

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 DECEMBER 2018**

- WYD Pilgrims prepare to leave
- Down but not out: Horsley Park parish stays strong
- Armenian art for cathedral
- Faith in the desert
- Movie review: New Life
- Vatican, China agreement worry

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 DECEMBER 2018

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	Ben	T Kelly	J Rodrigues	K Collins
Readers	R Toinette	P Foran	M Keep	S Faitua
Ministers of Communion	P Loos Y Sassine	J Murphy M Abraham	E Torres K Hicks	J Luciano M Cowan
Musician/Choir	IHM Choir	A Tran	J Zhu	M Farlow
Flower Arrangers	E Bui, N Bui, D 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, 16th December 2018: Third Sunday in Advent - Year C**

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.'

'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.' Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is something of Danny in all of us. We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it is based on faith that does not believe in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Zephaniah, the Cantic from Isaiah, Philipians and Luke. Each of them rejoices in the undeserved gift God gives to the world. We do not deserve God's love given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name.

These Scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world. In today's Gospel John's disciples are full of wanting to know what they can do to earn God's love. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask what they can do to gain God's favour. While there is much to do, Advent reminds us every year that all we do is a response to the initial, undeserved goodness of God. Still the image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer. 'I will be a better person if I get well.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' All dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby. That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover. So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ.

© Richard Leonard SJ.

THANK YOU TO OUR FLOWER ARRANGERS

Thank you to our flower arrangers **Noelle Zalloua, Rose Khoury, Therese Khoury & Salima Khoury** for their magnificent work on the Church flowers during Advent. The Church and altar look beautiful thanks to their hard work.

WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

READINGS

This Week: Zep 3:14-18

Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18

Next Week: Mi 5:1-4

Heb 10:5-10

Lk 1:39-45

PRAY FOR ALUKKA FAMILY

Please keep Fr Thomas and his family in your prayers over the Christmas period as they grieve the loss of Varghese Alukka. Fr Thomas will be in India until mid January to finalise family affairs.

MINISTRY ROSTERS

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.

FLOWER ARRANGERS, the roster for 2019 is now available in the Church foyer. Please pick up your roster for the new year.

URGENT

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

A Funeral for Harold will be held on **Tuesday 18th December at 10:30am** here at IHM Sefton with a burial to follow at Kemps Creek.



RECONCILIATION

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

Additionally, **St Peter Chanel at Berala** will be holding the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation on **Wednesday 19th December at 7pm** as well as on **Saturday 22nd December at 9am**.



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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL - THANK YOU!

Last weekend, an appeal was held to assist the work of St Vincent de Paul over the busy Christmas period. Thank you to all who donated as over \$4,000 was raised! This is an amazing effort, and as well, many gifts were donated to Vinnies to support those in need. Because of the generosity here at Sefton, many individuals and families will have support during Christmas time. Thank you all for your donations!

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**.

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!



MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 15th	9:15am	Intentions of Tamara & Welfare of the Brewty Family
Vigil	5:30pm	<i>RIP</i> Hugh Pratt & Gloria Pratt
Sun 16th	8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm	For Francis Xavier Hoaiy & all Souls <i>RIP</i> Janet Daoud <i>RIP</i> Romanus Farida Azizi
Mon 17th	9:15am	For the soul of Aladdin Salac (<i>RIP</i>)
Tue 18th	9:15am	Intentions of Fr Thomas (35 Year Ordination Anniversary)
Wed 19th	9:15am	Intentions of Marie Banham on her birthday
Thu 20th	9:15am	Intentions of Marie Banham on her birthday
Fri 21st	9:15am	Intentions of the Banham Family
Sat 22nd	9:15am	For the good health of Joy and Fay Grovenor
Vigil	5:30pm	<i>RIP</i> Margaret Fox

WE PRAY FOR...

RECENTLY DECEASED

Harold Falk, Yvonne Austin, Josiane de Reland

RIP ANNIVERSARY

Lenora Leslie, Rosa Tempesta



OUR SICK

Rolande L'Olive, Francis Defosses, Alicia Bezett, Arthur Tomkins, John Morrison, Rosina Pellegrino, Youssef Ghabban, Monica McIntyre, 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



LAST BULLETIN FOR THE YEAR - 23RD DECEMBER

As the year comes to a close, the final bulletin will be published on the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd of December. For the month of January, while bulletins are not being published, Mass intentions will be displayed on the front door of the Church. Bulletins will recommence on the first weekend of February (2nd and 3rd).

