

**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**

6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton, NSW 2162

**Parish Priest:** Fr Greg McGregor**Assistant Parish Priest:** Fr Thomas Varghese**Sunday, 29 Apr 2018: Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year B****PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY—EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR**

Seeking an early childhood educator or Occupational Therapy/Speech Therapy student to work with a family and therapists on an early intervention learning program for a beautiful 4 year-old boy. Require to work a 2-hour block a day, for a total of 6 to 14 hours per week. Prefer hours between 3:30 to 7:30pm. The sessions will be at the family home at Sefton. Training will be provided. Hourly rate negotiable based on experience. Please contact Teresa on 0422 120 330 for more information.

**CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB****DID WE MEET YOU AT THE ACYF?**

We are waiting to hear from you. Bushwalking, Camping, Canyon and Skiing trips. Please apply via website [www.cbcsnw.org.au](http://www.cbcsnw.org.au) or contact Linda 0478 919 427.

**MINISTRY ROSTER - 5TH & 6TH MAY**

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
<b>Acolytes</b>	C Kelly	C McDermott	T Kelly	B Freeburn
<b>Readers</b>	A Roberts	L Abouchabake	T Tierney	L Quinn
<b>Ministers of Communion</b>	P Kelly N Barry	N Walker M Abraham	E Torres K Hicks	J Freeburn M Williams
<b>Musician/Choir</b>	IHM Choir	A Tran	Tongan Choir	Nguy-Lobo
<b>Flower Arrangers</b>	Liz Jones & Sue Johns			
<b>Counters</b>	L Windram, P Page, M Brown			
<b>Bankers</b>	J Williams & W Williams			

**PARISH CONTACTS****Immaculate Heart of Mary Church****Parish Priest:** Fr Greg McGregor**Assistant Parish Priest:** Fr Thomas Varghese**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:** [office@ihmsefton.org.au](mailto:office@ihmsefton.org.au)**Parish Website:** [www.seftoncatholicchurch.org.au](http://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](mailto:info@ihmsefton.catholic.edu.au)**Family Educator:** Mrs Claude Bourizk

Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message. I always imagined God as the vinedresser having a field day lopping and cutting my dead branches, trimming my unproductive stems and uprooting all the rot that undermines my fruitfulness. It always felt like a violent activity.

It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. Every cut is measured and aimed to prune back only the diseased branch, so as to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. The vinedresser is not violent with the vine, but extremely tender. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message.

This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving.

Rev Billy Graham once said, 'Being a member of the Church no more makes you a Christian than living in a garage makes you a car.' That's the point of today's Gospel: God will not judge us by what we say or the public face of goodness we can turn on, we will be judged by our acts of love in and through our kindness and compassion.

This metaphor also reminds us that we are connected to each other. There are moments in our life of faith when we hear or see other Christians saying or doing things we cannot countenance. We can try to disown them by retreating into our denomination, but we are all connected in Christ's vineyard. We need the courage to tell them the truth as we see it, and charitably point out the problems we have with what they think is right. And we need the humility to listen when they challenge us.

It's even harder when the diseased part of the vine is in our own Catholic section of the vineyard. Our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, just to get rid of it. But as any vinedresser knows this is the last resort. Whether we find it easy or not, Christ calls us to limited surgical interventions over amputations every time. This is tough love. Even though there are people within our community who have committed terrible crimes and betrayed our trust, the Gospel calls us to hold on to them until it's clear that no matter what intervention we make, they are dying on Christ's vine already. And even then, we hope and pray that our action towards them might see a new growth within them which could be the beginning of a possible grafting back on to us in the future.

In the face of the world's 'shape up or ship out' principle, today's Gospel challenges us to hang in there with each other, in season and out of season, because as the old folk hymn sings, 'They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'

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## READINGS

**This Week:** Acts 9:26-31                      1 Jn 3:18-24    Jn 15:1-8  
**Next Week:** Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48    1 Jn 4:7-10    Jn 15:9-17

## WELCOME!

We welcome Fr Greg McGregor and Fr Thomas Varghese who officially commence in our Parish this weekend. Please make them feel welcome as they settle into their new positions.

## CATHOLIC WEEKLY - PULPIT POINTS 15TH APRIL 2018

- Exorcism documentary
- The end of counselling?
- Celebrating Humanae Vitae at 50
- Get ready for Walk with Christ
- Movie review: Isle of Dogs
- Francis and the pro-life cause

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

## ST JOSEPH'S ENFIELD MAY HEALING MASS

Friday 4th May 2018 Celebrant: Fr John Iacono  
Rosary: 7:00pm    Mass: 8:00pm Exposition (after Mass). Prayer ministry available after Mass.  
Reconciliation: 7:00pm- 8:00pm    Prayer and Praise: 7:30pm  
Enquiries: Rose 9642-2359/0412 115 961  
Email: rosetwymansydney@gmail.com

## HEART WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Date: 7th - 9th June 2018  
Venue: Fairfield RSL  
A time to come together as women to be refreshed and renewed in our busy lives. Spoil yourself. Dream again. Feel loved, honoured and cared for. Full registration cost: \$199 (see our website for other registration options). Register: Heart.TheCatholicGuy.com Phone: 1300 734 880

## JOIN POPE FRANCIS IN PANAMA FOR THE 34TH WORLD YOUTH DAY IN JANUARY 2019

Sydney Catholic Youth are inviting you on the pilgrimage of a lifetime to Panama where you will celebrate Mass with Pope Francis and millions of young Catholics from around the world.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will lead the Sydney pilgrimage departing on 15 January 2019 which will travel from Sydney to Washington DC, then to WYD Panama with the optional extension to travel to Mexico City. Register your interest and find out more by visiting the website [www.sydneycatholicyouth.org.wyd](http://www.sydneycatholicyouth.org.wyd)

## OF LIFE AND LOVE COURSE

The next marriage preparation course will be held:  
**Date: Wednesday 9 May / 16 May / 23 May 2018**  
**Time: 7.00pm**  
Venue: St. Joachim's Parish Hall, 3 Keating Street Lidcombe  
Enquiries: More info phone 9307 8404  
Register for the course at: [www.trybooking.com/TBUG](http://www.trybooking.com/TBUG)

**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:

<b>Sat 28th</b>	9:15am	RIP Marlene Morris
<b>Vigil</b>	5:30pm	Intentions of David McGeachie
<b>Sun 29th</b>	8:00am	Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
	10:00am	RIP Joseph Quang V Nguyen
	5:30pm	Jules Tambicannou
<b>Mon 30th</b>	9:15am	Marie Madeleine Nguyen Thi Luu
<b>Tue 1st</b>	9:15am	RIP Marija Ziher
<b>Wed 2nd</b>	9:15am	Deceased Members of the O'Reilly & Ryan Families
<b>Thu 3rd</b>	9:15am	RIP Terry Anne Catley
<b>Fri 4th</b>	9:15am	RIP Laurie Horsley
<b>Sat 5th</b>	9:15am	RIP Magdalena Wota
<b>Vigil</b>	5:30pm	RIP Maria Oanh T Nguyen, Vincent Anh V Nguyen & Vincent Chuong V Nguyen

## WE PRAY FOR...

### Recently Deceased

Brian Hodgins

### RIP Anniversary

Kenneth Leslie Allport, Joan Elizabeth Lowe, Robert Rolfe

### 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

## READERS MEETING

Will be held on **Wednesday 2nd May at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre**. Please make an effort to attend.

## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Wed, 2nd May

- 7:30pm - Reader's Meeting in Parish Centre

### Sun, 6th May

- 11:00am - Baptismal Classes - Meet in foyer of church

## PRESBYTERY AND PARISH OFFICE

Please note, as from next week the Presbytery and Parish Office will be unattended every Monday.

## CHANGES TO THE PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS

Please also note, the Parish email address has changed to [office@ihmsefton.org.au](mailto:office@ihmsefton.org.au)