

Mass Times:**Monday to Saturday** : 9:15am**Saturday**: 5:30pm (Vigil) ; **Sunday**: 8:00am, 10:00am, 5:30pm**Rosary**: Monday to Saturday: 8:50am**Stations of the Cross**: Thursday 2:15pm and Fridays 9:50am during Lent**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 17TH MARCH 2019**

- NSW needs you! State election guide
- Sydney farewells Mike Willesee
- Massive boost to NSW Catholic Schools
- Uni students urge Plenary to remain faithful
- Movie review: Captain Marvel
- Catholic, but mainly in name

*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 - 23RD & 24TH MARCH 2019

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	C Kelly	D Bui	Ben	K Collins
Readers	A Roberts	P Foran	M Keep	L Quinn
Ministers of Communion	P Kelly N Barry	L Abouchabake B Murphy	K Hicks K Marson	J Luciano M Cowan
Musician/Choir	IHM Choir	T Tran	Parishioners Sing Loudly	M Farlow
Flower Arrangers	NO FLOWERS DURING LENT			
Counters	L Windram, P Page			
Bankers	L Farlow, M Farlow			

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, 17 March 2019: Second Sunday of Lent - Year C**

An American Jesuit theologian, John Powell, tells the story of a young man named Tommy who was the resident atheist during one of his courses in the Philosophy of God at Loyola University in Chicago. At the end of the course while he was turning in his final paper, Tommy said to Fr Powell, 'Do you think I will ever find God?' 'No', Powell replied bluntly, but as he walked away he continued, 'But I think God will find you'. Tommy kept walking.

Years later, Tommy returned to see John Powell to tell him that he had been diagnosed as having terminal cancer. More than ever, Tommy said, he wanted to find God or to be in the right place at the right time to be found by God. John Powell told Tommy to go and tell the people that he most loved in the world that he loved them.

Within a week Tommy reported to John Powell that in the midst of doing this he had a genuine and significant encounter with God. They had found each other. Tommy died three months later. John Powell reports that the only way to describe the final three months of Tommy's life was to say that, whatever happened to him in the process of telling others he loved them, he was transfigured by God.

The Transfiguration is no mountaintop light show. In borrowing heavily from similar stories in the Old Testament, it describes, in a dramatic way, how loved Jesus was by God and how this experience was seen and known by his disciples.

So often we hear people say they have not, or cannot, experience the presence of God, and therefore deny that God exists. These readings show us that if you want to encounter God then you have to experience love. This is not an optional extra for the Christian life. As St John says, 'The one who says they love God, yet they hate their brother or sister, is a liar.'

The Transfiguration is not a once off event for Jesus alone. It is a moveable feast for all of us who have become God's sons and daughters in Christ.

The problem with love is that we have devalued the currency. We say it too often about things we don't or can't love, like our car, a bottle of wine or our holiday. We say 'I love you' to people we don't love and because we have learnt that actions are more telling than words we don't easily believe others when they tell us they love us.

We can feel unlovable and cynical about the whole experience. But there are three things of which we can be sure: If we feel distant from God, we only have to guess who has moved away from whom. Nothing we do stops God from loving us.

God loves us as we are, not as we like to be. As the old saying goes, 'you don't have to get good to get God. You have to get God to get good.'

Finally, as the song runs, 'You ain't nobody until somebody loves you.'

And so for a Christian, being vulnerable enough to tell those we love that we love them is no sentimental exercise but a participation in the heart of God. By taking the risk of doing this, others may clearly hear the voice of God through us and we may discover ourselves transfigured by the personal love of God for us too.

In the process God may move from being an idea, an abstraction, even an object of curiosity to the focus of a loving experience that can give our lives meaning, purpose and hope.

In this Eucharist then, let's ascend the mountaintop and let's listen to Jesus say, 'You are my son. You are my daughter. And I love you.'

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**KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS 2020**

If you have a pre-schooler who turns 5 before July 31st, 2020 and would like to enrol him/her at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School for 2020, enrolment packages are now available from the school office. If you know of anyone else who may be considering a Catholic education for their child, please let them know about our school.

READINGS

This Week: Gen 15:5-12, 17-18 Phil 3:17 – 4:1 Lk 9:28-36
Next Week: Ex 3:1-8, 13-15 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 Lk 13:1-9

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

For the six Sundays of Lent, there will be children's Liturgy of the Word for all children aged 4-12 years during the **10:00am Mass** run by our Family Educator, Claude Bourizk. The children will be taken to the Oblate Room to listen and discuss the Gospel and do an activity before returning to the Mass in time for the offertory. Please encourage your children to join in.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross here at Sefton will be held **every Thursday at 2:15pm** as well as **every Friday morning immediately after Mass** (approximately 9:45am, in place of Sacred Heart Devotions). Sacred Heart Villawood Parish will be holding Stations of the Cross every Friday at 6:00pm. All are welcome.

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATA PRAYER GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The Immaculata Sisters at Sefton invite any young adults that are interested, to join them in prayer every second Friday. Next group will be held on **Friday March 29**. The prayer group will **begin in the Church at 6:30pm**. The Sisters look forward to seeing some new faces!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Please note the Parish office will be closed from 12 noon on **Tuesday 26th March**.

ALTAR SERVER PRACTICE

We had a wonderful response to our call for Altar Servers. The next meeting for Altar Servers is to be held on **Wednesday 20th March at 3:30pm in the Church**.



You are called to Mission

Communities in Myanmar, PNG, Samoa, Timor Leste, Kiribati and Kenya seek volunteers to mentor locals and build capacity. These assignments are not quick fixes. **Overseas Catholic communities** are inviting you to **immerse yourself** for 1 to 2 years.

If you have teaching, medical, business, admin or trade skills, you can give opportunity by **sharing them with our global family!**

Come to the **Palms Info Session:**
Thursday March 21st @ 5:30pm
Aquinas Academy
141 Harrington Street
THE ROCKS, SYDNEY



WALK THE LENTEN JOURNEY ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE

In his message for Lent 2019, Pope Francis emphasised that we should "not allow this season of grace to pass in vain." With new content daily, the Lent Calendar App can help those who desire to journey through Lent with purpose. The App includes the daily Gospel, a suggested Lent act, and a multimedia feature to pray and reflect upon. Available as an App on Apple and Android devices, and online at www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3lent

ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES

The One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies multinational pro-life prayer event is scheduled for 3, 4 and 5 May this year. People will pray at least one Rosary for the protection of the unborn. For details and to register go to: <http://www.saintmichaeltheangelorganization.org/>

QUALIFIED SEWER REQUIRED

Qualified sewer required for Y-Judes, Freeway Clergy Shirts & Angel Supplies. If interested email judithcouley@optusnet.com.au or phone 0403 197 880.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 16th Vigil	9:15am 5:30pm	RIP Filippo Manganaro Welfare of Zalloua Family
Sun 17th	8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm	Forgotten Souls in Purgatory RIP Kieran Ricketts (Recently Deceased) Intentions of Mitchell Farlow (21st birthday on 19/3/19)
Mon 18th	9:15am	Intentions of Elie, Viviane, Maria and Clara Hawzi
Tue 19th	9:15am	Personal Intentions of the Visevic Family
Wed 20th	9:15am	Personal Intentions of the Visevic Family
Thu 21st	9:15am	RIP Horace Delaney (Anniversary on 20th March)
Fri 22nd	9:15am	Intentions of Margaret Fox
Sat 23rd Vigil	9:15am 5:30pm	Special Intentions of Srs of Immaculata Welfare of the Viterale Family

WE PRAY FOR...

RECENTLY DECEASED

Kenny Rolls, Rolande L'Olive, Patricia Coves, Kieran Ricketts



RIP ANNIVERSARY

Jessie Coluccio, Fr D Breslin OMI, Peg Elderton, Dean Anthony Ghosn, Horace James Delaney, Helen Molski, Thomas Hannelly, Anthony (Peter) Lopresti

OUR SICK

Francis Defosses, Alicia Bezett, John Morrison, Rosina Pellegrino, Youssef Ghadban, 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



LENTEN RETREAT DAY

Join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia and the Sisterhood Catholic Women's Movement for a Lenten Retreat Day. This retreat will be hosted in Sydney and in Melbourne on **30th March**. The day will focus on the theme, "Nature, Grace and Glory: Imago Dei Revealed in Us." The retreat will begin at **10am** with talks, discussion opportunities, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, morning tea and lunch, and more. An optional Vigil Mass at the location will follow.

For more information or to register:

To register in Sydney: <https://www.trybooking.com/BBEQA>

For more information, email sydney@op-tn.org

Location: St. Peter Chanel Parish Hall, 60 Kingsland Road, Berala

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/273338730230446>



'OF LIFE AND LOVE' MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is offering marriage preparation courses for engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. Each course will be held over 3 consecutive Wednesdays. 2019 dates include: **March 13, 20, 27 and October 16, 23, 30**. To book online, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/ZWSU> or contact LMEvents@sydneycatholic.org

