

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 1ST DECEMBER 2019**

- *They walked with Him*
- *Christians on the brink warning*
- *The school that's a vocations powerhouse*
- *Persecuting Latin Mass backfires*
- *Movie review: The Good Liar*
- *Divorce & faithful*

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. 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 - 7TH DECEMBER & 8TH DECEMBER 2019

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	C Kelly	A James	K Collins	J Luciano
Readers	T Evans	M Abraham	V Visevic	M Cowan
Ministers of Communion	P Kelly N Barry	B Murphy J Murphy	C Bourizk J Bourizk	S Garrett M Williams
Musician/Choir	IHM Choir	T Tran	J Zhu	M Farlow
Flower Arrangers	L Jones, S Johns			
Counters	T Flanagan, K Collins, I Prygiel			
Bankers	L Farlow, M Farlow			

PARISH CONTACTS

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Administrator: Fr Thomas Alukka Parish Secretary: Leisa Farlow Office Hours: Tue - Fri (10:00am - 3:30pm) 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

Administrator: Fr Thomas Alukka**Sunday, 1st December 2019: First Sunday in Advent - Year A**

Night and day is the dominant image presented to us in today's readings. The season of Advent is for the Church the time just before the dawn of Christmas, when the fullness of God's love took human flesh in Jesus. The moments before dawn are often special: cities are still, the air is damp, noise is at a minimum and, at least on clear days, there is an anticipation of the sun bursting forth into daylight. No wonder Paul and Matthew found it such a rich metaphor for the coming of Christ. American lyricist and composer, Marty Haugen has found the image of light and darkness inspirational in his text, *God of Day and God of Darkness* (© 1984, 1995, published by GIA Inc.) He writes: God of day and God of darkness, now we stand before the night; As the shadows stretch and deepen, come and make our darkness bright. All creation still is groaning for the dawning of your might, When the Son of peace and justice fills the earth with radiant light. Still the nations curse the darkness, still the rich oppress the poor; Still the earth is bruised and broken by the ones who still want more. Come and wake us from our sleeping so our hearts cannot ignore All your people lost and broken, all your children at our door. Show us Christ in one another, make us servants strong and true; Give us all your love of justice, so we do what you would do. Let us call all people holy, let us pledge our lives anew, Make us one with all the lowly, let us all be one in you. Marty Haugen's take on the light and dark in the world is entirely consistent with the way Catholic mystics have applied these metaphors. Being in the light is not just about what we see, it is about what we do. St Ignatius Loyola often spoke about the things we keep buried in the dark. For Ignatius the experience we won't speak about, the sins we won't confess and the memories we suppress are the signs of the bad spirit. They gain an inordinate power over us and we displace a lot of energy keeping them buried in the dark. Ignatius always saw the hand of the good spirit when these things came into the light. Every time someone says to me, 'Father, I've never told anyone this before, but I want to talk about it now...' I thank God that the good spirit is alive and active. St Ignatius encourages us to be alert to all the ways we con ourselves that keeping secrets hidden in the dark is a necessary or acceptable way to live. May this Advent be the season in which we bring to consciousness all the things that stop us from being fully alive and basking in the light. May our preparation for Christmas confirm us in the truth of Haugen's words about Jesus Christ and humanity. You shall be the path that guides us, you the light that in us burns; Shining deep within all people, yours the love that we must learn, For our hearts shall wander restless, 'til they safe to you return; Finding you in one another, we shall all your face discern.

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PARISH APPOINTMENT

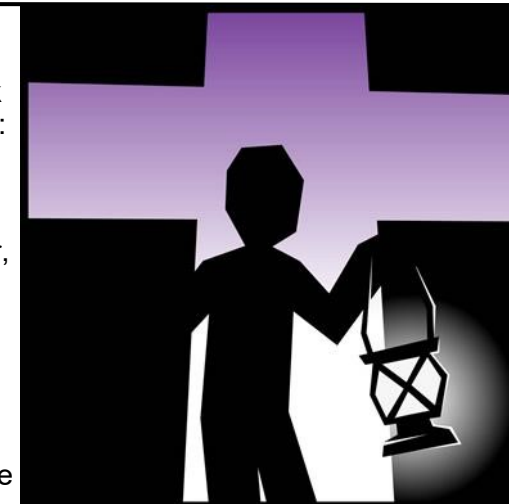
Most Rev. Archbishop Anthony Fisher, has appointed Very Rev. Fr. Maurice T Thompson, Episcopal Vicar and Parish Priest of St. Christopher's, Panania and St. Patrick's, Revesby Heights to Sefton and Villawood. Together with Fr. Thomas and Fr. Joseph, we welcome Fr. Maurice to our parish community as he begins his pastoral ministry amongst us on the 7th December, 2019.

ACOLYTES:

An Acolyte Christmas get together is to be held in the Oblate Rooms on **Friday 13th December from 6:00pm**. Please let Leisa in the Parish Office know if you will be attending via email: office@ihmsefton.org.au or call 9644-4026 by **Tuesday 10th December** for catering purposes. It will also be an opportunity to meet our new Parish Priest, Very Rev Fr Maurice Thompson.

Also, **please collect your rosters** for Christmas and the first six months of 2020 from the Sacristy.**WORK TO CHURCH ENTRY**

The work to the entrance of the Church has begun but unfortunately is taking longer than expected. Hopefully it will be complete by the middle of this week. At times, the main entrance to the Church will be closed and **entry to the Church will only be available from the two side doors**. Thank you for your co-operation and patience during this time.



READINGS

This Week: Is 2:1-5 Rom 13:11-14 Mt 24:37-44
Next Week: Is 11:1-10 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12

FAREWELL FR THOMAS

It is with a great deal of sadness to inform you that Fr Thomas will be finishing his ministry with us here at Sefton and Villawood on Thursday 5th December. Fr Thomas has been appointed as Administrator of St Augustine of Hippo Balmain and St Joseph Rozelle Parishes, commencing on 6th December. There will be a farewell for Fr Thomas in the **Parish Centre** commencing at **6:00pm on Thursday 5th December**. Please place your name on the list in the foyer of the Church if you will be attending. BYO drinks; tea and coffee will be provided. We thank Fr Thomas for all he brought to our Parish: he is a very giving and caring man who is always more than happy to assist in any way he can. He will be very much missed and Balmain/Rozelle are very lucky to be gaining such a wonderful Priest. We wish you all the best Fr Thomas and may God continue to bless you and guide you on your journey.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL - 7TH/8TH 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 7 & 8**.

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 17th December**. Your contribution will make a world of difference!



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.



CATECHIST CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Catechists' Christmas lunch will be held on **Friday 6th December** at **Dooleys Regents Park**, Terrene Street, Regents Park commencing at **12.30pm**. All welcome (pay for yourself).

GIFTS OF FAITH

This Christmas, give a gift with faith. The Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need has produced a Gift of Faith catalogue in support of suffering and persecuted Christians. Copies can be found in the foyer of the Church, on the table. Alternatively, visit www.aidtochurch.org/GiftsofFaith or phone 1800 101 201. **Order by 9th December** to receive your Gift of Faith cards and envelopes in time for Christmas.

FROM OUR FAMILY EDUCATOR, MRS CLAUDE BOURIZK:

12th Dec: Behind the Scenes at Lewisham

16th Dec: Sandwich making day, school hall

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

Family Playgroup every **Thursday at 8:45am** for parents and their children 2-5 years old. We hope to continue Rosary in the school library in the new year.

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:

Sat 30th	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Dearly departed Legionaries & Souls in Purgatory
Vigil	5:30pm	Intentions of Iris Hughes - 80th Birthday
Sun 1st	8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm	<i>RIP</i> William Loos & Intentions of the Loos Family <i>RIP</i> Ken Ryan, Recently Deceased Thanksgiving Mass for Rose Dore Family
Mon 2nd	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Roger Bowman
Tues 3rd	9:15am	Mass for Good Health
Wed 4th	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Peter Paul Grovenor (B'day)
Thu 5th	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Marija & Ivan Ziher
Fri 6th	9:15am	Deceased Members of the Dinh & Pham Families
Sat 7th	9:15am	Prudence Pinto on her Birthday
Vigil	5:30pm	<i>RIP</i> Augustine Thinh Nguyen 3 year anniversary

WE PRAY FOR...

RECENTLY DECEASED

Rose Glavicic, George Abdallah, Larry Cochran, Ken Ryan

RIP ANNIVERSARY

John O'Connor Keating, Fr. J.B. McCann OMI, Fr. J. Burke OMI

OUR SICK

Edna Farlow, Jess McDougall, Laurel Anthony, Mary Pesce, Joy Grovenor, Joan Cassidy, Edna Windram, Shirley Ross, Francis Defosses, Alicia Bezett, John Morrison, Rosina Pellegrino, Youssef Ghadban, 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

DECEMBER HEALING MASS

All parishioners are invited to attend the February Healing Mass at **St Joseph's Catholic Church 126 Liverpool Rd Enfield** on **Friday 6th December**. If you have any queries, feel free to contact Rose on 9642-2359 or 0412 115 961. Thank you

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**.

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: 25th 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 20th December** on 9643-7794. For further details, please contact Evelene Safadi on 0416 140 378.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 30th November

- 1:00pm - Wedding of Joseph Taufaa & Suliana Makarita Mahe

Sunday, 1st December - Advent Begins

- 10:00am - Children's Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, 3rd December

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

Thursday, 5th December

- 6:00pm - Farewell for Fr Thomas in Parish Centre

Friday, 6th December

- 12:30pm - Catechist Christmas Lunch, Dooleys Regents Park - All welcome

Saturday, 7th December

- Fr Thomas leaves, Fr Maurice Thompson commences at IHM Sefton Parish

Sunday, 8th December

11:00am - Baptism of Sophia Spooner

Monday, 9th December

- 6:00pm - IHM School Christmas Carols

