

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 9TH DECEMBER 2018**

- Second Newman miracle
- Red is for suffering: Focus on religious freedom
- Mean streets: A day in the life of the Matt Talbot Hostel
- Horsley Park Church lights up for Christmas
- Movie review: Creed II
- Croatian Youth absorb Theology of the Body

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 - 15TH & 16TH DECEMBER 2018

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	W Khouw	L Cavallo	J Rodrigues	D Bui
Readers	J Toinette	M Heim	L Vakauta	M Faitua
Ministers of Communion	M Flanagan	C Wood	K Marson	M Farlow
	T Flanagan	L Abouchabake	I Vellis	S Garrett
Musician/Choir	IHM Choir	A Tran	J Zhu	M Farlow
Flower Arrangers	T Khoury, S Khoury			
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, 9th December 2018: Second Sunday in Advent - Year C**

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist encourages his followers to be patient, as the wait for salvation will soon be over. The Israelites longed to see the day when the Messiah would come. Each generation hoped and prayed that they would be the one to witness the appearance of God's anointed. The Jewish people still hope and pray for this event in every generation. But Jesus did not come as many expected. Some thought he would arrive in a dramatic event and the end of the world would occur. Others expected a regal entrance or a political overthrow of the Romans. Luke's Gospel repeatedly points out that the very people who longed for the day to see the Messiah missed out because they were looking for the wrong signs.

John the Baptist is the first to see Jesus for who he really is for the world.

He recognises that Jesus' sacrificial love can fill our valleys, lay mountains low, make crooked paths straight and rough ways smooth. Advent is not a season where we have to pretend that we do not know Jesus is coming and then put on mock surprise at Christmas. Advent is the season which celebrates a 'patient yes'. Every year all of us in the Church stand in a queue and remind ourselves of how blessed we are to have seen our salvation in Jesus. We remember the faith of those who longed to see what we see and to know what we know. And we cultivate our patience for life's valleys, mountains and crooked paths where sometimes we can feel Jesus' absence more than his presence, where only when we look back we can see he was with us all the way.

So, as we all wait together in line this Advent let's say yes to all that salvation holds for us: yes to God's personal love; yes to Jesus' kingdom of justice and peace; yes to every opportunity to serve the Gospel and yes to knowing that our God is a companion to us at every step of our journey, even in the most unexpected ways.

Scottish poet John Bell expresses it this way:

'Light looked down and saw the darkness.

"I will go there", said light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

"I will go there", said peace.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there", said love.

So he,

the Lord of Light,

the Prince of Peace,

the King of Love,

came down and crept in beside us.'

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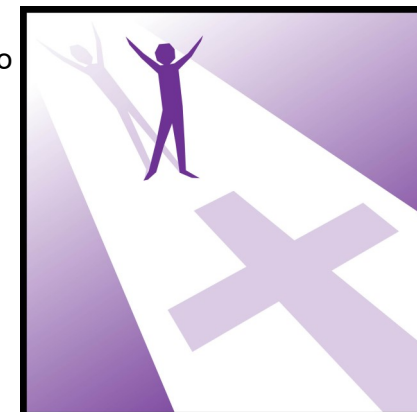
ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL - 8TH/9TH DECEMBER

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!

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**.



READINGS

This Week: Bar 5:1-9

Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

Lk 3:1-6

Next Week: Zep 3:14-18

Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18

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 & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION, please pick up your rosters from the foyer at the back of the Church.

ACOLYTES, the Christmas and Feb-June 2019 rosters are now available for pick up from the Sacristy.

RECONCILIATION

In anticipation of Christmas, Fathers Andrew & Greg will be available for **Reconciliation from 3pm till 4pm on Christmas Eve (24th December)**, prior to the Children's Mass.

COMMUNITY CAROLS - SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER

Community carols will be held at **Chester Hill Presbyterian Church, 64 Priam Street from 6-8pm on Sunday 16th December**. This is in conjunction with other local churches and a free sausage sizzle, jumping castle and balloons will be provided. All are welcome!

MESSAGE FROM OUR FAMILY EDUCATOR - CLAUDE BOURIZK

Liturgy of the Word with Children is taking place every **Sunday at 10am Mass** during the season of Advent leading up to the celebration of Christmas. Children are lead to the Oblate room during Mass to reflect and complete activities about the Christmas Story with a focus on a different theme each week. In preparation for Christmas, all children and parents are invited to attend Mass during the Advent season.

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, please email claud.bourizk@syd.catholic.edu.au or Tel: 0413 860 075.

PARISH CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas get together hosted by Fathers Greg and Andrew. The night was a great success and we hope all had a lovely evening. A special thank you to those who helped with the night, especially Ben our seminarian, Mitchell, Joe, Andrew, Mariah and Geoff.



MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 8th Vigil	9:15am 5:30pm	RIP Elfrieda Kubousek RIP Anna Quyen T Pham
Sun 9th	8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm	Repose of the Soul of Varghese Alukka RIP Giacobe Nguyen, Dominico Tran & Forgotten Souls in Purgatory Intentions of Harold Falk
Mon 10th	9:15am	Intentions of Francis Defosses
Tue 11th	9:15am	Intentions of Harold Falk
Wed 12th	9:15am	RIP Giacobe Nguyen, Dominico Tran & Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
Thu 13th	9:15am	Pray for Maria, Joseph & Anthony
Fri 14th	9:15am	Welfare of IHM Staff & Students
Sat 15th	9:15am	For the good health of Joy and Fay Grovenor
Vigil	5:30pm	RIP Hugh Pratt & Gloria Pratt

WE PRAY FOR...

RECENTLY DECEASED

Yvonne Austin, Josiane de Reland, Varghese Alukka

RIP ANNIVERSARY

Lois Limberg, Mark Stibbord, William Mahoney, Catherine O'Connor

OUR SICK

Rolande L'Olive, Francis Defosses, Alicia Bezett, Arthur Tomkins, John Morrison, Rosina Pellegrino, Youssef Ghadban, Monica McIntyre, Harold Falk, Bryant Wilson, Alma Ryan, Kevin Magnussen, Bishop G Robinson, John Mealing, David McGeachie, Kath Coughlin, Mary Keane, Bob Rodrigues, Spiteri family, Leslie Cotter, Matthew Barrington, Lydia Gwynne, Leo Hackett



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.

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.

