

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING *Is 61:1-2. 10-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.’

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10*

**(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (R.)

3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. (R.)

SECOND READING *1 Thes 5:16-24*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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

Gospel Acclamation *Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Jn 1:6-8. 19-28*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked, ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not,’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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

Next Week : **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*Readings: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38*

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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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 17th December 2017



We welcome the following  
Koa Pace, Leonardo Vulesica, Brayden Kibby, Kane Formosa, Riley Huddleston  
Baptised in our Parish Community

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 :  
Frank Iacopetta, Rosaria Ienna, Maria Bongiorno, Luigia Ageti, Giuseppe Caparrotta, Elda Gasparin

PARISH INFORMATION

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

Parish Council:  
Denise Namroud

Finance Committee:  
Jurgen Mertin

Catechists: 9725 4317  
Mimi Romeo: catechist@stgertrude.org.au

Sacraments: 9725 4317 Helena Mertin  
sacraments@stgertrude.org.au  
Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation

Liturgy: 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert  
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

Tuesday 19th December ~ Neo Cats

**Parish Collections Week- Ending 10/12/2017**

**1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$1,018.65** 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: \$1,586.50 and \$781.70 Loose Money.**

*Thank you for your generous support & May God Bless you all!*

# Advent

☆☆☆☆☆



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.

**Christmas Carols with the Joyful Hearts**



Our Christmas Concert starts at 5pm on Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December in St Benedict's, Smithfield.  
Everyone Welcome!

**Donations at Crib**

Donations made at the crib will go towards the orphanage and community of Sr Anna Maria in Pakistan.

*Thank you for your support and offerings to help the poor during this Christmas Season!*



**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**

Wine Blessing Wednesday 27 December  
(Feast of the St John, Apostle Evangelist)

\* Parishioners are invited to bring a bottle(s) of wine to the 8am Mass at St Therese's or the 10.30am Mass at St Benedict's to have your wine blessed.

**Feasts**

Tuesday 26 December ~ of St Stephen, the first martyr  
Wednesday 27 December ~ St John, apostle, evangelist

**Solemnity**

Monday 1 January ~

MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD

Masses: 8am St Therese's Fairfield West

10.30am St Benedict's Smithfield

## 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.

**\* PUBLIC HOLIDAYS & 'OCTAVE SEASON' MASS TIMES**

26<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (Feast of St Stephen) to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 (inclusive)

St Therese's Church Fairfield West: 8am

St Benedict's Church Smithfield: 10.30am

**Please Note: Wednesday 27 December – NO EVENING MASS**  
Mass will be at 10.30am.

**Parish Office Holiday Hours**

The Parish Office will be closed from close of Business on Thursday 21 December and reopen on Wednesday 3rd January 2017.



**Sacraments**

The Sacramental Office will close for 2017 on the 19th December. It will reopen in February on Tuesday 6th February 2018.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. ***We wish you all a very safe, holy and joyous Christmas season!***

## Smithfield YOUTH MASS

Next Mass: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm

Youth Program on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month .  
7pm - 8pm in the Montefano Hall.  
All Youth Welcome!

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

**Thank you** for your response to sponsor Liturgical Items requested in last week's bulletin.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

### HELP URGENTLY NEEDED!!!!!!

We urgently need more church cleaners for 2018. on a roster one-day-a-month basis.  
If you are interested in putting a group together or just wish to help another group, then please contact the parish office.  
Men are also welcome to help!

### Australian Catholic Youth Festival

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival has been an outstanding success. There were more than 20,000 registrations and the young people participated with joy and enthusiasm in the prayers, workshops, plenaries and general activities. The Closing Mass was very well attended by festival participants and by parishioners of Sydney. It was a beautiful celebration with the Archbishop of Sydney, 29 Bishops of Australia, 200 priests and 15,000 in the congregation. The Festival was an extraordinary achievement for our Archdiocese and the support of the priests and parishioners is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who gave up their time on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to make it such a special event. Go to [www.xt3.com/live](http://www.xt3.com/live) and watch "on demand" the major events including the Closing Mass.

Thank you for your support!

### The Lights of Christmas – St Mary's Cathedral 6 – 25 December 2017 8.30pm-Midnight

*Celebrate the season at Sydney's most popular Christmas lights show.*

Join us at the annual *Lights of Christmas* at St Mary's Cathedral Square, in the heart of Sydney's CBD, for a spectacular free sound and light show every night from Wednesday 6 December until Christmas Night 2017. Choirs will sing Christmas carols from 7.30pm, and the new sound and light show celebrating the season of peace, joy and goodwill will illuminate the huge 75m façade of St Mary's Cathedral at 8.30pm and continue through until midnight.

This event continues to capture the imagination of adults and children alike and is now firmly Sydney's most popular Christmas lights show.

For more details: <http://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>

### 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!



*Integrity Funerals*

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Director

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