

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 After Morning Mass until 10:20am
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 Alukka

Sunday, 6 May 2018: Sixth 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.

“SPIRIT FILLED” PENTECOST DAY RETREAT

Encounter the Holy Spirit, through a guided silent retreat given by the Verbum Dei Female Missionaries: **Saturday, May 12 (9.30am to 3.30pm)**. Cost \$50. For more information contact Kylie 0403453620 or verbumdeisdynney@gmail.com

MINISTRY ROSTER - 12TH & 13TH MAY

| Mass | 5:30pm | 8am | 10am | 5:30pm |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Acolytes | D Bui | K Collins | Adam | E Lobo |
| Readers | R Winder | Immaculata Sisters | I Vellis | L Farlow |
| Ministers of Communion | M Flanagan T Flanagan | C Wood J Murphy | M Lonergan K Marson | P Akeje M Farlow |
| Musician/Choir | IHM Choir | A Tran | Jessica Zhu | Mitchell Farlow |
| Flower Arrangers | Hina Vaka'uta | | | |
| Counters | L Windram, P Page, M Brown | | | |
| Bankers | J Williams & W Williams | | | |

PARISH CONTACTS

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| <p>Immaculate Heart of Mary Church</p> <p>Parish Priest: Fr Greg McGregor Assistant Parish Priest: Fr Thomas Alukka 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 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 Bourick</p> |
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The Italian film, Life is Beautiful vividly portrays the truth of today's Gospel. It shows a father convincing his five-year-old son that the concentration camp is an elaborate game that the Nazis had invented to test the Italians. Some members of the Jewish community criticised this film because they claimed it made light of the holocaust. Writer and director, Roberto Benigni, however, argued that the heart of the film lies in the fact that most parents will do anything to spare their children the reality of evil. Most parents who have seen and wept through the film know exactly what he's talking about. And if parents could take such risks and go to such lengths for their children, how much more has God done for us in Christ Jesus. We are the only world religion to believe that our God took our form and died out of love for us so that we might understand the love God has for us, and the love we are called to have for each other.

It isn't, however, just any old love Christ calls us to practise. It's not about a fleeting feeling or having a warm fuzzy inside. Jesus tells us today that the character of Christian love is the degree to which it's sacrificial. This is a challenging way of working out who we really love, isn't it? The people we love are those for whom we are prepared to sacrifice something of ourselves, maybe everything. If that's the case we could decide to stop telling people we don't love that we love them. The goal of the Christian life is to love everyone, but until we achieve that, the more we lie about love the more we lower its currency. It's perfectly acceptable to like, enjoy, be fond of, respect, admire and be grateful to others, and not love them. There are a very few people for whom most of us would be prepared to lay down our lives. This criteria sorts out our intimates fairly quickly.

We could also decide to stop saying we love things, animals, ideas or organisations which cannot love us back. Human beings can only truly love people. Jesus did not die for an ideology or an institution. He was put to death because of his uncompromising love for all humanity everywhere. If we find ourselves saying we love our pets, house, car, job, our ideology, even our Church more than we love other human beings, then we're in trouble.

That's what I like best about the model of loving Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Just when we might expect to find him using the analogy of a family, he talks about us being his friends. Sometimes we can hear people lament that they are 'stuck' with their families, and that they prefer their friends. It's an instructive moment, usually born out of a bitter and unloving history.

We choose our friends, and the strength of any particular friendship is usually found in how we know their history and story, and they know ours, in the way we give them time, attention and affection. A true friendship is mutual. Jesus loves us, his friends, enough to know us, be available to us, challenge and forgive us. And his love is mutual. The only thing stopping us from having a deeper relationship with Christ is our desire for it.

But Jesus also shows how friends are prepared to give their lives for one another. That's what we celebrate here each Sunday, that Jesus the Lord showed the quality and care of his love for us so that we might be empowered to go out and enable others to know and experience his love in the joyful way we sacrifice ourselves for them.

No one promised us that the Christian life would be easy. All we have is our brother Jesus and all our friends, our family in faith, to support us in every loving sacrifice we make.

© Richard Leonard SJ.

READINGS

This Week: Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48 1 Jn 4:7-10 Jn 15:9-17
Next Week: Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:17-23 Mk 16:15-20

FR GREG and FR THOMAS

Please pray for Kieran McGregor, Fr Greg's dad, who has been hospitalised. Fr Greg left to be with his family on Tuesday and will return this weekend, with his dad now improving. We thank Fr Thomas for all his extra efforts in Fr Greg's absence - hopefully we haven't worn him out already!

CWF APPEAL

The Charitable Works Fund Appeal for May will be held next weekend, 12th and 13th May. You will find envelopes on the pews at all weekend masses. Please give generously. *"Almsgiving helps us to recognise our neighbour as our brother or sister, and to acknowledge that what we possess is never ours alone."* Pope Francis @ Pontifex, 3rd March 2018.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT FOR CONFIRMATION

The Information Night for parents of candidates for 2018 Confirmation will be held on Wednesday 16th May at 7:00pm in the Oblates Room beside the Church. Please ensure your attendance as on this night you will receive information and materials regarding the program.

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

BISHOP VINCENT LONG

You are invited to hear Bishop Vincent Long, an ardent supporter of Pope Francis, speaking about "the New Dawn of the Church" at 'Winbourne', the Edmund Rice Retreat and Conference Centre, 1315 Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa 11.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturday 16th June 2018. Entry by donation. Registration 10.00 am. For further information contact Dennis Farrar 0425209840. Organised by the Passionist Family Group Movement.

VINNIES SANDWICH MAKING

Once a month we at IHM are committed to making 250-300 sandwiches for the Vinnies night patrol trucks as part of our community outreach program. The next day is this **Monday 7th May** in the hall from **8.30 am onwards**. If you are available and can spare a couple of hours, you are most welcome to join us, there is always a good cuppa and a biscuit to be had. Thank you to our regulars Barbara and Carol. *Mrs Claude Bourizk - Family Educator*

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:

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| Sat 5th | 9:15am | RIP Magdalena Wota |
| Vigil | 5:30pm | RIP Maria Oanh T Nguyen, Vincent Anh V Nguyen & Vincent Chuong V Nguyen |
| Sun 6th | 8:00am | Giacobe Nguyen Bac Nha & Forgotten Souls in Purgatory |
| | 10:00am | RIP Marija Ziher |
| | 5:30pm | Jules Tambicannou & Marie Madeleine Nguyen Thi Luu |
| Mon 7th | 9:15am | RIP Brian Hodgins |
| Tue 8th | 9:15am | John & Ben Rodrigues - Pray for a quick recovery |
| Wed 9th | 9:15am | RIP Jo Hagerty |
| Thu 10th | 9:15am | RIP Federico Simeon (16 year anniversary on 24/4/18) |
| Fri 11th | 9:15am | RIP Roma Swindells |
| Sat 12th | 9:15am | RIP George & Martha Abraham |
| Vigil | 5:30pm | RIP Anton Nguyen |

WE PRAY FOR...

Recently Deceased

Brian Hodgins

RIP Anniversary

Fr Phillip Dean, Lance Fullagar, Fred Murphy, Fr John Maher OMI, Mavis Parry, Kevin Ryan, Harley Angus Gray, Fr J Cranley OMI

Our Sick

Kieran McGregor, Alma Ryan, Annette Evans, Kevin & Moira Magnussen, Bishop G Robinson, Sister Marie O'Dea, David McGeachie, Kath Coughlin, Mary Keane, Bob Rodrigues, Spiteri family, Leslie Cotter, Matthew Barrington, Lydia Gwynne, Leo Hackett

CATHOLIC WEEKLY - PULPIT POINTS 6TH MAY 2018

- Searching for God in the Stars
- Movement re-opens the NSW office
- Archbishop Fisher: Lest we forget
- Good moral values embedded in Avengers
- Movie Review: Little Alfie Evans

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun, 6th May

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

12th & 13th May

- CWF Appeal at all weekend Masses

Wed, 16th May

- 7:00pm - Parent Information Night for 2018 Confirmation

PRESBYTERY AND PARISH OFFICE

Please note 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

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will now commence immediately after the 9:15am mass on Saturday morning until 10:20am or until required.