

Mass Times:**Monday to Saturday** : 9:15am**Saturday**: 5:30pm (Vigil) ; **Sunday**: 8:00am, 10:00am, 5:30pm**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**CATHOLIC WEEKLY - PULPIT POINTS 16TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

- Victorian confession fight looms
- The reunion you have when you're not having a reunion
- \$10,000 poetry prize winner
- Archbishop awards student excellence
- Movie review: Kin
- Fight for the church: Editorial

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

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on 02 9390 5812.

MINISTRY ROSTER - 22ND & 23RD SEPTEMBER 2018

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	?	L Cavallo	J Rodrigues	K Collins
Readers	A Roberts	P Foran	V Visevic	S Faitua
Ministers of Communion	N Barry Y Sassine	C Wood J Murphy	M Lonergan K Marson	M Farlow S Garrett
Musician/Choir	IHM Choir	A Tran	J Zhu	M Farlow
Flower Arrangers	N Zalloua, R Khoury			
Counters	L Farlow, M Farlow			
Bankers	P Page, J Page			

PARISH CONTACTS**Immaculate Heart of Mary Church****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**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**Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Sefton**

6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton, NSW 2162

Parish Priest: Fr Greg McGregor**Assistant Parish Priest:** Fr Thomas Alukka**Sunday, 16 September 2018: Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B**

Simon must have felt the earth quake. His Master had just called him: 'Satan'. What had gone wrong? After all, Peter had been going quite well. He perceived that Jesus was more than just another prophet, another religious leader in the Jewish tradition. In fact he recognised that Jesus was the fulfilment of the hope of that Jewish tradition: the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ (in Greek). But for Peter that word 'Christos' filled his head with all sorts of images of political power and sovereignty. He thought a political revolution was at hand. The Roman occupying army would be expelled and Jesus would rule from Jerusalem as the anointed liberator.

Jesus did not deny that he was the Christ, the Anointed One. But he knew that as he remained true to His mission, the authorities would move against him in deadly fashion. What was his mission? A mission of embracing those put on the margins of society, the 'untouchables' of his time; the lepers, the prostitutes and the collaborators collecting tax; his mission of conversing easily with women, and encouraging their discipleship against all the taboos; his mission to embody and advance the Reign of God. Our Lord had no illusions. It was Peter who was living in a fantasy world, an imaginary world of easy victory for the kingdom of God. Jesus had to take the strongest possible stand against Peter's point of view so that Peter would be prepared for the worst. Of course, it didn't work. As we know, Peter denied Jesus three times when the cross eventually loomed as reality.

Can we blame Peter? Here in our Australian democracy, we hardly feel the force of this gospel passage forewarning the followers of Jesus that they could be faced with a cross of persecution. So we trivialise the meaning of 'taking up the cross' to make it refer to bearing a chronic ailment or putting up with a particularly irritating family member or work colleague: 'the cross I have to bear'. No, Our Lord is referring to the truly deadly situation where if his followers remain true to His way of life so that the dominant powers in society feel threatened, then those powers will try to silence such followers.

It is very telling that the ISIL cult, the most barbaric torturer and murderer of Christians to emerge in recent times, contemptuously refers to Christianity as 'the religion of the cross'. They have actually perceived that reality. But, of course, not in the perspective and dimension of the resurrection. There are many examples of Muslim persecution of Christians from Iraq to Nigeria. Our Lord is saying to his persecuted followers: 'Persevere, don't renounce your allegiance to me. There is a power more dominant than the political power oppressing you. The really dominant power lies in my victory over death and I will give you a share in that victory.'

I know this is easily said from the safety of Australia. But it is our post-Resurrection faith. Even Simon Peter, with the benefit of the Resurrection, eventually understood that Jesus was indeed the Christ, but One whose victory lay through the passage of death on the cross.

Tradition tells us that Peter was crucified upside down at the foot of the Vatican Hill in Rome: no longer 'Satan', but Martyr, co-Founder of the Church in Rome.

Let us pray during this Mass, and where appropriate give our political support, for our fellow Christians wherever they are suppressed and persecuted, forced to bear the true cross in ways barely imaginable to us.

May God give those Christians the victory which was Christ's, victory over the worst those diabolical forces can do, victory over death itself.



© Fr Michael Tate

READINGS

This Week: Is 50:5-9 Jas 2:14-18 Mk 8:27-35
Next Week: Wis 2:12, 17-20 Jas 3:16 – 4:3 Mk 9:30-37

ANNUAL LEAVE FOR FR GREG

Fr Greg has commenced his annual leave and will be away until 10th October, taking a well earned break. During this period, Fr Thomas will be acting Parish Priest and conducting all masses. Please welcome Fr Tom Stevens from Liverpool Parish as he assists Fr Thomas with Villawood masses during this time.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to all the candidates who received this sacrament for the first time last Sunday. Fr Greg conducted two beautiful masses and all the children looked wonderful and were very reverent. Thank you to the choir, the teachers and the sacramental team for all their hard work to ensure the children and their families were able to celebrate this very important day in their Catholic life.

PLENARY COUNCIL

Why not be involved? The 2020 Plenary Council is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future. Your voice is important. You are invited to contribute to the Plenary Council agenda, by sharing your experience of faith and of the Church. To be involved, visit

<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Become an ambassador, facilitating listening and dialogue groups in your parish. If you want to know more, please speak with your Parish Priest, contact 9390 5100 or email

plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org

ACOLYTES AND MUSICIANS DESPERATELY NEEDED

We are currently seeking interest from anyone who would like to become an acolyte or help with the music at weekend masses. Training will be required and supplied in order to prepare you for these rewarding ministries. If you believe these are areas you may be able to assist within our community, please talk to Father after mass or contact Leisa in the parish office. Thank you.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

The 2018 Reconciliation program is currently accepting enrolments for baptised Catholics in year 2 or above to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday 21st November, 2018**. If you would like to enrol your child in this Sacrament, please complete the application form at the back of the Church and return it to the Parish Office by **Wednesday 26th September**.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - 30TH SEPTEMBER

We celebrate **Social Justice Sunday on 30th September**. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: 'A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land'. The statement challenges us all to confront Australia's growing rate of homelessness and unaffordable housing. **For further details, visit the www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call 8306 3499.**

PARISH RETREAT

The annual Sefton Parish Retreat is to be held from **Friday, 19th October to Sunday, 21st October at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville**. The cost of the retreat is **\$200 per person**. A deposit of \$30 is required on booking and booking forms can be found on the table in the foyer of the church. *For more information, please see the form at the back or contact Kath on 9644-8163 or the Parish Office on 9644-4026.*



DONATION OF USED GOODS

For public health & safety, please do not leave any unwanted goods (including religious items) outside the church or presbytery. Kindly take them to the Vinnies shop at Chester Hill during their opening hours.

PARISH MINISTRIES - READING, ACOLYTE, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS...

If you are unable to attend on your rostered day, please arrange a swap or contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

UPCOMING RETREATS

- Pilgrimage Walk 2018 – 23rd September
- More Alive, More Human – 28th-30th September
- Sefton Parish Retreat – 19th-21st October
- Yearning For Peace – 3rd-25th February

Please see flyers at the back of the church if interested, or contact the parish office if they've been removed.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 15th	9:15am	Welfare of all Parishioners
Vigil	5:30pm	RIP Maria Tram Nguyen
Sun 16th	8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm	Repose of the Soul of Sheila Field (Recently Deceased) RIP Janet Daoud RIP Patrick Burchett (1 Year Anniversary)
Mon 17th	9:15am	RIP Sheila Field
Tue 18th	9:30am	Pray for the souls of the Banham & Cullen Families
Wed 19th	9:15am	RIP Maria Theresa Tong (Anniversary)
Thu 20th	9:15am	RIP Jason Nguyen (Recently Deceased)
Fri 21st	9:15am	Pray for all Holy Souls
Sat 22nd	9:15am	RIP Keith Wood (4th anniversary)
Vigil	5:30pm	RIP Margaret Fox

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues, 18th September

- 9:15am - Year 3 attend Parish Mass

Thurs, 20th September

- **Parish Office Closed till 1:00pm**

Sun, 23rd September

- 11:00am - Baptism of Lui Taulanga & Tukimomo Taulanga

Mon, 24th September

- 8:30am - St Vinnies Sandwich Making in school hall

Tues, 25th September

- 9:15am - Kindy & Year 6 attend Parish mass
- 10:30am - Mass & anointing at Chester Hill Aged Care

WE PRAY FOR...

Recently Deceased

Sheila Field, Jason Nguyen, William Joseph Richards

RIP Anniversary

Patrick Burchett, Colleen Dawson, Fr John Robert Hannah OMI

Our Sick

Rosina Pellegrino, Youssef Ghadban, Barry Ryan, Monica McIntyre, Harold Falk, Varghese Alukka, Bryant Wilson, Alma Ryan, Kevin Magnussen, Bishop G Robinson, Sister Marie O'Dea, John Mealing, David McGeachie, Kath Coughlin, Mary Keane, Bob Rodrigues, Spiteri family, Leslie Cotter, Matthew Barrington, Lydia Gwynne, Leo Hackett



Parish Safeguarding Support Officer Volunteer Required

We want you, we want you, we want you as a

New Recruit! No, not for the Navy, but for the Parish!!



The Safeguarding Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney has recently launched an initiative to recruit **Parish Safeguarding Support Officers (PSSO)** to support the Parish Priest to implement proactive Safeguarding measures to ensure safe environments for children, young people and the vulnerable in Parish communities. The PSSO may already be an employee or volunteer in the Parish but the role is on a volunteer basis only.

The ways in which the PSSO could support and assist the Parish Priest:

- Providing Safeguarding induction to all workers and training to volunteers of the Parish who work with children, including reading and signing of the *Code of Conduct for Working With Children and Young People*
- Raising awareness of Safeguarding in your Parish
- Creating Risk Assessments for Parish events/activities
- Responding to Safeguarding audit and compliance requirements
- Reporting any issues or concerns that come to your attention according to Archdiocesan protocols
- Monitoring the Visiting Clergy Register in line with current protocols
- Any other Safeguarding issues as requested by the Parish Priest

For more information about this important support role, please speak with your Parish Priest to express your interest in becoming the Parish Safeguarding Support Officer.