

### 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 10:20am

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

**Weddings and Funerals**: Contact Parish Office



### CATHOLIC WEEKLY - PULPIT POINTS 8TH DECEMBER 2019

- Cathedral lights up
- Australia targets Seal of Confession
- Environmental sin?
- Faithful in divorce
- Movie review: Green Eggs and Ham
- Make it a family Advent

*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 - 14TH DECEMBER & 15TH DECEMBER 2019

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
Acolytes	W Khouw	L Cavallo	C McDermott	T Kelly
Readers	J Toinette	P Foran	A Pham	M Farlow
Ministers of Communion	P Loos M Flanagan	L Abouchabake M Abraham	K Hicks I Vellis	M Cowan M Williams
Musician/Choir	IHM Choir	T Tran	Tongan Choir	M Farlow
Flower Arrangers	T Khoury, S Khoury			
Counters	T Flanagan, K Collins, I Prygiel			
Bankers	L Farlow, M Farlow			

### PARISH CONTACTS

<b>Immaculate Heart of Mary Church</b> <b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr Maurice Thompson EV <b>Assistant Parish Priest:</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

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Sebastian Chacko

**Sunday, 8th December 2019: Second Sunday in Advent - Year A**

Even in Church circles these days it is quite common to engage a management consultancy company to help find people for a particular diocesan job. This is a good idea and often these companies find excellent people for the task. I recently saw a consultancy profile, however, for a diocese seeking a lay chancellor. We all know these people must be upright citizens, but I am convinced that Jesus himself may have been challenged to fill this job description! Apart from having degrees in civil and canon law, the desired applicant had to have 'outstanding Catholic faith, an exemplary moral character and have nothing in his or her background that could cause the Church embarrassment or scandal in the future.' A couple of days later I came across a tongue-in-cheek summary of a management consultant's report on those who had applied to lead the earliest Christian Church: 'John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and picks fights in public with religious leaders. 'Peter: Has a bad temper, even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive. A loose cannon. 'Paul: Powerful, CEO type of leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with young ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night. 'Jesus: Has been popular at times, but once when his following grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and it dwindled down to some faithful women and his best friend. Seldom stays in one place very long. 'Judas: His references are solid. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. Great possibilities here.' In today's Gospel we hear what a fierce character John the Baptist was. He lets the Pharisees and Sadducees have it with both barrels. These groups were the publicly devout churchgoers of their day. They were often hypocrites, professing one thing and doing another. We know they regularly demanded observances of ordinary Jews that they did not live out themselves. No wonder John disliked them so much. Their religious observance was a charade, focused on their needs, their souls, their salvation. They were going to get to heaven, and everyone else be damned! They even come out to the wilderness to get baptised. This was like going to salvation mega-store. They buy a little of everything, just to be sure. John attacks them violently and in doing so condemns their privatised religion and lack of social responsibility. In Christianity there is an important distinction between personal and private faith. Personal faith knows that God is close and intimate, which is what we celebrate at Christmas. For Christians, however, there is no such thing as private faith. We should always be careful of hymns that only ever speak about 'me and Jesus against the world'. Inheriting the promises made to Israel and seeing them as intended for all God's children, we believe we are saved AS A PEOPLE. For us, it is 'we and Jesus for the world.' If we have no interest in justice, development and peace for our world. If we don't care to know our fellow parishioners. If all we want is to be left alone, to come to Mass, say our prayers and save our souls, then we need to hear the story of Christmas all over again. May this Advent, then, see John the Baptist do what he does best: 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'

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### WELCOME FR MAURICE

We welcome Fr Maurice T Thompson EV to our Parish as he commences his pastoral ministry this weekend in Sefton and Villawood. We also welcome Fr Sebastian Chacko who will be assisting Fr Maurice.

### 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](mailto: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.**

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who came and farewelled Fr Thomas on Thursday evening and a BIG thank you for all your help in making Fr Thomas' send off a special one. Very much appreciated.



## READINGS

**This Week:** Is 11:1-10 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12  
**Next Week:** Is 35:1-6, 10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

## MINISTRY ROSTERS

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion rosters are available for collection in the church foyer. There is **no-one rostered on for 10:00am Christmas Day**, so if you are able to assist, please let the acolyte (Joseph) know if you can help.

## OMI VISIT

Fr Peter Stoll OMI will be passing through Sydney and visiting Sefton in the coming week. He will be concelebrating morning Mass on Friday and Saturday and lunching at **Dooleys Regents Park on Friday 13th December at 12:00pm**. All are welcome to join him.

**SINCERE SYMPATHY** and loving prayers from the parish family to Mary Williams and family on the passing of Mary's mother **Joan Mary Cassidy**. May she rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon her.



## 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 this weekend, 7th & 8th December**.

A Christmas tree has also been 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.



**BAPTISM** Please pray for **SOPHIA SPOONER** as we welcome her into our Parish community through the sacrament of Baptism on **Sunday, 8th December 2019**. Let us pray also for Sophia's parents and Godparents, that the Lord may help them in raising Sophia in the practice of the faith.



## 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:

<b>Sat 7th</b>	9:15am	Intentions of Prudence Pinto (Birthday)
<b>Vigil</b>	5:30pm	<i>RIP</i> Augustine Thinh Nguyen (3rd Anniversary)
<b>Sun 8th</b>	8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm	Intentions of Jelka Intentions of Rochelle Gadd (Birthday) <i>RIP</i> Harold Falk (1st Anniversary)
<b>Mon 9th</b>	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Marija & Andrija Kefelja
<b>Tues 10th</b>	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Karin Marijan
<b>Wed 11th</b>	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Members of the Marelja & Mihaljevic Families
<b>Thu 12th</b>	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Audrey Barrington (Recently Deceased)
<b>Fri 13th</b>	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> Barbara Khoury
<b>Sat 14th</b>	9:15am	<i>RIP</i> George Abdallah (Recently Deceased)
<b>Vigil</b>	5:30pm	<i>RIP</i> Zeita & Colin Flynn (Anniversaries)

## WE PRAY FOR...

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Audrey Barrington, Joan Cassidy, Rose Glavicic, George Abdallah

## RIP ANNIVERSARY

Lois Limberg, Mark Stibbord

## OUR SICK

Edna Farlow, Jess McDougall, Laurel Anthony, Mary Pesce, Joy Grovenor, 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

## 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](http://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.

## 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:** 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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, 8th December

- 11:00am - Baptism of Sophia Spooner

### Monday, 9th December

- 6:00pm - IHM School Christmas Carols

### Wednesday, 11th December

- 10:00am - Mass & Anointing at Abel Tasman
- 6:00pm - Yr6 Graduation Mass

### Friday, 13th December

- 9:15am - IHM End of Year Mass
- 12:00pm - Fr Peter Stoll OMI lunch at Dooleys Regents Park

### Thursday, 19th December

- 11:00am - Mass & Anointing at Chester Hill Aged Care

### Sunday, 22nd December

- 11:00am - Baptism of Martin Bui Nguyen

