

The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	
<b>FIRST READING</b>	<i>Sir 3:2-6. 12-14</i>
<i>A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus</i>	
<p>The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.</p> <p>Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.</p> <p>My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.</p> <p>Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.</p>	
<p>The word of the Lord.</p> <p><b>All: Thanks be to God.</b></p>	
<b>RESPONSORIAL PSALM</b>	<i>Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1</i>
<b>(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.</b>	
<p>1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)</p> <p>2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)</p> <p>3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life. (R.)</p>	
<b>SECOND READING</b>	<i>Col 3:12-21</i>
<i>A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians</i>	
<p>You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.</p>	
<p>Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.</p> <p>The word of the Lord.</p> <p><b>All: Thanks be to God.</b></p>	
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</b>	<i>Acts 16:14</i>
<p><i>Alleluia, alleluia!</i> Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. <i>Alleluia!</i></p>	
<b>GOSPEL</b>	<i>Lk 2:41-52</i>
<i>A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke</i>	
<p>Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.</p> <p>Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.</p> <p>He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.</p>	
<p>The Gospel of the Lord</p> <p><b>All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ</b></p>	
<p><b>Next Week: The EPIPHANY of the LORD</b> <b>Readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12</b></p>	

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

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
Open our heart, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
*Alleluia!*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

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

**Next Week: The EPIPHANY of the LORD**  
*Readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12*

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Week ending 29th December -  
Group C: Warren Wilson & Family



#### Weekend Parish Collections

If there are people wishing to give to the parish through the envelope system, envelopes are available through the parish office.

Forms are available from the parish office when the office reopens Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

## The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Couples who celebrated their Wedding Anniversary this year are invited to celebrate and renew their vows at the 10:30am Mass on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December ~ St Benedict's Church**

*Lord, help us to be thankful for one another. Help my children to be thankful for each other, for our family to be grateful for each member and to pray for one another continually. Our gratitude for one another will bind us together as a family, and our prayers for each other will further unify us in gratitude and love.*

## Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January ~ Solemnity ~ MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD ~



It is fitting that on New Year's Day we celebrate the calendar-shattering event in human history: the extraordinary role that a young woman in Galilee played in God's plan for the human race.

In the Western Church, the young woman is titled 'Mother of God'. This signifies a relationship, a loving, nurturing relationship. We know that it encompassed a mother's horror of seeing her son tortured and done to death on the Cross.

Yes, she was a mother, but Mother of God.

How can this be portrayed for our minds to grasp? In the Book of Genesis, the creative act which began all reckoning of the passage of time and seasons was signalled by the Divine Wind hovering over the formless void.

When that Holy Gust hovered over Mary, and she responded: 'Be it done unto me according to thy Word', the human existence of Our Lord Jesus Christ began, the fulcrum of history from which our calendar begins.

We could pause for a moment to pray that at the end of all history, at the end of all calendars, we may share in Divine life with Mary of Galilee, Mother of God.



Wishing you, your family and friends many Blessings and peace in the new year. We hope 2019 brings you much love, happiness and good health.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAY MASS TIMES

1st January 2019

St Therese's Church Fairfield West: 8am

St Benedict's Church Smithfield: 10:30am

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January ~ Solemnity

~ The EPIPHANY of the LORD ~

### Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish office is closed and will re-open on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January.**

### Christmas Offering Envelopes

Money given will go to our priests, Fr Jarek and Fr Wojtek. Thank you for your kindness.

### 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 PHOTOS PLEASE CONTACT HELENA IN THE SACRAMENTAL OFFICE AT THE EMAIL BELOW:**

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

### 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.

### YOUTH MASS & YOUTH GROUP

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

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

### ~ Altar Servers~

No Altar Servers meeting throughout the school holidays

### 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

Playgroup is closed during the school holidays and will re-open when the new school term begins

Contact: [playgroup@stgertrude.org](mailto:playgroup@stgertrude.org).

### 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](mailto:pssso@stgertrude.org.au)

*"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature – trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls." – Mother Teresa*

### 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.



**Mark Malone J.P.**  
Director

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