

**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**CALL TO PARISH MINISTRY**

Each of us is called to the primary ministry of service to our parish by our regular participation in Sunday Mass, building up a vibrant Catholic family community. Most of us are called to serve in various parish ministries with responsibility according to our resources of time and talent. A parish family depends upon each of its members to help one another in worship, charity and service. As you are aware, the vitality of the parish equates to the involvement and interest of its parishioners. We sincerely thank those who are already engaged in our parish ministries! And now, we ask you, especially young adults, new retirees, established families, single persons, to determine your call to any of our parish ministry roles. As you know, such a call, for whatever period of time, is so much more than volunteerism. It is a grace of service to which we are called to make a difference in our parish community. Please consider participating by filling out the **Parish Ministry Signup Form** (in the foyer) and drop it into the collection basket or at the Parish Office. You will be contacted by ministry co-ordinators with further information.

Currently we have an urgent **need for Eucharist Ministers** who are able to **visit the elderly and homebound** in our parish. Please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr James if you are able to help. *Fr James*

MINISTRY ROSTER - 28TH & 29TH APRIL

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	K Collins	L Cavallo	J Rodrigues	D Bui
Readers	R Toinette	T Evans	A Pham	M Cowan
Ministers of Communion	P Loos Y Sassine	B Murphy P Foran	M Lonergan K Marson	I Abraham L Farlow
Musician/Choir	IHM Choir	A Tran	Jessica Zhu	M Farlow
Flower Arrangers	Elizabeth Bui, Nga Bui & D Johns			
Counters	L Farlow & M Farlow			
Bankers	P Page, J Page			

PARISH CONTACTS

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Administrator: Fr James Jeyachandran OMI Parish Secretary: Leisa Farlow Office Hours: Tue—Fri (9:30am—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
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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, 22 Apr 2018: Good Shepherd Sunday - Year B****Oblates Leave Sefton after 70 years - A Tribute to Parishioners of Sefton**

“He sent me to bring the Good News to the poor. ...And the Good News has been proclaimed to the poor”. Over the past 70 years, the Missionary Oblates have brought their charism of evangelisation to their ministry at Sefton. Through their presence many have encountered the love of Jesus and accepted him as their Saviour. However, our mission is never ended. “We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.” (Archbishop Oscar Romero).

“The purpose of a mission is to help others to discover themselves. It is especially to open ourselves to others as brothers and sisters, to discover them, and to encounter them.” (Dom Helder Camera). Many relationships have been formed and God has been encountered in this community. We have so many good news stories to tell.

Proclaiming the Gospel has not been easy in these changing times. Evangelisation called for new initiatives and daring. Through the leadership of various Parish Priests, the parish was introduced to: liturgical changes, youth groups, prayer groups, Legion of Mary, Paulinians, Parish Missions and many more activities.

I have attempted to sketch a few impressions of my experience of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Sefton. These are memories that I will cherish for a life time. I will leave it to others to tell their story.

In 1948 an informal approach was made by Father Andrew McClusker OMI to the Archbishop of Sydney Cardinal Gilroy for permission to start a Mission House. The archbishop declined the offer. A pragmatic solution was reached by both parties, the acceptance of a parish which met the immediate needs of the diocese and moreover it was a parish that could serve to bring new missionary openings. Sefton was settled upon and the first Parish Priest, Father Breslin arrived in 1949.

In Sydney there was a huge post war development and growth in new suburbs and parishes. A priority for the church was the building of new schools and churches. Resources were scarce. When the Oblates arrived in Sefton they found many newly married people struggling to build their houses and raise a family. The only resources available to the Oblates were a block of land with a tiny hall and very small house. A huge and intimidating mission lay ahead including the building of a primary school, church and parish hall.

One of my earliest memories was of starting at the parish school in 1959. I had Sister Cleopas, a no-nonsense sister of St Joseph, along with 141 other students in her class. She attempted to teach us in primitive conditions. The Sisters of St Joseph at Sefton had few with professional training, they wore a full habit and veil and lived in sub-standard accommodation until the new convent was built and opened in 1963. Yet somehow, in the absence of resources, they managed to control the class and teach us which was quite an achievement. Today we recognise the great sacrifices made by those pioneering religious women. And we also acknowledge that our greatest and most important resource was the people of Sefton. The parish was poor and working class, but the spirit was great, and people were willing to work together.

One of the great parish celebrations at Sefton was the 15th of December 1981 when I was ordained an Oblate with Leo Mifsud and Paul Gwynne by Bishop David Cremin. It was one of the largest gatherings of Priests and people ever assembled at Sefton. The support and encouragement offered was huge and graciously received. From that day forward, Bishop Cremin in his own inimitable and friendly manner called us his sons. It felt good to be an Oblate and part of the Sefton Parish, a place that I will always call home.

Continued on page 2

READINGS

This Week: Acts 4:8-12 1 Jn 3:1-2 Jn 10:11-18
Next Week: Acts 9:26-31 1 Jn 3:18-24 Jn 15:1-8

From Page 1

Another son of Sefton, Mario Azrak was ordained an Oblate Priest at Sefton in 1999. He has spent the majority of his ministry in the Oblate Kenyan Mission. He has used his considerable gifts in the service of the Church.

Present day Sefton is an unassuming suburb in western Sydney and continues to surprise many with its strong catholicity. In the recent postal vote on same sex marriage, the electorate recorded the highest percentage no votes in Australia, helped no doubt by the expanding Muslim population. In what continues to be a very multicultural area the church is very much alive. A sign of this vibrancy has been the number of men and women who have answered the call to a vocation. The Oblate seminary of St Mary's has been blessed by those who have joined from Sefton over the years. At present Brother Thuan Duc Bui, whose parents live at Sefton, is in his third year of formation to become a missionary Oblate. Many other young people have joined religious life from the parish including Sister Niesha Allport RSJ, Sister Catherine Corbett (Mercy Sisters), Brother Geoffrey Barrington and Michael Flanagan (Marist Brothers), and in 2015 Sesilia Taufa'ao (Dominican Sisters) and Paul Bailey (Marist).

The Oblates who have served at Sefton have been a blessing for the parishioners. They have touched the lives of many parishioners through the sacraments, parish missions, pastoral visitation and care, and the many courses and programs they have offered. It is important to recognise that the blessings have flowed both ways. No Oblate priest has ever served at Sefton and not been amazed at the outstanding faith commitment of these parishioners. Sefton has more than its share of saintly people: there are many who have gone beyond the mundane to excel in holiness of life. Many of these holy people would not recognise their state of life: a large number of parishioners committed to attending daily Mass; many who give and sacrifice their lives for their children and family; others who care for the sick; and those committed to serving the poor.

So, it came as an unexpected announcement that the Oblates would be leaving Sefton. After 70 years, Sefton can boast a rich history which has indelibly touched the lives of many people. In these times of falling mass attendance and lack of commitment Sefton still stands out as a vibrant and faith filled community. My immediate response to this news was a sense of loss and sadness.

So, you could ask the question, "Why would the Oblates hold onto the Parish of Sefton"? While one could rationalise leaving or staying due to the shortage of priests, it is more important to have a faith response. All our ministries are loved and embraced and none will be let go easily. We have to take the larger view that we are being called for whatever reason to serve elsewhere.

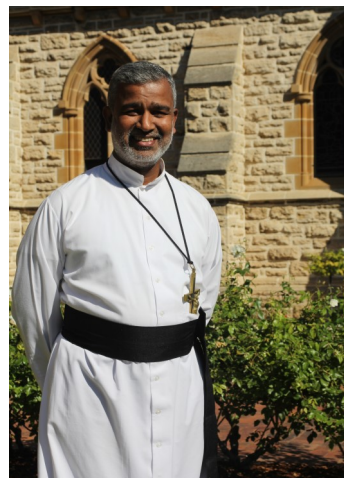
In truth, Sefton has embraced the charism and spirit of St Eugene. It is an active and vibrant parish and the work of preaching the good news to the poor with their many faces needs to continue. While there is sadness, we also need to celebrate and rejoice in the life of this faith community. There have been few Oblate Parishes that can match the spirit of Sefton. The Oblates can be proud of a job well done. The parish acknowledged with gratitude the contributions made by so many Oblates at a farewell Mass and dinner on Easter Monday. It was a time of remembrance of the joyful years lived in faith.

Written by Father V Ryan OMI

Edited by Father James OMI

GOODBYE AND GOODLUCK

We wish Fr James farewell and the best of luck for his future endeavours. Fr James has been a warm and generous priest and very popular with our parishioners. *Thank you Father for your service to our Parish; you will be greatly missed. We hope you enjoy WA and catch up on some much needed rest! May God bless you and keep you safe.*



FOR YOUR DIARY.... The Immaculate Heart of Mary **Parish retreat** will be held from **Friday 19th to Sunday 21st October**. Further details and registration to come.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 21st	9:15am	<i>Thanksgiving Mass</i> - Thomas (Hyun Soo Lee) family <i>RIP</i> Giuse & Anna
Vigil	5:30pm	
Sun 22nd	8:00am	<i>RIP</i> Domenico, Felice & Roberta Carlino
	10:00am	Sophia Tamoua (<i>18th Bday</i>)
	5:30pm	<i>RIP</i> Margaret Fox
Mon 23rd	9:15am	<i>Thanksgiving Mass</i> - Louis (Giu Jin Jang) Family
Tue 24th	9:15am	<i>Thanksgiving Mass</i> - Paul Jang, John Jang, Maria Jang
Wed 25th	9:15am	ANZACs
Thu 26th	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Arnulfo Pan
Fri 27th	9:15am	Giacobe Nguyen Bac Nha
Sat 28th	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Marlene Morris
Vigil	5:30pm	<i>Intentions of</i> David McGeachie

WE PRAY FOR...

Recently Deceased

Brian Hodgins

RIP Anniversary

Michael Dugan, Edith Louise Moodie, John Bullen, Gilbert William Ferguson,

Our Sick

Alma Ryan, Annette Evans, Pedro Kim, Frances Desfosses, Bishop G Robinson, Sister Marie O'Dea, 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,



BAPTISM Please pray for **ISABELLA KRAHE, MICHELE COGNETTA** and **MARCO CIMADORI** as we welcome them into our parish community through the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, 22nd April 2018. Let us pray also for their parents and godparents, that the Lord may help them in raising Isabella, Michele and Marco in the practice of the faith.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun, 22nd April

- **11:00am** - Baptism of Marco Cimadori, Isabella Krahe and Michele Cagnetta
- **12:00** - Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Wed, 25th April

- 9:15am - Anzac Day Mass

Fri, 27th April

- Goodbye Fr James & Welcome Fr Greg

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND CONGRATULATIONS to Mr John Ryan on the occasion of his 90th birthday on Monday, 23rd April. We wish John and his family happiness, joyful celebrations and God's continued blessings.

Congratulations

PROJECT COMPASSION

As the season of Lent has now come to an end, please return your full Project Compassion boxes & envelopes as soon as possible to the Church. Thankyou for your kind donations which will change the lives of many. So far our Parish has raised over \$5,000.