

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READINGZep 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALMIs 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) **Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (R.)

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

SECOND READINGPhil 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONIs 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 Lk 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, ‘What must we do?’ he answered, ‘If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.’ There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, ‘Master, what must we do?’ He said to them, ‘Exact no more than your rate.’ Some soldiers asked him in their turn, ‘What about us? What must we do?’ He said to them, ‘No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!’

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’ As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

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

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Next Week: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings: Micah 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-44

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 until 8.30pm; 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 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



Parish Priest


Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

Assistant Priest

Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT

16th December, 2018



We welcome the following

Victoria Tanceuska, Armani Rhodes

Baptised in our Parish Community

We pray for the sick of this parish

John Denniss, 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

Mario Micallef, Zofia Jarzyna, Betty Stepkovitch,
Antonio Mammone, Carmela Stivala, Vita Blanda,
Achille (Frank) Pavone,
Giuseppe Brunetta, Pasquale Berardinelli,
Domenic Lagudi, Allanah Cassar Falappi,
Immacolata Carioti

Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time :

Carmelo Cordina, Liliana Raisa

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:

Tan Do

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

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!

Have you thought?
A change of heart

The baptism that John preached and practised was a baptism of repentance. What he called on people to do was to recognise the areas of their lives that were unbalancing their relationship with God. There was a strong recognition that unless they were in right relationship with one another they could not be in right relationship with God. In recognising the need for change in their lives, John challenged them to also make a change of heart: to approach their lives differently. This is why they were questioning him about practical ways of living out their new commitment.

Church Cleaners

Week ending 22nd December - ~ Group B

Weekend Parish Collections Week- Ending 09/12/2018
1st Collection \$1,445.10 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: \$1618.00 and \$1261.60 Loose Money.
Thank you for your generous support & May God Bless you all!

Advent



New liturgical year begins: Sunday cycle C, weekday cycle 1

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.

The Christmas Novena begins on 17 December. At This point, the Advent focus shifts to the Christmas story and the Virgin Mary. These days serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's Birth. This is the best time to hold carols services and to begin to sing Christmas carols in the liturgy.

Christmas Mass Times



St Benedict's Church

Christmas Eve 24 December

5pm Carols (Children)
 6pm Christmas Vigil (Children/Family)
 11.00pm Carols

Christmas 25 December

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



Christmas Octave & Public Holidays

10.30am

St Therese's Church

Christmas 25 December

7.30am & 9am
 11am (Spanish); 6pm (Syriac)

Christmas Octave & Public Holidays

8am



Parish Office Holiday Hours
 The Parish office will be closed from **Monday 24th December** and will re-open on **Monday 7th January.**
We wish you all a Holy and Joyous Christmas And a safe and happy New Year!
Linda, Suzanne & Karen.

SACRAMENT NEWS!

Thank you so much to the dedicated group facilitators who generously donated their time during 2018 to help the parents prepare their children for the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Your support is greatly appreciated.

HOLY COMMUNION PHOTO COLLECTION EVENING: Holy Communion Photos can be collected from the Montefano Hall on Friday 7th December from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. **ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT MARIA FROM TRACES OF TIME - 0407 662 535**

FIRST RECONCILIATION / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENTS 2019: Enrolments are now complete. The Parent Information Evening will be held on: **Wednesday 13th March 2019.**

SACRAMENTAL OFFICE: Please be advised the **Sacramental Office is now closed. It will re-open in February 2019.** For all enquiries please email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or call 9725 4317 and leave a message. If you wish to see Helena face-to-face, please email/call the Sacramental Office to make an appointment. Thank You.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sunday 16th December ~ Starting at 3pm.
 Children and parents are warmly invited to celebrate together.

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Youth group meetings and music rehearsals will re-commence in February.

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A big **Thank You** to our Youth Leaders for their continued help and guidance throughout the year.

~ Attention all Altar Servers, Acolytes & Readers ~

In preparation for the Christmas Liturgies will **Altar Servers** please meet on **Tuesday 18th December** at **4.30pm - 5.15pm** and **Acolytes and Readers** will meet at **5.30pm – 6pm.**

Holy Family Sunday

Couples who celebrated their Jubilee Anniversary this year (i.e. 1st, 10th, 40th, 50th etc) are invited to celebrate and renew their vows at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 30th December ~ St Benedict's Church.

Donations at the Crib

Donations at the crib this year will go to Catholic Mission. *A core part of the work of Catholic Mission is the development and sustenance of children in some of the poorest communities around the world.*

Unfortunately, we are unable to send money as a parish to Sr Anna Maria any more due to the difficulties of transferring this money to Pakistan. We thank you kindly for your very generous support to Sr Anna over the years.

2019 PARISH FACILITY BOOKINGS

(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church & Hall)
 Attention ALL groups wanting to use the above facilities for 2019, please book your dates and times, in writing, to the parish office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Working Bee Thank You

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to help with the working bee last weekend and the week before in our parish. Your help in preparing the Church look beautiful for Christmas is very much appreciated.

House for Rent

The property next to the Church Carpark on Neville Street, will be available for rent in 2019. Please direct any interest to the parish office.

St Gertrude's Parish Playgroup

When: Thursday (during school term)
 Time: 10 am - 12 pm
 Where: Demountable behind the hall on the paddock.
 Contact: playgroup@stgertrude.org.au

End of Year School Holidays



We would like to wish all teachers and students finishing for the school year, a Blessed Christmas and New Year, and a safe and enjoyable school holidays with their families.

We thank the teachers for their support during the year and look forward to working together in 2019.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office, in conjunction with the Parish Support and Development Team, has identified the following require a Working with Children Check (WWCC): Youth ministers, children's liturgy, children's choir, Catechists, Sacramental group leaders, readers, acolytes, senior altar servers, extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion, Parish counters & **collectors** and ministers to the homebound. **Please note that some ministries that did not previously require a WWCC, now need one, please visit the RMS before the end of November to obtain a WWCC, otherwise you will need to cease your ministry until this requirement is met.**

Volunteers who have not yet completed a Code of Conduct please visit the Parish ASAP.

If you have not attended Safeguarding induction training, please speak to Maria or Helena to arrange a time – safeguarding induction training is mandatory for all volunteers. The training can also be completed online, please contact us to ask us how!

All volunteers – please check the expiration date of your WWCC. If it is due for renewal please visit the RMS. Once renewed please notify the Parish Office.

Thank you for your continued co-operation to ensure our Parish meets Safeguarding requirements. For more information, please contact the Parish Office or email pssso@stgertrude.org.au

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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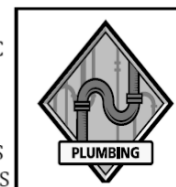
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