblate Farewell Mass & Dinner

Please join in a celebration of Thanksgiving and Farewell to our Oblates of Mary Immaculate priests for their 70 years of care of Sefton Parish on

**Easter Monday 2nd April**

**Mass at 4:00pm**

**Dinner in the Parish Hall from 5:30pm**

Tickets for Dinner will be available for purchase after weekend Masses. \$10/Adult , \$5/Child



## WE PRAY...

### RIP Anniversary

Fr W Byrne OMI, Josie Rotundo, Stephen Callaghan

### 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

*If you see the moon, you see the beauty of God; If you see the sun, you see the power of God; AND if you see the mirror, you see the best creation of God; So believe in yourself.*