

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 2ND DECEMBER 2018**

- Bill comes home: Former Governor-General prepares for his First Communion
- Asia Bibi protest
- Archbishop Fisher OP: Christ is our King
- All for her: Californians push to consecrate their state to Mary
- Movie review: Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald
- New Catholic students curriculum

*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 - 8TH & 9TH DECEMBER 2018

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	C Kelly	K Collins	?	B Freeburn
Readers	J Taufaa	M Abraham	I Vellis	L Quinn
Ministers of Communion	P Kelly N Barry	B Murphy R Camilleri	E Torres K Hicks	J Freeburn L Farlow
Musician/Choir	IHM Choir	A Tran	J Zhu	M Farlow
Flower Arrangers	L Jones, S Johns			
Counters	J DeMartin, N VanDen Nieuwenhuizen, I Culpan			
Bankers	L Farlow, M Farlow			

PARISH CONTACTS

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Parish Priest: Fr Greg McGregor Assistant Parish Priests: Fr Thomas Alukka Fr Andrew Feng 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
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**Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Sefton**

6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton, NSW 2162

Parish Priest: Fr Greg McGregor**Assistant Parish Priest:** Fr Thomas Alukka, Fr Andrew Feng**Sunday, 2nd December 2018: First Sunday in Advent - Year C**

Toward the end of 1999 people were gearing up to welcome in the new millennium. Some Christians who take the scriptures literally joined in the fun and declared that the end of the world was nigh and that Christ would return on his two-thousandth birthday. They seem to subscribe to the old adage that, 'one should never let the facts get in the way of a good story'! Christianity took over the Roman calendar in what we now call the 4th Century of the Christian era. At Rome in 526, a scholarly monk named Dionysius Exiguus compiled a list of the dates of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. He assigned dates in the new Christian calendar for each of these events. Given the tools at his disposal, he did an extraordinary job. We know, however, from other historical sources and from the New Testament, where it mentions who the various Jewish and Roman rulers were in Palestine, that Dionysius was four years out with his dating. The church became aware of this mistake in 1582, but to correct it the world would have lost four years! So we have all lived with it ever since. We can, however, safely assume that Jesus knows the year in which he was born and that if our fundamentalist Christian friends are right in believing he was going to return on his 2000th birthday, he would have done so in 1996!



The facts are that in every generation we have had people tell us that the sun, moon, stars, wars, famine, tidal waves and earthquakes, mentioned in today's Gospel, all demonstrate that Jesus is about to return. Clearly, we are still waiting. If only the Christians who give out these dire predictions, every so often, would take as seriously Jesus' words, 'You will know not the time, nor the place when the Son of Man will return in glory'. Luke's community thought that Jesus would return quickly and spectacularly. They were surprised that the first generation of Christian believers was dying without seeing it all happen. Given the terrible suffering they were enduring for Jesus, the early Christians no doubt hoped that the end of the world would be soon and would demonstrate to everyone that they were not foolish to cling to Christ in the face of all opposition and persecution. The early Christians knew that there was no point professing faith in Jesus Christ unless our daily behaviour reflects his kingdom. It has been a telling point ever since. If every Christian lived out the Gospel in his or her daily life, the world would be transformed and Christ would come in spectacular fashion.

I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year, I know that the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, are generous and sacrificial toward one another. It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment. May this first Eucharist of the Church's year be a taste for us of the Kingdom of God that is both present amongst us and still to come. And may the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.

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Palms Australia

Make an Encounter in 2019

Palms Encounters are rich immersions that challenge perceptions of our neighbours, guided by Palms mission volunteers with cultural experience of Timor Leste, Myanmar and Samoa.

Timor Leste- April & Sept
Samoa - June
Myanmar- November

www.palms.org.au/encounters

READINGS

This Week: Jer 33:14-16 1 Thes 3:12 – 4:2 Lk 21:25-28. 34-36
Next Week: Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:3-6. 8-11 Lk 3:1-6

PRAY FOR ALUKKA FAMILY

Please keep Fr Thomas and his family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Varghese Alukka. Fr Thomas will be in India for six weeks to finalise family affairs.

MINISTRY ROSTERS - URGENT!!

BANKERS AND COUNTERS, please pick up your rosters from the foyer at the back of the Church.

ACOLYTE ROSTER AVAILABLE - CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

The Christmas roster and the roster for February to June 2019 is now available for all acolytes to pick up from the Sacristy.

SINCERE SYMPATHY and loving prayers from the parish family to the family, relatives and friends of **Yvonne Austin** who recently passed away. May she rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon her.

A Funeral for Yvonne will be held on **Thursday 6th December at 1pm** at St Paul's Parish at Moss Vale (24 Garrett Street).



PARISH CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

An invitation is extended from Fathers Greg and Andrew to join them **at the Presbytery on the 5th of December from 6pm** for a Christmas 'Get-Together'. Everyone who has helped and supported the Parish over the last year, feel free to come for a few minutes or a few hours for food and drinks.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL - 8TH/9TH DECEMBER

Christmas is one of the peak times of the year where many individuals and families experiencing hardship turn to Vinnies for support. Christmas is also one of the times of the year where our parish community generously support the work of St Vinnies through financial and gift donations. This Christmas, our parish will be supporting our local families and St Vinnies with an **appeal on the weekend of December 8 & 9**.

A Christmas tree will also be set up in the Church for all parishioners to donate gifts. Gifts may include toys or non-perishables. These gifts will be distributed to families in need. Just place your gift under the tree with a tag stating age and gender suitability **by Tuesday 12 December**. Your contribution will make a world of difference!

MESSAGE FROM OUR FAMILY EDUCATOR - CLAUDE BOURIZK

Liturgy of the Word with Children will take place during the season of Advent leading up to the celebration of Christmas. Children are lead to the Oblate room **during the 10am Mass** to reflect and complete activities about the Christmas Story with a focus on a different theme each week. Children's Liturgy will start on **Sunday 2nd December 10am** (1st Sunday of Advent) and continue each Sunday in Advent. In preparation for Christmas, all children and parents are invited to attend Mass during the season of Advent.



All children are invited to take part in the Christmas Vigil Mass on **Monday 24th December at 5:30pm**. Children will be involved in a nativity scene and various parts of the mass, including the readings, and Processions. **Practices will take place on Sunday 16th December after 10am mass and Thursday 20th December at 1pm**. Children need to attend the practices to be involved in the mass. If your child wishes to be involved in the mass, please email claud.bourizk@syd.catholic.edu.au or Tel: 0413 860 075.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS AND SVDP CHRISTMAS CARDS

With Christmas fast approaching, our Parish is now selling the 2019 **Columban calendars for \$9** as well as **Christmas cards from St Vincent de Paul for \$6** for a pack of 10. If you wish to buy either, they will be sold from either the Piety store or in the foyer after **weekend masses**.

AN ADVENT APP FOR CHRISTMAS - MEET ME IN THE SILENCE

Walk the journey to Advent on your mobile device. Each day delivers a new video, podcast or written feature to assist you prepare for Christmas and meet Jesus in the silence, despite the busyness of the Christmas season.

The Advent Calendar App is free and available on your iPhone, iPad and Android devices. Search for "Xt3 Advent" in the Google Play store or the App store, or visit www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3advent



MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 1st	9:15am	For Forgotten Souls in Purgatory & Daughters
Vigil	5:30pm	All Deceased Members of the Nguyen Family
Sun 2nd	8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm	RIP Roger Bowman RIP Giacobe Nguyen Bac Nha & Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Deceased Members of Dinh & Pham Families
Mon 3rd	9:15am	Intentions of Ankica Paulic
Tue 4th	9:15am	RIP Peter Grovenor (Birthday)
Wed 5th	9:15am	Intentions of Zuzul Family
Thu 6th	9:15am	RIP Giacobe Nguyen, Dominico Tran & Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
Fri 7th	9:15am	RIP Marjian Karin
Sat 8th	9:15am	RIP Elfrieda Kubousek
Vigil	5:30pm	RIP Anna Quyen T Pham

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, 2nd December

- First Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, 4th December

- 11:00am - Mass & Anointing at Weeroona Village

Wednesday, 5th December

- 6:00pm - Parish Christmas Get Together in Presbytery

Saturday, 8th December

- Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday, 9th December

- Second Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, 12th December

- 5:00pm - IHM Christmas Concert

Friday, 14th December

- 9:15am - IHM End of Year Mass

Sunday, 16th December

- Third Sunday of Advent

WE PRAY FOR...

RECENTLY DECEASED

Yvonne Austin, Josiane de Reland, Varghese Alukka, Kevin Mahony

RIP ANNIVERSARY

Eileen Sparkes, Helen Kaban, Roger Bede Bowman, Fr J. B. McCann OMI, Fr J Burke OMI, John Kerwick, Anne Kerwick

OUR SICK

Francis Defosses, Alicia Bezett, Arthur Tomkins, John Morrison, Rosina Pellegrino, Youssef Ghabban, Monica McIntyre, Harold Falk, Bryant Wilson, Alma Ryan, Kevin Magnussen, Bishop G Robinson, John Mealing, David McGeachie, Kath Coughlin, Mary Keane, Bob



IHM CHRISTMAS CAROLS

IHM Primary School will be hosting their 2018 Christmas Concert on **Wednesday, 12th December from 5pm** where all families are invited to attend, enjoy a BBQ cooked by some of our families and then join in the singing of carols with the children. Each year group will sing a number of Christmas carols/songs. The BBQ will be served from 5pm with the Christmas raffle drawn at 5.45pm and Carols beginning at 6pm.



UPCOMING RETREATS

Advent Retreat - The Fulfilment of Promise

Trace the journey of Jesus from the land where he was born, through to the way he carried his cross and gave the eternal sacrifice. See places mentioned in the Old and New Testaments as the Bible comes alive in this 14-day pilgrimage for an all-inclusive price of \$5690. For enquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or email us pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au. Departures Dates: Fr. Sebastian (24 March), Fr. Kenneth (26 May 19), Fr. Colin (31 May 19). Other Departure Dates include 18 Aug, 8 Sep, 17 Sep, 13 Oct, 10 Nov.

The Epiphany Pilgrimage - The Journey of the Magi

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit, 7 day, 110 km Catholic pilgrimage through the Blue Mountains which coincides with the Feast of the Epiphany. The pilgrimage begins at Emu Plains on 2 January, 2019 and finishes at Bell on 8 January, 2019. Registrations for the full pilgrimage close 9 December with day walk registrations available on the day. For information and to register see www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

Footsteps of St Paul - Pilgrimage to Greece

Journey with St. Paul as you relive follow his footsteps on a **14-day pilgrimage to Greece departing on 14th May, 2019**. This pilgrimage features the saint's missionary for an all-inclusive price of \$5990, including a 3 Night Cruise with all meals + Stay Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Return Airfares + Local Transfers + Priests. For inquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or email pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au.