

**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 7TH OCTOBER 2018**

- 24,000 km solo trip to absolve sin
- **NEW LOOK Catholic Weekly - Win an iPad**
- Olympics Bound: Students to compete in Argentina
- Growing threat to Seal of Confession
- Movie review: Smallfoot

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 - 13TH & 14TH OCTOBER 2018**

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
<b>Acolytes</b>	D Bui	?	L Cavallo	D Bui
<b>Readers</b>	J Taufaa	L Abouchabake	I Vellis	L Farlow
<b>Ministers of Communion</b>	P Loos N Barry	C Wood J Murphy	P Kelly E Torres	S Garrett M Williams
<b>Musician/Choir</b>	IHM Choir	A Tran	J Zhu	M Farlow
<b>Flower Arrangers</b>	E Bui, N Bui, D Johns			
<b>Counters</b>	P Page, L Windram			
<b>Bankers</b>	J Williams, W Williams			

**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, 7 October 2018: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B**

During World War II, Mary was one of hundreds of Australian women who fell in love with an American soldier. She married her Episcopalian Army Major at the side altar in a Catholic Church in 1945. He was dashing and handsome and by the time it came for him to return to Philadelphia in 1946, they were expecting their first child. Upon arrival at her new home Mary found that her brave soldier was not as fearless as she thought. He was completely dominated by his aristocratic, wealthy mother who made it clear from the beginning that she opposed the marriage. Mary's life in the family home was a nightmare. The tensions boiled over when Brendan was born. Regardless of the promises his father had made in Australia to have their children baptised Catholics, the soldier waged no war against his mother who declared that if any grandchild of hers was baptised a 'papist' she would disinherit the three of them. The Major buckled under the maternal pressure and demanded that Brendan be baptised an Episcopalian. Mary was devastated. She gathered her few possessions together, had her son baptised a Catholic and fled home. In 1950, by now a divorcee, she met Maurice, a wonderful man who wanted to marry her and be a father to Brendan. When they went to see the local parish priest, he told them they could not be married in the Church and if they contracted a civil marriage they ran the risk of going to hell for eternity. They were tough days. Catholicism was one of the reasons Mary left the USA. In turn, the very Church she defended shut her out.



In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks directly about marriage and divorce. In Jesus' day only a few women had rights before the law. These were wealthy women from the priestly families. They could divorce their husbands. The vast majority of women, however, were seen as possessions of their father, husband or son. A husband could draw up a divorce writ for any reason he wished and so force his wife out of their home into destitution or humiliate her by sending her back to her own family. No wonder Jesus lays down the law so strongly about fidelity and commitment. His new interpretation of the Law of Moses defended women's rights to dignity and security. Every Catholic parish today has parishioners who are divorced and remarried; no doubt some are here at this Mass. In the face of the negative messages you hear, I want you to know how much we admire your often heroic faith, how much God loves you and how grateful we are that you hang in here with us. The problem for the Church is that, on the one hand, we want to keep affirming the permanence of married love, and yet, on the other hand, we have an increasing number of Catholics who are divorcing. We are caught between the fine ideal Jesus teaches and the frail human condition we all carry in different ways. We have not got the balance right yet.

The Church's remedy to marriage breakdown is an annulment. An annulment is not a Catholic divorce. A civil divorce says the parties that were married are not now. An annulment says that there were factors, often unknown to the couple on the day, which meant that there was never a full and true Christian marriage in the first place. The sacrament is therefore null and void. Some Catholics, and certainly people who are not Catholic, cannot face up to the long, complex and legal process involved in an annulment. It can be a traumatic experience. Others argue that the Church might step away from the more recent legal approach to dealing with marriage and, like the Orthodox Churches, use the Sacrament of Penance to nullify the Sacrament of Marriage. Whatever of the process, Christian teaching on this issue must always be metered with compassion.

From 1951 until 1993 Mary and her second husband did not receive the Sacraments. At my encouragement, she instigated annulment proceedings in 1990. In 1993 they received communion for the first time in 42 years. God had never moved away from them, embracing them in his arms, laying his hands on them every day and blessing them. At that Nuptial Mass in 1994, Maurice's best man was Brendan, born in Philadelphia in 1946. Maurice had legally adopted Brendan the day after he married Mary. And as we all received communion, with tears streaming down our faces, we understood that it is to human, frail and open hearts that the Kingdom of God belongs.

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## READINGS

**This Week:** Gen 2:18-24    Heb 2:9-11    Mk 10:2-16  
**Next Week:** Wis 7:7-11    Heb 4:12-13    Mk 10:17-30

## WELCOME BACK FATHER GREG!

We welcome Fr Greg back as he **returns this week** from annual leave after a well-earned break. We thank Fr Tom Stevens (Liverpool Parish) who has been helping out during this time.

Fr Thomas will commence his annual leave next week. We wish Fr Thomas a safe and relaxing break, and thank Fr Gerry as he returns to Villawood to assist Fr Greg during this time.

## 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 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Anyone wishing to make First Holy Communion in 2019 will need to have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be eligible.

## PARISH RETREAT - FINAL DAYS TO BOOK!

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.

## VINNIES MONTHLY OUTREACH PROGRAM

At Immaculate Heart of Mary, as a parish and school initiative, we are committed to supporting the wonderful work of St Vincent De Paul's night patrol trucks by providing 350 sandwiches on a monthly basis. There is a group of dedicated people who support us in this initiative, but we can always use extra pairs of hands. Our next sandwich making day is **Monday 22nd October** starting from **8.30am in the school hall**.

## OF LIFE AND LOVE - PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE

This excellent course for engaged couples gives particular emphasis to the spiritual and sacramental dimensions of marriage, while also paying due attention to the practical elements as well. It highlights the importance of God's grace and human love in building a happy relationship, and it suggests ways in which married love can grow over the years. Topics include the beauty of Christian marriage, openness to life, family of origin, communication and the nuptial paradigm. An approved course for marriage preparation in the Catholic Church.

**October 17, 24 and 31, 7-10pm**, Assisi Centre, Catholic Education Office, behind St. Joachim's Parish, 3 Keating St. Lidcombe. **More Info:** Life, Marriage and Family Sydney Ph: 9307 8400 or E: [LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org) or to register: [www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=335146&](http://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=335146&)

## DEVOTIONS TO HONOUR OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Mass and Blessing of the Sick will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood, on Sunday **14th October** (behind Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Earlwood). Entrance is via St James Avenue, commencing with **recitation of the Rosary at 2:30pm followed by Mass and the Blessing of the Sick at 3pm**. The principal celebrant will be Bishop Peter Ingham, Emeritus Bishop of Wollongong. Some parking for disabled is available in the school grounds and general parking in the nearby council car park.

## MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL

Artes Christi presents T. S. Eliot's play of St Thomas Becket, directed by internationally acclaimed actor and writer, Donald Macdonald. The play is being staged to coincide with the Canonisation of Archbishop Oscar Romero who was the first Archbishop since Becket to be martyred at the altar. The play is also supporting persecuted people today via Aid to the Church in Need. Shows from the **27th September to the 14th October** at 1880 Hall, St Peter's Surry Hills. Group tickets from \$30. Bookings are essential via [www.theword.org.au](http://www.theword.org.au) or 1800 101 201.

**SINCERE SYMPATHY** and loving prayers from the parish family to the family, relatives and friends of **Tom Weston** who recently passed away in Cairns. May he rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him.

A Requiem Mass will be held here at IHM Sefton on **Thursday, 25th October at 10:30am** followed by the burial at **Rookwood Cemetery**.



## UPCOMING RETREATS

- *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:

<b>Sat 6th Vigil</b>	9:15am 5:30pm	<i>RIP Laurie Horsley RIP Maria Oanh T Nguyen RIP Vincent Anh V Nguyen RIP Vincent Chuong V Nguyen</i>
<b>Sun 7th</b>	8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm	<i>RIP Isidro Cabuay (Anniversary 6/10) RIP Anna Poelczer Deceased Members of the Dinh &amp; Pham Families</i>
<b>Mon 8th</b>	9:15am	Repose of the Soul of Marcia Kathleen Donovan
<b>Tue 9th</b>	9:15am	<i>RIP Peter Ross</i>
<b>Wed 10th</b>	9:15am	Pray for the Good Health of John Morrison, seriously ill
<b>Thu 11th</b>	9:15am	<i>RIP Jason Nguyen</i>
<b>Fri 12th</b>	9:15am	<i>RIP Bob Rolfe</i>
<b>Sat 13th Vigil</b>	9:15am 5:30pm	<i>RIP Jure Zuzul RIP Bill &amp; Elsie Williams</i>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, 7th October

- Fr Greg returns from Annual Leave

### Sunday, 14th October

- 11:00am - Baptism of Marcellino Tupou

### Monday, 15th October

- Fr Thomas commences Annual Leave

### Tuesday, 16th October

- **Office Closed due to Staff Training**

### Friday 19th - Sunday 21st October

- Parish Retreat, Mt Carmel Varroville

### Thursday, 25th October

- 10.30am - Funeral of Tom Weston

### Tuesday, 30th October

- 10:30am - Mass & Anointing at Chester Hill Aged Care

## WE PRAY FOR...

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Marie-Claire Rose, Tom Weston, Marcia Kathleen Donovan, Joanne Caragolia

### RIP ANNIVERSARY

Matthew McLoughlin, Frederick Collins, Florence Quinn, John Maher

### OUR SICK

Frances McDermott, John Morrison, Rosina Pellegrino, Youssef Ghadban, 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.