

23rd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

Is 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bound down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING

Jas 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Next Week: 24th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Is 50:5-9; James 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass ©997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

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

ST. GERTRUDE'S PARISH • SMITHFIELD



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; 12 noon (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

23rd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

9 September 2018



We welcome the following

William Almada , Isaac Almada, Isabella Rodrigues,
Armani Rhodes

Baptised in our Parish Community

We pray for the sick of this parish

Allanah Cassar Falappi, John Denniss,
Santa Carbone, Santina Ponili,
Kartia Grace Russell, Gino Mifsud, Rina Favotto,
Ivy Fernandes, Alina Przewoznik,
Philomena Greenwood,

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

Pasqualina Garzaniti, Dorde Miljus
Ludy Green, Francesco Cassarino, Robert D'Costa,
Giovanni Devile, Rocco Romeo

Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time :

Annunziata Verduci, Innocenzo Panebianco,
Filippo Leto, Antonia Tionville , Alfio Alfonso,
Grace Sammut, Antonia Vanolini

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
1st 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

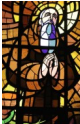
Reflection

Strangely, this week's gospel about the healing of a man who was deaf and dumb is less about healing than it is about Jesus being the Messiah. The theme is set up in the first reading when the prophet, Isaiah, describes the signs by which the coming of the Messiah will be recognised: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will leap; and the dumb will speak. When Jesus healed the man in the gospel story the crowd were admiring of what he had done. They even exclaimed, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.' These words are a direct echo of the Isaiah text - they were recognising Jesus as fulfilling the prophecies of the promised Messiah.

However, the passage also demonstrates to us that Jesus was trying to show the people that he was not exactly the Messiah that many of them were anticipating. This healing story takes place in the region of The Decapolis - south-east of the Galilee region and populated mostly by Gentiles. By travelling in this area and working miraculous healings, Jesus is making the point that his mission is to all people, not just 'the Chosen People' of Israel. He commands the crowd who witnessed the healing to tell no one about it but, filled with the idea that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for, they broadcast the news. Jesus wanted their silence because he knew that they did not fully understand the sort of Messiah that he was. Only when they understood that this Messiah must suffer and die would he have allowed them to speak of his deeds.

Novena to St Benedict

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



Church Cleaners

Monday 10th September—Jane's Group

Parish Collections Week- Ending 3/9/2018
1st Collection \$1,356.95 goes to Fr. Jarek & Fr Wojtek as well as the upkeep of their Order of St Paul the First Hermit.
2nd Collection: Envelopes and/or Credit Card payments: \$1,659.75 and \$968.60 Loose Money.
Thank you for your generous support & May God Bless you all!

Thursday 13 September ~ Memorial
St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor

Friday 14 September ~ Feast
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saturday 15 September ~ Memorial
Our Lady of Sorrows

PAULINE VOCATIONS RETREAT
This **September 28-30th** the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit will be holding a vocations retreat at their Monastery at Penrose Park. All young men looking to discern if they are called are invited to come. The event is open for men ages 18-35. Fr. Joseph Maria will be leading the retreat. It is important to RSVP to vocations@paulinefathers.org.au so we can organize rooms for everyone to stay in. For any questions please contact Fr. Joseph Maria at the given email.

Priests Retirement Foundation Pastoral Appeal
Thank you for your generous contribution last weekend.
A Total of \$1,786.85 was collected.

Br. Zachary Lewis ~ Solemn Profession of Vows
Will be held on **Saturday 6 October 11am at Penrose Park.**
Everyone Welcome!

54 Day Novena
St Gertrude's Parish will be participating in "World Rosary", on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary – October 7th. Our annual Rosary procession will take place after the Sunday 10:30 am Mass (instead of Saturday afternoon) to coincide with this special feast day. More information to come closer to the date.

For those interested, there is an OPTIONAL 54 Day Novena that started on August 15th with an emphasis in prayer and reparation for our world/nation, under the mantle of 'Holy League of Nations. For more information collect a flyer from the Church foyer or visit the website: <https://www.novenaforournation.com/54-day-novena/>

St Mary's Cathedral Parish, Sydney
Invites YOU to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary by joining the Dean to pray the HOLY ROSARY. The prayer intentions for the Holy Rosary will be Family, the Rekindling of Faith and the Sanctification of the Church and Clergy.
WHEN: Sunday 7 October, 2018
TIME: 2pm WHERE: St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney
Our prayers will be joined with the prayers of thousands around Australia and the World as part of the "OzRosary" and "Global Rosary" projects.

SACRAMENTAL OFFICE
Please be advised that the Sacramental Office is currently closed until mid-October.
For all enquiries please email sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or call 9725 4317 and leave a message. If you need to speak to Helena face-to-face, please email/call the Sacramental Office to make an appointment. Thank You.

PRAYER PARTNERS FOR 1st RECONCILIATION
Sacramental time is a special time of grace for all in our community.
This weekend, before or after the Masses, children preparing for 1st Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, will ask members of the community to be "Prayer Partners." Accepting an invitation to be a "Prayer Partner" involves taking the prayer card and praying for the candidate during the time leading up to their First Reconciliation. Their 1st Reconciliation will take place in November, during the week leading up to their First Holy Communion. Should you be invited to become a "Prayer Partner" please accept the candidate's invitation and reassure him/her of your support. If you do not receive a prayer card, please pray for all the children.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018 – IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Post-enrolment letters were emailed to families this week – please EMAIL the Sacrament Office if you have not received this letter.
- **PARENT ONLY INFORMATION MEETING: Wednesday 17th October, 7:30 pm, Montefano Hall**
- **SMALL GROUP SESSIONS BEGIN: Friday 19th October**
- **PARENT WORKSHOP: Tuesday 30th October, 7:30pm, Montefano Hall**
- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES: Saturday 24th November, 6 pm, and Sunday 25th November, 10:30 am.**

YOUTH GROUP ~ MUSIC REHEARSALS
Monday 10th September at 7.00pm Group 1
(Second Monday of the Month)

Monday 24th September at 7.00pm Group 2
(last Monday of the Month)

Altar Servers Meeting
Tuesday 11th September in St Benedict's Church
4:30pm to 5:15pm


 **Can you help our Parish Playgroup?**
Our Parish Playgroup Room is in desperate need of repair and refurbishment to replace flyscreens, carpet, equipment, storage, furniture, painting etc.
We need to raise \$3,000
Come, join us for a BBQ breakfast , tea/coffee & cakes at the
10:30 am Children's Mass on Sunday 23 September
Donations Welcome
Some small gifts will be available for purchase
God bless you for your generous support

Please help us help your children learn in a happy & healthy environment.

Parish BBQ ~ Saturday 13 October
In the Montefano after the 6pm Mass.
Everyone Welcome!

Pilgrimage to Penrose Park for Fatima Day
Saturday 13 October 2018. Cost per person is \$23.
For Bookings: Please contact the parish office 9604 1199
For further information see Notice Boards.

Giving Statements/Receipts available to pick up from St Benedict's Church Foyer.

Church Cleaners Needed!!!
This is a very important ministry as it benefits our entire faith community.

Can you spare an hour or two once a month on a roster basis to help clean St Benedict's Church? Church cleaners are generally scheduled once a month for a couple of hours. However, if you have some extra time to give, cleaners are always needed and are most welcome. Please contact the parish office for more information on 9604 1199 Tuesday to Friday 10am – 2pm. Thank you

FEDERAZIONE CATTOLICA ITALIANA
La FCI Annuncia le Attivita' del Mese di Settembre

- **TOMBOLA** Il primo e Terzo Venerdi' del Mese, Il 7 e 21 di Settembre. Con caffe' / Biscotti e Panini per Pranzo, nella sala di St Teresa Fairfield West dalle 10.00 am – 1.00 pm.
- **RIUNIONE** dei Membri Associati il 11 di Settembre 7.30 pm **Antonio {Tony} Coiera. 9757-1961 or 0409 908 424.**
Gina Morosin 9604 2458 or 0417 203 908 Cristo Regni.

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION [FCI]
Activities planned for Month of September

- **BINGO** every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. Held at St Teresa Church Hall Fairfield West from 10am - 1pm. Morning Tea & Lunch provided.
- **Members Reunion** will be held on the 11 September 7.30 pm. **Thankyou. Antonio (Tony) Coiera. 9757-1961 or 0409 908 424.** or **Gina Morosin** 02 9604 2458 GOD BLESS

Plenary Council 2020
This begins with open Listening and Dialogue. Your experience of faith and Church is vital to the preparation for the agenda of the Plenary Council. If you are interested in how you can start this conversation in your parish, school, local community or university, please speak with your Parish Priest or email plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org
Prayer Cards available at the Church Doors

PULPIT POINTS 9 SEPTEMBER 2018.

- *Remembering the forgotten*
- *Australia doing well fighting abuse - Vatican expert*
- *Blessing of the fleet looms*
- *The ice hockey-loving chief executive*
- *Movie review: Operation Finale*
- *New Carmel: One step closer*

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 ph 02 9390 5812.

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