



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.

PARISH HANDOVER

In preparation for the handover of the Parish to the Archdiocese of Sydney, we are doing a recall of all keys. **If you are in possession of any keys relating to the parish, please return keys to the parish office as soon as possible.** For groups with existing bookings, key will be signed out before the event and signed in after the event, through arrangement with the parish office. Thank you for your cooperation.

MINISTRY ROSTER - 31ST MARCH & 1ST APRIL - EASTER

Mass	7:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	C Kelly	L Cavallo	C McDermott	NO MASS
Readers	A Roberts, M Flanagan, R Toinette, T Evans	L Abouchabake	T Tierney	NO MASS
Ministers of Communion	P Kelly Y Sassine	C Wood J Murphy	K Hicks I Vellis	NO MASS
Musician/Choir	IHM Choir	A Tran	J Zhu	NO MASS
Flower Arrangers	Hina Vaka'uta			
Counters	M Lonergan, P Rolfe, J Horsley			
Bankers	I Prygiel, M Enright			

PARISH CONTACTS

<p>Immaculate Heart of Mary Church</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Immaculate Heart of Mary - Primary School</p> <p>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</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 Mar 2018: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - Year B

HOMILY by Richard Leonard SJ

In the third verse of the rousing hymn, *How Great Thou Art*, we sing,
*'And when I think that God his Son not sparing
 sent him to die I scarce can take it in.
 That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
 he bled and died to take away my sin.'*

This verse enshrines a long-held tradition that Jesus died as a necessary atonement to God for our sins. From this perspective Jesus' suffering and death was the price of the ransom paid to evil so that we might share in God's life. Alternatively, the death of Jesus is seen as the only thing that satisfied God's anger at our sins, and caused God to love us again.

We should be very careful about what we sing! On the one hand this theology rightly shows us the extraordinary love Jesus has for us. On the other hand it says some very difficult things about God. What loving creator, for example, would say that the torture and death of his beloved son is the only way he can be happy about his creatures? What just judge, no matter how angry he or she might be at the crimes laid out in the courtroom, would allow an innocent man to die for the guilty? And how powerful is God over evil if the only way to keep it in check is through human sacrifice? These are serious questions and they have an impact on our everyday life of faith, and can sometimes alienate us from believing that God is our all-loving Father in heaven.

Today, we rightly hear a lot about victims – people, who through no choice or fault of their own, have been dealt with wrongly by others who are free to act otherwise and who know better. In some of the ways we think about the passion, Jesus becomes God's victim. Through no fault of his own, and seemingly powerless in the face of his Father's will, Jesus becomes a victim of God's need for a sacrifice, a ransom or atonement.

As a result, many of us can feel that sometimes we are God's victims too, because if God wanted Jesus to suffer and die, why should we be surprised or complain when we receive large crosses to carry as well?

Mark's account of the passion tends to reinforce Jesus as victim. Mark has Jesus eating with the outcasts, his friends betraying, denying or deserting him. He tells us that Jesus is terrified at the prospect of death and calls on his 'Abba' or 'daddy' to help him out. In the end he accepts 'the will of God' but even then feels abandoned by God on the Cross.

I often think we misread what Jesus is referring to when he accepts God's will in the Garden. Rather than refer to the particular will of the Father to see Jesus suffer and die on Good Friday, I think it's more helpful and consoling to understand it as referring to God's will that Jesus remains faithful to the way he lived. If by doing that Jesus threatened the religious and political authorities of his day so much that they have to murder him, then his death is the ultimate sacrifice which reveals how far God was prepared to go in love for us. This reveals to us that Jesus came 'to live', and that by faithfully living this life he was put to death by the powers of sin. Through the cross we see the price to be paid in confronting sin in our day and obediently living out the demands of God's kingdom of justice and peace. This Holy Week let's celebrate that God spared nothing in showing us how to live. As we commemorate Jesus' life, death and resurrection may we move from being victims of a bloodthirsty God to choosing again to follow Jesus' example and live lives which are faithful, loving and obedient. May we also appreciate that this life continues to, literally, threaten 'the hell out of' those opposed to the reign of God in our world, but that as Jesus was faithful to God and God to Jesus, so they will remain faithful to us as well, no matter what.

© Richard Leonard SJ.



READINGS

This Week: Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mk 14:1 – 15:47
Next Week: Acts 10:34. 37-43 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

BREAKING NEWS!! The Archdiocese of Sydney has appointed FR GREGORY McGREGOR as Parish Priest of Immaculate Heart of Mary Sefton and Fr Thomas as Assistant Parish Priest. Fr McGregor will commence at our Parish on 27th April 2018. As we farewell Fr James with much sadness, we warmly welcome our new Priests and pray this new era in our Parish will be a blessed and peaceful time.

SINCERE SYMPATHY and loving prayers from the parish family to Kerry Hicks and extended family on the passing of Kerry's father, Horace Delaney. May he rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him.

A funeral service will be held for Horace at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Sefton on Tuesday 27th March at 10.30am.



ALTER SERVER PRACTICE will be held on **Monday 26th March at 5.30pm** for all alter servers who wish to participate in Holy Week mass celebrations. Please meet Fr James in the Church foyer. Thank you.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

The **annual collection for the Holy Land** occurs on **Good Friday**. Envelopes will be placed on the pews in the Church for your generous donations which will support the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing financial assistance to schools, medical centres, parishes, orphanages, welfare projects and poor Christians and help to preserve the sacred shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thank you to all the IHM students who attended the Stations of the Cross during Lent. Your reverence and behaviour were excellent! Mrs Claude Bourizk, Family Educator, will lead a Stations of the Cross reflection for parents on **Thursday 29th March from 8:45am** in the Oblate Room. Parishioners are all very welcome to join.

CONFIRMATION TUESDAY 19TH JUNE 2018

Confirmation is the Sacrament by which Catholics receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Catholic Christians in Year Six and above who have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion are eligible to enrol in the Confirmation Program. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives candidates the increased ability to practice their Catholic faith in every aspect of their lives and to witness Christ in every situation. **Confirmation will be celebrated at IHM Sefton Parish on Tuesday 19th June at 7pm.**

Applications are available in the foyer of the church as well as on the Parish website, <http://www.seftoncatholicchurch.org.au>. Please **submit applications to the Parish Office before 13th April 2018**. Applications can be dropped in the mailbox on the Presbytery's door.



Oblate Farewell Mass & Dinner

Easter Monday 2nd April

Mass at 4:00pm

Mass will be celebrated by The Most Reverend Bishop Terry Brady and concelebrated with Oblate Fathers Andrew, Bill, Brian, Daniel, Dave, Donal, James, John McGinty, Leo, Pat, Tony Colbert, Vin McGillicuddy and Vin Ryan



MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 24th	9:15am	RIP Sretbo
Vigil	5:30pm	RIP Maria Hai N Ngo
Sun 25th	8:00am	RIP Elfrieda Kubousek (Bday)
	10:00am	RIP Anthony David Stephen
	5:30pm	Intentions of Ben Rodrigues
Mon 26th	9:15am	RIP Ian Fernando (Recently deceased)
Tue 27th	9:15am	All Parishioners
Wed 28th	9:15am	RIP Joseph Pham Van Kha
Thu 29th	9:15am	No Morning Mass
Fri 30th	9:15am	No Morning Mass
Sat 31st	9:15am	No Morning Mass
Vigil	5:30pm	Easter Vigil

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon, 26th March

- 5:00pm - Alter Server Practice for Holy Week

Tue, 27th March

- 7:30pm - Reconciliation

Thur, 29th March

- Holy Thursday** - No Morning Mass
- 7:30pm - Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Supper and Adoration until 10:00pm

Fri, 30th March

- Good Friday** - No Morning Mass
- 10:00am - Stations of the Cross in school playground (Reconciliation to follow Stations)
- 3:00pm - The Passion of Christ

Sat, 31st March

- No Morning Mass
- 10:30-11:30am - Reconciliation
- 7:30pm - Easter Vigil Mass

Sun, 1st April

- 8:00am & 10:00am - Easter Sunday Masses (**NO EVENING MASS**)

THANK YOU to our wonderful parishioners Mr & Mrs Saidi who so generously donated their time and the palms to decorate our Church so beautifully for our Palm Sunday masses. They have done so for many, many years. May God shower them both with love and blessings.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY - PULPIT POINTS 25 MARCH 2018

- Saint in the making? Eileen O' Connor
- Monica Doumit: By-election controversy: Vic Catholic Education backs Labor candidate
- Pope approves Australian plenary
- U.S. Diocese unveils new cathedral
- Movie review: A Wrinkle in Time
- Fr Flader: Can I attend gay weddings?

Available in the foyer - \$2. All money goes to the poor.

READERS MEETING

Will be held on **Wednesday 28th March at 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre. Please make an effort to attend.

WE PRAY...

Recently Deceased

Horace Delaney, Anton Nguyen

RIP Anniversary

Kevin Francis Clifford, Olga Vera O'Brien, Severino Cumerlato

Our Sick

Bishop G Robinson, Sister Marie O'Dea, Alma Ryan, Tram T Nguyen, 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, Frances Desfosses