

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING Is 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they
will say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R)

2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R)

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' (R)

4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R)

SECOND READING Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Next Week: Second Sunday of Advent
Readings: Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

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.

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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. GERTRUDE'S PARISH • SMITHFIELD

Parish Priest
Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

Assistant Priests
Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE &
Fr Peter James Strohmayer 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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1 December, 2019

We welcome the following
Connor Kohutek
Baptised in our Parish Community

We pray for the sick of this parish
Fr Anthony David OSPPE,
Kevin Dicconson, Adam Westwood, Emile & Mary Kodsy, Kartia Grace Russell, Gino Mifsud & Ivy Fernandes.
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
Lucia (Lucy) Branca, Vincenzo Bruno, Santina Pomili, Rosario Violi Maria Szady, Gaetana Catania, Eliba Morelli, Gloria O'Brien, Giuseppa Garozzo, Grace Saliba, Nancy Maklourf

Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time :
Mario Micallef, Alberto Magri, Agnese Baratto

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

Pope's Intention: DECEMBER
The Future of the Very Young
That every country take the
measures necessary to prioritize
the future of the very young,
especially those who are
suffering.

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!

gospel focus
Get Ready!
Jesus draws a parallel between the people in Noah's time and the people of his own time. What it reflects is a complacency that periodically overtook the Jewish people. When the people bound themselves to God in covenant their lives gradually became better. Inevitably, their lives improved to such a state that they forgot God was responsible for their blessings. They ignored their relationship with God and became complacent about their good fortune. Ultimately, their comfort was brought to an end and they recognised once again their need for God. Jesus calls the people to get ready because the pattern is repeating itself.

Church Cleaners
Weekending 7 December
Group B—PPC/Teachers

Weekend Parish Collections Week- Ending 24/11/2019

1st Collection goes to Fr. Jarek, Fr Wojtek & Fr Peter James as well as the upkeep of their Order of St Paul the First Hermit \$1,443.00

2nd Collection Envelopes and/or Credit Card payments: \$2,089.30

Loose Money: \$905.05

Thank you for your generous support & May God Bless you all!

Advent

☆☆☆☆☆☆



*New liturgical year begins:
Sunday cycle A, weekday cycle 2*

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 time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

THE ADVENT WREATH

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS:

Congratulations Antonio on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend. We pray that you will continue your faith journey through life with heightened awareness of the power of the Holy Spirit within you. Thank you to all involved who helped make it a special occasion.

For all enquiries regarding the 2020 Sacramental Program, please contact the Sacramental Office on 9725 4317 (Tues/Wed) or email sacraments@stgertrude.org.au.

MEMORIAL

Tuesday 3 December ~ St Franxis Xavier, priest
Saturday 7 December ~ St Ambrose, bishop, doctor

SOLEMNITY

Monday 9th December ~ The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Parish Working Bee ~ Thank you to all who attended and worked to make our Churches clean and ready for Christmas! *Many hands make light work!!*

Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas

St Benedict's: Wednesday 18 December ~ 7pm Mass, Exposition, Shortened Novena & Confessions (1st Rite)

Parish Volunteers Thanksgiving Celebrations on Wednesday 4 December 2019.



In appreciation for all the dedication and contributions to our Parish of St Gertrude's, all Parish Volunteers are invited to attend Thanksgiving Mass
7:00 pm on Wednesday 4 December 2019
followed by celebrations in the Montefano Hall

For catering purposes please RSVP by 30 November by placing your name on the RSVP Sheet located in the Church foyer.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – NOTICE

Thank you to all Parishioners who nominated new members for the NEW Parish Pastoral Council.

Three (3) new nominations and three (3) nominations for existing PPC members were received resulting in insufficient nominations to hold an election this year to meet the requirements of the PPC Constitution.

Parish Pastoral Council will continue with its current Committee Members leading into 2020.

If you would like more information about PPC Purpose and Role in our Parish please speak with Fr Jarek or Denise Namroud.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hampers

Listed below are the items that our parishioners have been asked to donate towards the 2019 *St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hampers*. This is a joint venture with our St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School and being co-ordinated by our Family Educator, Mrs Alida Bila. Donations can be left at the Parish Office:

Jar of cream cheese long life, packets of macaroni, instant mashed potatoes, Pancake mix, Jar of pasta sauce, toilet paper, 2Lt custard long life, tins of fruit beetroot, etc. *Thank you for your generous donations so far!!*

Altar Servers Meeting

Next meeting Tuesday 3 December 4:30 - 5.15pm

~ Wedding Anniversary Blessing ~

Sunday 8 December ~ at the 10:30am Mass

All Married couples celebrating a Wedding Anniversary during the month of October are invited to attend and receive a Blessing.

YOUTH GROUP ~ MUSIC REHEARSALS

Monday 9 December at 7.30pm Group 1

(Second Monday of the Month)

There will be NO Rehearsals during January!

Widows & Widowers GROUP MEETING ~ F/ WEST CHURCH & HALL

Friday 13th December

10:00am: Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Church

10:30am: Coffee, tea, a chat and line dancing for beginners in the hall

Parish Youth Group Christmas Party

Sunday 15 December at 3pm in Montefano Hall



Safeguarding

The **Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney** have introduced new requirements for volunteers 18yrs and over. All volunteers must sign a **Volunteer Acceptance Form**, a **Code of Conduct for Working with Children** and complete a **Safeguarding Induction Training Course**. The **ONLINE Induction Training Course** is available to new parish volunteers. Please register by following this link:-

<https://goo.gl/forms/wSkRi3ZO6PzkRfbo1>.

Additionally, some new volunteers are also required to attend an interview. These include * Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Children's Liturgy, Catechists, Collectors, Acolytes etc.

Thank your for your co-operation. Any concerns please contact psso@stgertrude.org.au. or the Parish Office office@stgertrude.org.au

Thank You!

Thank you to the Italian Catholic Federation (FCI) for their generous donation of \$8000 towards our parish. This money was raised from the many fundraising activities they have held throughout the year! Thanks also to the parishioners for supporting the FCI in their charitable mission.

LA FEDERAZIONE CATTOLICA ITALIANA S/Field Annuncia Le Attivita' Del Mese di Dicembre

***TOMBOLA (BINGO)**

*Il 6 Dicembre Sara' l'ultima Tombola Per L' Anno 2019 .
Grazie a tutti I partecipanti nel 2019.*

***Pranzo di NATALE Venerdi' il 13 di Dicembre 12pm to 5pm
Nella sala di Montefano Smithfield**

Prezzo \$30. A persona. Pranzo 3 pietanze ,musica con **JOE ZAPPIA**

****AUGURO A TUTTI UN BUON NATALE E FELICE ANNO NUOVO****

Molto Grazie. Tony Coiera. 9757-1961 or 0409 908 424

Gina Morosin 9604 2458 or 0417 203 908

Annual Lourdes Day Mass 7 December 2019

The Annual Lourdes Day Mass of the Order of Malta will be celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Fisher and the Chaplains of the Order on Saturday 7 December at 10am in St Mary's Cathedral.

This is a very special event in our calendar, to offer Charism to the sick, the elderly and frail. There will be a Blessing from the Archbishop and Chaplains, and vials of Lourdes water will be distributed.

A reserved area for those in wheelchairs or needing assistance is set aside and access to the Cathedral for wheelchairs is from St. Mary's Rd. Family and friends are welcome.

Parking for the general congregation is in the Enacon Car Park adjacent, at the end of Cathedral St. For any enquiries or should you need assistance please contact the Order at: info@smom.org.au; macolmi@bigpond.net.au or phone 9331 8477.

Lights of Christmas Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral with a special Opening Night Concert featuring Friar Alessandro, the Voice from Assisi, and internationally acclaimed Australian pianist Vivian Choi.

A wonderful free community event starting Thursday, 5 December with the Opening Night Concert from 7.30pm. A Sydney tradition, the Lights of Christmas runs every night until Christmas featuring a range of choirs.

Be an angel this Christmas: buy a Global Gift.
Order online at www.gl:obalgifts.org.au Caritas Australia
End poverty Promote justice Uphold dignity

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



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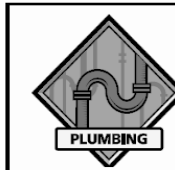
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