

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
FIRST READING	<i>Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18</i>
<i>A reading from the book of Genesis</i>	
<p>God put Abraham to the test. ‘Abraham, Abraham,’ he called.’ Here I am’ he replied. ‘Take your son,’ God said ‘your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.’</p> <p>When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.</p> <p>But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he said. ‘I am here’ he replied. ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.’ Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.</p> <p>The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. ‘I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.’</p> <p>The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.</p>	
RESPONSORIAL PSALM	<i>Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9</i>
<p>(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.</p> <p>1. I trusted, even when I said: ‘I am sorely afflicted.’ O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. (R.)</p> <p>2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord’s name. (R.)</p> <p>3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)</p>	
SECOND READING	<i>Rom 8:31-34</i>

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could

anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	<i>See Mt 17:5</i>
<p>Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father’s voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!</p>	

GOSPEL *Mk 9:2-10*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark


Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Rabbi,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.




As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

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

Next Week : **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**
Readings: Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

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ST GERTRUDE’S PARISH	
<p>St Benedict’s Church Corner Justin & Neville Street SMITHFIELD</p> <p>Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil 6.00pm; 8.00am (Italian); 10.30am; 6.00pm.</p> <p>Weekday Masses: 9.15am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 7pm Wednesday Weekday Public Holidays: 10.30am</p> <p>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Adoration: <i>Wednesdays</i> after evening Mass with Novena to St Benedict till 7.30pm; <i>Saturdays</i> from 4.45pm—5.45pm; & <i>Fridays</i> after the 9.15am Mass</p> <p>First Friday of the Month: 7pm Mass & Adoration</p> <p>Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tuesdays after Mass</p>	<p>St Theresa’s Church Corner The Boulevarde & Stella Street FAIRFIELD WEST</p> <p>Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil 5pm (Vietnamese); 7.30am & 9.00am; 11am (Spanish); 5pm (Arabic)</p> <p>Weekday Masses: Mon - Fri 7.00am; Saturday 8am Weekday Public Holidays: 8.00am</p> <p>First Friday of the Month: from 6.30am</p> <p>First Saturday of the Month: 7am Rosary 8am Mass</p> <p>Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tuesdays after Mass</p>
	
<p>Parish Priest Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE</p> <p>Assistant Priest Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE</p>	

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	PARISH INFORMATION
<p>25 FEBRUARY 2018</p>  <p>We pray for the sick of this parish Fr Gabriel Taylor OSPPE, Fr Jose Maria Enedaguila, 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, I vy Fernandes, Maria Perre, Tania Perre, Alina Przewoznik, Philomena Greenwood, Ernesto DiDomizio, Stella Zappacosta, Antoinette Jansen.</p> <p>Bless our sick today so that they may bear their illness in union with Jesus’ sufferings and restore them quickly to health</p> <p>Please remember in your prayers Giovanni Mattiello, Mario Todaro, Annunziato Martino, Renato Almici, Gianni Caruso, Carmelo Cordina, Nicola Capolupo, Liliana Raisa, Recently Deceased</p> <p>And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time : Vincenza Zappala, Tommasina Zappala, Alfio Zappala, John Attard, Sara Barrios, Ettore Cavallaro, Mario Vaccari.</p> 	<p>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</p> <p>Parish Council: Denise Namroud</p> <p>Finance Committee: Jurgen Mertin</p> <p>Catechists: 9725 4317 Mimi Romeo: catechist@stgertrude.org.au</p> <p>Sacraments: 9725 4317 Helena Mertin sacraments@stgertrude.org.au Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation</p> <p>Liturgy: 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert liturgy@stgertrude.org.au</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Children’s Liturgy Mariola Herbert</p> <p>Reconciliation: Smithfield - Sat 4.45—5.45 pm (or by appointment)</p> <p>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</p> <p>Marriages: Parish Office 9604 1199 By appointment only (6 months required)</p> <p>Sick Calls: 9604 1199 Any Time</p>
<p>Novena to St Benedict Every Wednesday after the 7pm Mass with Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>  <p>Reconciliation is available during this time. <i>Everyone is encouraged to participate!</i></p>	
<p>THE SEASON OF LENT is the most appropriate time for celerating the SACRAMENT OF PENANCE. Already on Ash Wednesday the people of God has heard the solemn invitation, <i>Turn away from sin and believe the good news.</i> It is therefore fitting to have several penitential celebrations during Lent, so that all the faithful may have an opportunity to be reconciled with God and their neighbour and so be able to celebrate the paschal mystery in the Easter Triduum with renewed hearts. <i>RP13</i> The Sacrament of Penance is better celebrated before rather than during the Easter Triduum</p>	
<p>Church Cleaners Monday 26 February - Mary’s Group</p>	

Parish Collections Week- Ending 18/02/2018
1st Collection \$1,408.90 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: \$1,894.90 and \$986.55 Loose Money.
Thank you for your generous support & May God Bless you all!

LENT

Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive (29th March). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LENTEN PENANCE

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following.
 - (a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a Church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary.
 - (b) self denial – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday unless for a good reason, it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY ~ 10:30am Children's Mass with Blessing of School Bags.

Children (and their families) are warmly invited to attend Sunday Mass to have their school bags blessed as they begin the new school year.
 Followed by morning tea in the foyer. All welcome!

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING Tuesday 27 February 4.30 – 5.15pm St Benedict's Church

Attention: All Acolytes and Sacristans
 Meeting 1st March at 7pm
 St Benedict's Church

Smithfield **YOUTH** MASS

Next Mass: Sunday 4 March at 6pm

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

YOUTH PROGRAM: 18 March 2018

Next Parish BBQ: 10 March 2018. Everyone Welcome!

TAN DO AND ROBERT MICALLEF HAVE COMPLETED THE PROGRAMME OF FORMATION AND LITURGICAL TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE LITURGY OFFICE OF THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY AND WILL BE INSTITUTED AS ACOLYTES AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL SYDNEY ON SUNDAY 25TH FEB AT THE 10.30AM MASS

WORKING BEE OFFER IT UP FOR LENT?

SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2018 AT FAIRFIELD WEST &
 SATURDAY 17 MARCH AT SMITHFIELD
 START TIMES: 9AM



CHOIR REHEARSALS: Parishioners are invited to rehearse with the choir in preparation for the Holy Week Liturgy. We will rehearse on Monday at 7.30pm. Please email liturgy@stgertrude.org.au if you are interested or speak to any of the cantors or musicians at Mass.

CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered in our parish during Mass on **Sunday 17th June at 2 pm & 4 pm.**

Children in Year 6 to Year 12 who have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are eligible to enrol in the Confirmation Program.

Enrolments will be accepted when parents and children participate in the enrolment ceremony during the Vigil and Sunday Masses on the weekends of **24/25 February or 3/4 March**. Relevant information and enrolment forms will be distributed through the schools, on the Parish website and will be available at the entrances to the church next week. Enquiries Helena 9725 4317 (Tuesday or Friday) or email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St Benedict's Church: Every Friday at 7pm

❖ *On the First Friday (2nd March) Mass & Adoration will follow the Stations of the Cross.*

St Therese's Church: Every Friday after the 7am Mass; & 7pm (Italian)

LENTEN GROUPS SURRENDER

Lenten Program and Daily Lent and Easter Reflections 2018 (Year B).

~ EVERY THURSDAY ~

After the 9:15am Mass & 7pm in the Parish Office

PROJECT COMPASSION

Rattanak in Cambodia contracted polio as a child and also became deaf. The Deaf Development Program, supported by Caritas Australia, helped him become a barber and he is now supporting himself, his wife and baby.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help deaf youth in Cambodia to build a just future, and live in communities that uphold everyone's dignity.

The family is the greatest treasure of any country. Let us all work to protect and strengthen this, the cornerstone of society.

(Pope Francis)

St Gertrude's Parish Fund Envelopes

New sets of envelopes are available to pick up from ST THERESE'S CHURCH, Fairfield Heights this weekend.
 New envelope numbers were allocated to givers using envelopes between # 270 and 300.
 A letter advising you of your new number was sent.
A list of old and new numbers will also be available for your convenience.

YOUTH GROUP ~ MUSIC REHEARSALS

Monday 26th February at 7.30pm Group 2

(last Monday of the Month):

Patricia, Thien, Mark, Maya, & Miranda

Monday 12th March at 7.30pm Group 1

(Second Monday of the Month):

Haylee, Alex, Patricia, Samantha, Esther & Alister

Spanish Community Chaplain

As Fr Jose Maria is now in retirement; Fr Tomas Ruis will now be the new Spanish Chaplain for our Community and will begin celebrating Mass on 4 March 2018 at St Therese's Church Fairfield West. **Please note that Mass will now change from 11am to 12noon from this date. We warmly welcome Fr Tomas to our community.**

- Anyone wishing to visit Fr Jose Maria, he now resides at the Residential Gardens for the Spanish Speaking Frail Aged 420 Woodstock Ave, Rooty Hill.

Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors ~ Tues 27 Feb 10am M/Tea followed by Community Education Presentation about Wills, Power of Attorneys & Enduring Guardianship". Members & Visitors welcome to attend. Please contact: Marisa Previtera on 0414 863 123 for more information. This is a Welfare Service of the MCC.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019 INFORMATION NIGHTS

Interested in coming to WYD 2019 in Panama as a pilgrim? The Archdiocese of Sydney is offering a 'fear of missing out' experience leading to WYD Panama for young adults aged 18-35. Join us at your local WYD Information night! Your opportunity to learn about the pilgrimage being offered, costs, what to expect in Panama, how to register and get prepared in this pilgrimage of a lifetime!

World Youth Day information nights:

Tuesday, February 27 2018. 6:30pm – 8.00pm
Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield.

Wednesday, February 28 2018. 6:30pm – 8.00pm

Venue: St. Paul of the Cross, Dulwich Hill

Date: Friday, March 2 2018. 6:30pm – 8.00pm

Venue: Holy Spirit Catholic Church, North Ryde

Register your interest to receive all the updates regarding WYD19: <https://www.wydpanama2019.com.au/registration>

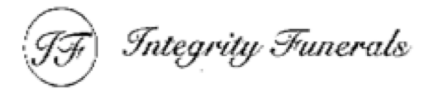
INVITATION TO CLERGY, RELIGIOUS AND PARISHIONERS

Clergy, religious and parishioners are invited to join Archbishop Anthony Fisher, OP and his auxiliary bishops in their **Prayers of Forgiveness and Reparation** for all people who have been affected, directly or indirectly, by abuse within the Church. Survivors of abuse who feel able to attend this liturgy are warmly welcome.

The prayers, centered around the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, will be in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney at 6.30 pm on Friday March 2nd, which is an **Ember Day** of prayer and fasting throughout Australia.

Now Enrolling for 2019 & 2020
PATRICIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE FAIRFIELD ~ OPEN DAY
Sunday 11 March 2018 10am – 2pm
 T 9728 4488 E info@pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au
 W www.pbcfairfieldcatholic.edu.au

MARY MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE ~ OPEN EVENING
Wednesday 21 March 2018 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm
 T 9725 4322 W www.mmcwakeley.catholic.edu.au



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