

### Mass Times:

**Monday to Saturday** : 9:15am

**Saturday**: 5:30pm (Vigil); **Sunday**: 8:00am, 10:00am, 11:30am (Samoan), 5:30pm

**Rosary**: Monday to Saturday: 8:50am

**Sacred Heart Devotions**: Fridays, 9:50am

**Reconciliation**: Saturdays After Morning Mass until 10:30am

**Baptisms**: 2nd and 4th Sundays, 11:00am

**Weddings and Funerals**: Contact Parish Office



### CATHOLIC WEEKLY - PULPIT POINTS 15TH DECEMBER 2019

- WA death squad
- A blessing for Westconnex
- Medevac move slammed
- Sheen beatification called off
- Movie review: The Two Popes
- A home for the homeless

*Available in the foyer - \$2. All money goes to the poor.*

#### A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

### MINISTRY ROSTER - 21ST DECEMBER & 22ND DECEMBER 2019

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
<b>Acolytes</b>	K Collins	D Bui	J Rodrigues	C Kelly
<b>Readers</b>	R Winder	M Heim	V Visevic	S Faitua
<b>Ministers of Communion</b>	A Pham Y Sassine	B Murphy J Murphy	C Bourizk J Bourizk	P Kelly S Garrett
<b>Musician/Choir</b>	IHM Choir	T Tran	Sing Loudly	M Farlow
<b>Flower Arrangers</b>	E Bui, N Bui, D Johns			
<b>Counters</b>	T Flanagan, K Collins, I Prygiel			
<b>Bankers</b>	L Farlow, M Farlow			

### PARISH CONTACTS

<b>Immaculate Heart of Mary Church</b> <b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr. Maurice Thompson EV. PP. <b>Priest Emeritus:</b> Fr. Sebastian Chacko <b>Parish Secretary:</b> Leisa Farlow <b>Office Hours:</b> Tue - Fri (10:00am - 3:30pm) <b>6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton NSW 2162</b> <b>Phone:</b> 02 9644 4026, <b>Fax:</b> 02 9743 7407 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:office@ihmsefton.org.au">office@ihmsefton.org.au</a> <b>Parish Website:</b> <a href="http://www.seftoncatholicchurch.org.au">www.seftoncatholicchurch.org.au</a>	<b>Immaculate Heart of Mary - Primary School</b> <b>Principal:</b> Mr. John Kennedy <b>School Office:</b> <b>30 Proctor Parade, Sefton, NSW 2162</b> <b>Phone:</b> 02 9644 3555, <b>Fax:</b> 02 9644 8214 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:info@ihmsefton.catholic.edu.au">info@ihmsefton.catholic.edu.au</a> <b>Family Educator:</b> Mrs Claude Bourizk
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## Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Sefton

6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton, NSW 2162

**Parish Priest:** Fr Maurice T Thompson EV. PP.

**Priest Emeritus:** Fr Sebastian Chacko

**Sunday, 15th December 2019: Third Sunday in Advent - Year A**

Have you ever been on a farm during summer? If you have you will know how precious water is. When I was a boy, I spent several holidays on an uncle's property. There were often six or seven city-based cousins there for the long summer break. It was great fun, but the one thing of which we needed a daily reminder was to be careful with how much water we used. We seemed to luxuriate in the shower for twice as long as our country cousins! I can remember that when we arrived for one holiday, it had not rained in the area for nearly nine months. A few days later, just at dusk, the thunder rumbled, the storm clouds gathered and the heavens burst open. The rain poured down. Like in the movies, everyone inside the house just stood up and walked out into the rain. No one said a word. We stood in the rain and soaked it in. The earth was not the only thing in need of a drenching. In today's letter from St James the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent. In this season each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then, one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love. Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives. The First Reading and the Gospel make it very clear that farmers never down tools just because the rain comes. We're told that as a result of being soaked in the love of God we are called to do all we can for those in our world who are lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor and for any one left for dead. This is a vital message for us to hear today because there are some in our country who tell us that all we have to do is look after 'our own back yard'. This line is many things, but it's not Christian. Advent reminds us that by welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. Everywhere is our back yard because that's where our brothers and sisters live. May we gain from Christ this Christmas the generosity to see that the desert is meant to bloom for all people everywhere, not just a few of us lucky to live in an oasis. We are ridiculously generous to others because God in Jesus has been lavishly good to us and our goodness remains a most powerful sign of God's salvation that is always seen in deeds not words.



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### RECONCILIATION

In preparation for Christmas, there will be a short prayer service followed by reconciliation in the Church on **Thursday, 19th December at 7:00pm.**



### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please collect your new roster from the table in the foyer. The new roster commences on Christmas Day.



## READINGS

**This Week:** Is 35:1-6, 10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11  
**Next Week:** Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

**SINCERE SYMPATHY** and loving prayers from the parish family to the family and friends of **Fr Dave Shelton OMI** who passed away on Thursday 12th December. Many parishioners will remember Fr Dave from his time as Assistant Priest here at Sefton during the '80's. May he rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him.



## 2019 CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year, the Sefton and Villawood parishes will be enjoying a Christmas get-together on **Sunday 22nd December** in the **Sefton Parish Centre from 1:00pm**. Please bring a plate of food to share if you are able and BYO drinks (tea & coffee provided). If you wish to attend, please put your name on the list in the foyer of the Church with the number of people that will be attending in your party. This is also an opportunity to meet our new Parish Priest, Very Rev Fr Maurice Thompson.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR SEFTON & VILLAWOOD PARISHES:

### SEFTON PARISH:

**Tuesday 24th December:** 5:30pm (Children's Mass)  
 7:30pm (Vigil)  
 9:30pm (Samoan)  
 MIDNIGHT MASS

**Wednesday 25th December:** 10:00am

### VILLAWOOD PARISH:

**Tuesday 24th December:** 6:30pm

**Wednesday 25th December:** 8:00am



## COLUMBAN CALENDARS AND SVDP CHRISTMAS CARDS

With Christmas fast approaching, our Parish is now selling the 2020 **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 the Piety store after **weekend masses**.

## FROM OUR FAMILY EDUCATOR, MRS CLAUDE BOURIZK:

**16th Dec:** Sandwich making day, school hall

**16th Dec:** 3:15pm - Children's Christmas Mass Practice - Oblate Rooms

**18th Dec:** Night Patrol, 6.30pm, meet at Lewisham base (*email me for more info*)

**23rd Dec:** 10:00am - Full Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Mass in Church



## Children's Liturgy of the Word:

During the four weeks of Advent I will be running the children's liturgy, which is a liturgy for the proclamation of God's **Word** for **children** appropriate to their understanding. The children will be taken to the Oblate room, do their activities before returning for the offertory and the rest of the Mass. All children between the ages of 4-12 years are most welcome, at **10am Mass on Sundays**.



## MASS INTENTIONS:

<b>Sat 14th</b>	9:15am	RIP George Abdallah (Recently Deceased)
<b>Vigil</b>	5:30pm	RIP Zeita & Colin Flynn (Anniversaries)
<b>Sun 15th</b>	8:00am	RIP Catherina Hoang, Joseph Pham & All Souls
	10:00am	RIP Janet Daoud & RIP Youssef Rizk
	5:30pm	Intentions of the Faitua Family
<b>Mon 16th</b>	9:15am	Mother Mary - Personal Intentions
<b>Tues 17th</b>	9:15am	RIP Harold Falk
<b>Wed 18th</b>	9:15am	RIP Deceased Members of the Zalloua Family
<b>Thu 19th</b>	9:15am	Mother Mary - Personal Intentions
<b>Fri 20th</b>	9:15am	Thanksgiving for Pham & Dinh Families
<b>Sat 21st</b>	9:15am	RIP Deceased Members of the Saidi Family
<b>Vigil</b>	5:30pm	RIP John O'Brien 2nd Anniversary on 25/12

## WE PRAY FOR...

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Fr Dave Shelton OMI, Rosina Pellegrino, Michael Walker, Ferdinand Pisano, Audrey Barrington, Joan Cassidy

### RIP ANNIVERSARY

Catherine Florance O'Connor,

### OUR SICK

Edna Farlow, Jess McDougall, Laurel Anthony, Mary Pesce, Joy Grovenor, Edna Windram, Shirley Ross, Francis Defosses, Alicia Bezett, John Morrison, Youssef Ghabban, Monica McIntyre, Bryant Wilson, Alma Ryan, Bishop G Robinson, John Mealing, David McGeachie, Kath Coughlin, Mary Keane, Bob Rodrigues, Spiteri family, Matthew Barrington, Lydia Gwynne, Leo Hackett



**SINCERE SYMPATHY** and loving prayers from the parish family to Margaret Walker and family and friends of **Michael Walker** who recently passed away. May he rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him. A Requiem Mass will be held here at Sefton on Tuesday, 17th December at 10:30am.



## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala invite all who wish to share the joy of Christmas with others to a Christmas Lunch. Food, drink and entertainment provided.

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**Place:** Jubilee Hall, 64 Kingsland Road, Berala (next to the Church)

**Time:** 11am till 3pm

**RSVP** for transport: Please phone Barbara or Georgette no later than **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** on 9643-7794. For further details, please contact Evelene Safadi on 0416 140 378.

