

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING *Is 40:1-5. 9-11*

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God.  
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her  
that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,  
let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’  
Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8*

*(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. *(R.)*

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. *(R.)*

3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. *(R.)*

SECOND READING *2 Pt 3:8-14*

*A reading from the second letter of St Peter*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and

long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation *Lk 3:4. 6*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

*Alleluia!*

GOSPEL *Mk 1:1-8*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.  
A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord  
**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Next Week : THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Readings: Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8; 19-28*

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ST GERTRUDE’S PARISH

St Benedict’s Church

Corner Justin & Neville Street  
SMITHFIELD

Sunday Masses:  
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm;  
8.00am (Italian); 10.30am; 6.00pm.


Weekday Masses:  
9.15am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday;  
7pm Wednesday

Weekday Public Holidays: 10.30am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Adoration:  
*Wednesdays* after evening Mass with Novena to St Benedict till 7.30pm; *Saturdays* from 4.45pm—5.45pm; & *Fridays* after the 9.15am Mass

First Friday of the Month:  
7pm Mass & Adoration

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:  
Tuesdays after Mass



Parish Priest  
Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

Assistant Priest  
Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE

St Theresa’s Church

Corner The Boulevard & Stella Street  
FAIRFIELD WEST

Sunday Masses: .  
Saturday Vigil 5pm (Vietnamese);  
7.30am & 9.00am; 11am (Spanish); 5pm (Arabic)

Weekday Masses:  
Mon - Fri 7.00am; Saturday 8am

Weekday Public Holidays: 8.00am


First Friday of the Month:  
from 6.30am

First Saturday of the Month:  
7am Rosary 8am Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:  
Tuesdays after Mass

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 10th December 2017



We pray for the sick of this parish

Paul Bradbury Maria Blanda, Max Hazmoth,  
Indu Vassallo, Kartia Grace Russell,  
Frank Trimboli, Gino Mifsud, Rina Favotto, Neang  
Nep, Eric Pasquetti, Emely Jade, Sandra Roy,  
Patricia Battistel, Ivy Fernandes, Maria Perre,  
Tania Perre, Alina Przewoznik,  
Philomena Greenwood, Ernesto DiDomizio,  
Stella Zappacosta, Antoinette Jansen.

Bless our sick today so that they may bear  
their illness in union with Jesus’ sufferings and  
restore them quickly to health


Please remember in your prayers

Gino Cesarone, Carmelina Calleja,  
Lucia Elda Bruzzano, Luciano Signor,  
Eva Di Federico, Rita Vanolini, Antonio Tionvinne,  
Filipo Leto, Antonio Zumbo,

Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur  
at this time :

Romana Patrona, Giancarlo Giorgi,  
Sebastiano Carnovale, Mary-Rose Pace.



PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office:  
6 Justin St, Smithfield  
Tuesday-Friday 10am - 2pm  
Phone: 9604 1199 Fax 9609 6585  
Email: [office@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:office@stgertrude.org.au)  
Website: [www.stgertrude.org.au](http://www.stgertrude.org.au)

Parish Council:  
Denise Namroud

Finance Committee:  
Jurgen Martin

Catechists: 9725 4317  
Mimi Romeo: [catechist@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:catechist@stgertrude.org.au)

Sacraments: 9725 4317 Helena Martin  
[sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au)  
Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation

Liturgy: 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert  
[liturgy@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:liturgy@stgertrude.org.au)

Adult Sacraments (RCIA) Mariola Herbert  
Every Sunday at 8.30am in the  
Crying Room (in front of St Benedict’s)  
Contact Mariola: 0421 944 051.

Children’s Liturgy  
Mariola Herbert

Reconciliation:  
Smithfield - Sat 4.45—5.45 pm  
(or by appointment)


Baptisms: Parish Office 9604 1199  
1<sup>st</sup> Sundays of the month during the  
10.30am Mass at St Benedict’s Church; &  
Every 3rd Sunday at 12noon St Benedict’s

Marriages: Parish Office 9604 1199  
By appointment only (6 months required)

Sick Calls: 9604 1199  
Any Time

*Novena to St Benedict*


Every Wednesday after the 7pm  
Mass with Rosary &  
Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament



Reconciliation is  
available during this time.  
*Everyone is encouraged to  
participate!*

Rosary for Vocation to  
Religious life and  
Priesthood.

After Mass on Thursdays  
at St Therese’s Church,  
Fairfield West



Church Cleaners  
Friday 15th December ~  
Grace’s Group

Parish Collections Week- Ending 03/12/2017  
**1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$1,525.55** goes to Fr. Jarek & Fr Wojtek as well as the upkeep of their Order of St Paul the First Hermit.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Envelopes and/or Credit Card payments: \$2, 074.50 and \$1,071.55 Loose Money.**  
*Thank you for your generous support & May God Bless you all!*



*New liturgical year begins:  
Sunday cycle B, weekday  
cycle 2*

ADVENT has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second coming at the end of the time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

**2018 PARISH FACILITY BOOKINGS**  
(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church & Hall)  
Attention ALL groups wanting to use the above facilities for 2018. Please book your dates and times, in writing, to the parish office at 6 Justin Street, Smithfield. Thank you.

**~ Attention all Acolytes, Altar Servers & Readers ~**  
Meeting in preparation for the Christmas Liturgies will be held on **Tuesday 19 December at 4.30pm– 5.15pm**

**Visitation of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima & Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Góra**  
For all families who accepted the commitment of visitation and prayer into their homes there will be a **Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday 10 December at the 10.30am Mass**

**Men's Rosary Group with Fr Wojtek**  
Meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm in the Montefano Hall

**Reconciliation before Christmas**  
St Benedict's Shrine, Smithfield  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Rite Tuesday 12 December 7.00 pm**  
*\* Confessionals at St Benedict's Church are completely separate from the Penitent.*



**Parish BBQ ~ Will resume in February 2018!**

## Christmas Mass Times



### St Benedict's Church

#### Christmas Eve 24 December

5pm Carols (Children)  
6pm Christmas Vigil  
11pm Carols

#### Christmas 25 December

Midnight Mass (12 am)  
8am (Italian)  
10.30am



#### Christmas Octave & Public Holidays

10.30am

### St Theresa's Church

#### Christmas 25 December

7.30am & 9am  
11am (Spanish)

#### Christmas Octave & Public Holidays

8am



Sunday the 24th of December and Monday the 25th of December are both holy days of obligation and Catholics are required to attend Mass on both days. The vigil Mass on the 24th of December is not a Sunday Mass, but the Christmas Vigil.

#### Sponsor of Liturgical Items

The parish is looking for sponsors for various liturgical items. Please see the back of the church for more information.

### Smithfield YOUTH MASS

Next Mass: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm  
Youth group meet 7 - 8 pm ~

Youth group meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month .  
Youth program 7pm -8pm followed by the youth group meeting in the Montefano Hall.  
All Youth Welcome!

❖ **THERE WILL BE NO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP IN JANUARY**  
**WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY 2018**

**Thank you to the Italian Catholic Federation for their generous donation to our parish of \$8,000.**

*With gratitude and thanks we accept this kind donation, and acknowledge the hard work of the Italian Catholic Federation Smithfield Inc. in their fundraising efforts throughout the year. Thank you!*

#### A Christmas Celebration 2017 – Friday 15 December

Celebrate the beauty and wonder of Christmas with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and the Orchestra of the Antipodes Including congregational carols and music to lift your spirits in the joy of the season! For tickets and more information please visit [www.achristmascelebration.com.au](http://www.achristmascelebration.com.au)

#### Christmas Remembrance Service – 17 December 2017 at 7:30pm

All are welcome to join in St Mary's Cathedral as we remember and pray for all those who have died and whose memory we cherish over the Christmas season.

#### Parish Website updated

We have recently upgraded the parish website [www.stgertrude.org.au](http://www.stgertrude.org.au) and started a Facebook page [www.facebook.com/stgertrudesparish](https://www.facebook.com/stgertrudesparish).



We will be posting news about what's happening at the Parish of St.Gertrude's on both website and facebook, please check it out!

#### Catholic Weekly

- Maronite runs for Bennelong
- Silent Night gets a new lease of life
- Help the Rohingya with Caritas
- Cathedral Christmas services
- New bishop for Wollongong
- Order of Malta share Lourdes blessings with the ill
- Fun with faith – Kids page – p30

#### LETTING GO

**Letting Go** does not mean to stop caring – it means not to take responsibility for someone else.

**Letting Go** is not to cut myself off from others – it's realizing I can't control others.

**Letting Go** is not to enable others – it's to allow learning from natural consequences.

**Letting Go** is to admit my own powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

**Letting Go** is not to try to change or blame others – but to make the most of myself.

**Letting Go** is not to care for – but to care about.

**Letting Go** is not to fix – but to be supportive.

**Letting Go** is not to be in the middle of arranging – but to be on the sidelines, cheering.

**Letting Go** is not to be protective – it is to permit another to face reality.

**Letting Go** is not to deny – but to accept.

**Letting Go** is not to nag, scold or argue – it is to search out my own shortcomings and correct them.

**Letting Go** is not to adjust everything to my desires – but to take each day as it comes, and cherish myself in it.

**Letting Go** is not to criticize and regulate others – but to be what I can become.

**Letting Go** is not to regret the past – but to grow and live for the future.

**Letting Go** is to fear less, and love more.

-Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport

**Integrity Funerals**  
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**Director**

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**‘Come and Sit with our Lord’ Christian Meditation**  
Every Monday and Tuesday at 8pm.  
Give 20 minutes of your busy day to Jesus and experience the difference in your life. Duration time is approximately 20minutes with an introduction lead in time of 15mins **held at John The Baptist Church chapel.** For information contact Frances 0438 213 313