

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 7th January.

The EPIPHANY of the LORD Sunday 6th January



The Epiphany of Our Lord is the Christian feast observed on Jan. 6, 2019. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphaino*, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

The visit of the Magi is emphasized on Epiphany Day, and Christ's baptism is celebrated the first Sunday that follows.

Blessing of Chalk

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, *Theophany*, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual — adapted for 2019 — is simple: take chalk of any colour and write the following above the entrance of your home: **20 + C + M + B + 19.**

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "19" at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

Novena

9 day Novena to St Paul the First Hermit starts today, the 6th January.
Litany will be said after each weekday Mass during this time. Everyone welcome

Visitation

The Pauline Fathers will have a visitation from their Fr General from the 11th January.

Parish Office

The Parish office will re-open on **Monday 7th January.**

St Gertrude's Parish Fund

New sets of envelopes will be available to pick up at the end of February.

Please contact the parish office on 9604 1199 if there are any changes to be made to your envelopes, (contact details etc) **prior to distribution**

Anyone wishing to use envelopes for St Gertrude's Parish Fund can please complete the following form and return to the parish office as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support!



REQUEST FOR ENVELOPE FORM

Please complete this form and place it in the collection plate or post to

St Gertrude's Parish, 6 Justin Street, Smithfield.

Yes, I would like a set of weekly envelopes

SURNAME

FIRST NAME

CONTACT NO

ADDRESS:

SUBURB: POST CODE:

PLEDGE AMOUNT: \$..... ☐ WEEKLY / ☐ MONTHLY

* I UNDERSTAND THAT MY CONTRIBUTIONS WILL GO TOWARDS THE UPKEEP OF THE CHURCH AND ITS WORKS AND IS **NOT** A TAX DEDUCTION.

SIGNATURE:

office use only

ENVELOPE NO

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.

SACRAMENT NEWS!

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 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.

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

psso@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.



Mark Malone J.P.
Director

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