

**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 24TH MARCH 2019**

- *A church worth waiting for*
- *United in prayer for Christchurch*
- *Where all are beautiful: New documentary*
- *24 Hours for the Lord details*
- *Get Irish!*
- *Lourdes' enduring beauty and mystery*

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 - 30TH & 31ST MARCH 2019**

Mass	5:30pm	8am	10am	5:30pm
<b>Acolytes</b>	W Khouw	A James	C McDermott	B Freeburn
<b>Readers</b>	R Toinette	Immaculata Sisters	V Visevic	M Faitua
<b>Ministers of Communion</b>	Y Sassine M Abraham	C Wood P Foran	M Lonergan I Vellis	J Freeburn E Torres
<b>Musician/Choir</b>	IHM Choir	T Tran	J Zhu	M Farlow
<b>Flower Arrangers</b>	NO FLOWERS DURING LENT			
<b>Counters</b>	L Windram, P Page			
<b>Bankers</b>	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, 24 March 2019: Third Sunday of Lent - Year C**

The resource I use to help couples prepare for marriage has questions for them to think about and discuss in between sessions. One of the questions at the end of one of the chapters is, 'What effect would adultery have on your marriage?' In one sense this hypothetical question is absurd. Dealing with the consequences of any sin requires time and place, context and contrition. It is even tougher to imagine the effect of any destructive behaviour in one's marriage even before the marriage has begun. Still, it never ceases to amaze me how this question usually leads the couple to have a very fruitful and frank discussion, not about adultery, but about their values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growing old together. Sometimes, however, I cringe when the prospective bride or groom seems to give the green light to their future spouse by saying, 'Well I guess if he or she went looking elsewhere it would be my fault' or 'I love him or her so much that I know we could go on regardless'. Others say very clearly that it would alter the trust and respect of the relationship, but they hope they could look at the circumstances and rebuild the relationship.



The most mature couples do not wipe over the seriousness of the sinful action, but want to hold on to compassion, forgiveness and a commitment that it will not happen again.

Couples like these have clearly understood the power of today's readings. The third Sunday of Lent is all about second chances. In Exodus we have a bush that is alight but does not burn and in Luke we have a fig tree that does not bear fruit, is earmarked for the chop and saved by the gardener. In both cases where we would expect to find destruction we find new opportunities for growth, nurturance and flowering.

Over the centuries the goodness of God that always gives us another chance has not been proclaimed as vigorously as it should have been. We have focused on God's justice as though it was a once and for all, shape up or ship out sort of message. These ideas can be deduced from today's second reading where Paul seems to argue that God killed the chosen people for their complaining and infidelity.

Paul was a tough man and for him Christian commitment was no picnic. He was aware of how people were suffering and dying for the Gospel, so he was at pains to teach the people of Corinth that the commitment demanded from the Gospel could entail everything they had. His reading of why the Israelites died in the desert, however, needs to be read against the second chances of the other readings, especially the Gospel.

We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance.

May this Eucharist be nurturance for the foundations of our lives and a moment to take stock and to assess with honesty the fruitfulness of how, as a sign of Christ's light within us, we live out our faith in our marriage, at home, at work and in the world.

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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:** Ex 3:1-8. 13-15 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 Lk 13:1-9  
**Next Week:** Jos 5:9-12 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3. 11-32

**BAPTISM** Please pray for **AURELIA KATE VARI** as we welcome her into our Parish community through the sacrament of Baptism on **Sunday, 24th March 2019**. Let us pray also for her parents and Godparents, that the Lord may help them in raising Aurelia in the practice of the faith.



## CONFIRMATION TUESDAY 25TH JUNE 2019

Confirmation is the Sacrament by which Catholics receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Catholic Christians in Year Six and above who have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion are eligible to enrol in the Confirmation Program. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives candidates the increased ability to practice their Catholic faith in every aspect of their lives and to witness Christ in every situation. **Confirmation will be celebrated at IHM Sefton Parish on Tuesday 25th June at 7pm.**

Applications are available in the foyer of the church as well as on the Parish website, <http://www.seftoncatholicchurch.org.au>. Please **submit applications to the Parish Office before 3rd May 2019**. Applications can be dropped in the mailbox on the Presbytery's door.

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

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

## 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.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FAMILY EDUCATOR

**Family Playgroup** will run in the Family Educator Office every **Thursday from 8:45am-10am** for parents and their children aged 2-5 years old.

Our next **Vinnies Sandwich Making Day** is **Monday 8th April** in the school hall from **8:30am**. Thank you to the wonderful ladies and gentlemen who come every month to help with this very rewarding work and also to the very generous people who donate to help purchase the ingredients for our sandwiches.

*Mrs Claude Bourizk - Family Educator*



## 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 27th March at 3:10pm in the Church**.



## 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.

## 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](http://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.saintmichaelthearchangelorganization.org/>

## MASS INTENTIONS:

<b>Sat 23rd Vigil</b>	9:15am 5:30pm	Special Intentions of Srs of Immaculata Welfare of Viterale Family
<b>Sun 24th</b>	8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm	RIP Gregory Sole (Anniversary on 7th March) RIP Jamil Gerges RIP Janet Daoud
<b>Mon 25th</b>	9:15am	Good Health of Marcus Jutrisa
<b>Tue 26th</b>	9:15am	RIP Gosepina Salac
<b>Wed 27th</b>	9:15am	Special Intentions of Srs of Immaculata
<b>Thu 28th</b>	9:15am	RIP Shirley Galloway
<b>Fri 29th</b>	9:15am	Special Intentions of Srs of Immaculata
<b>Sat 30th Vigil</b>	9:15am 5:30pm	Healing Mass Welfare of Peter & Budi

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Saturday, 23rd March

- NSW State Election - Sausage Sizzle

### Sunday, 24th March

- Baptism of Aurelia Vari

### Monday, 25th March

- The Annunciation of the Lord

### Tuesday, 26th March

- 9:15am - Year 4 attending Mass
- **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FROM 12PM**

### Wednesday, 27th March

- 10:00am - Mass & Anointing at Abel Tasman Village
- 3:10pm - Altar Server Practice

### Thursday, 28th March

- 11:00am - Mass & Anointing at Chester Hill Aged Care
- 2:15pm - Stations of the Cross

### Friday, 29th March

- 9:45am - Stations of the Cross
- 6:30pm - Srs of Immaculata Prayer Group in Church

## WE PRAY FOR...

### RECENTLY DECEASED

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



### RIP ANNIVERSARY

Anthony (Peter) Lopresti, Kevin Francis Clifford, Olga Vera O'Brien, Severino Cumerlato

### 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



### 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!

### 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](mailto: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 [LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org)