

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
ENTRANCE ANTIPHON	<i>Cf. Is 30:19,30</i>
<i>O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.</i>	
FIRST READING	<i>Is 11:1-10</i>
<i>A reading from the prophet Isaiah</i>	
A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.	
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.	
The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.	
That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.	
The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.	
RESPONSORIAL PSALM	<i>Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7</i>
(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.	
1.	O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2.	In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
3.	For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4.	May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. (R.)
SECOND READING	<i>Rom 15:4-9</i>
<i>A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans</i>	

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	<i>Lk 3:4. 6</i>
<i>Alleluia, alleluia!</i> Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. <i>Alleluia!</i>	

GOSPEL	<i>Mt 3:1-12</i>
<i>A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew</i>	

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON	<i>Bar 5:5; 4:36</i>
<i>Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.</i>	

Next Week: Third Sunday of Advent
Readings: Is 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

© 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.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

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



Parish Priest
Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

Assistant Priests
Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE &
Fr Peter James Strohmayer OSPPE

St Theresa's Church

Corner The Boulevarde & 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8 December, 2019



Congratulations to
Daniel Righetto & Heidi Mallia

Married in our Parish
May God confirm them in their love.

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)

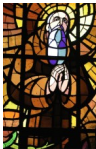
Baptisms: Parish Office 9604 1199
1st Sundays of the month during the 10.30am Mass at St Benedict's Church; & Every 3rd Sunday at 12noon St Benedict's

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

Out of the wilderness

The wilderness holds a special place in scripture. Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. When Moses led the people from Egypt they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This was a time of renewing themselves after their time in Egypt and rediscovering their covenant with God. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness.

Church Cleaners
Weekending 14 December
Group C—Warren Wilson & Family

Weekend Parish Collections Week- Ending 01/12/2019

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 \$1,575.55

2nd Collection Envelopes and/or Credit Card payments: \$1,798.00

Loose Money: \$1,035.50

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.

~ Wedding Anniversary Blessing ~

Sunday 8 December ~ at the 10:30am Mass

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

SOLEMNITY

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

Thank You!

* 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!!*

* We wish to sincerely thank Tony & Margaret Culjak for donating the advent stand at Fairfield West. Tony did a wonderful job of crafting this stand to match the stand at Smithfield.

* St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hampers
The Hampers have now been delivered - thank you so much for your kindness and generosity to those in need this Christmas. May God Bless you all!

SACRAMENTAL NEWS:

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

Christmas Mass Times



St Benedict's Church

Wednesday 18 December 7pm

Reconciliation - 1st Rite
(after Mass & Exposition & Shortened Novena)

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
NO EVENING MASS



St Therese's Church

Christmas Eve 24 December

9.30pm Spanish

Christmas 25 December

7.30am, 9am,
11am (Vietnamese), 6pm (Syriac)

Christmas Octave 26 December 2019 to

1st January 2020

10:30am St Benedict
8:00am St Therese

PARISH OFFICE ~ HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 24 December 2019 and will reopen on Tuesday 7 January.

Parish Youth Group Christmas Party

Sunday 15 December at 3pm in Montefano Hall

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. GNLYC42

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

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

Altar Servers Meeting ~ 4.30 to 5.15pm

Tuesday 17 December

There will be no Meetings during the School holidays.

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.

2020 Parish Facility Bookings

(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church & Hall)

Would all groups wanting to use the facilities at our parish, please book your dates and times in writing /email with the parish office as soon as possible. office@stgertrude.org.au
Thank you.

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

Calling All Catechists – Children's Liturgy, Sacramental Preparation, Public School Catechists

You are invited to 'come and see' and experience the pilgrimage of a lifetime to where Jesus walked. "To be there! To experience the Garden of Gethsemane, the place of the Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee – Scriptures come alive and you will never be the same again!" Very Rev Michael McLean, Episcopal Vicar for Education (Schs), Leader of the Archdiocese's CCD Parish Catechist Support team's Jubilee Pilgrimage. Departs 16 May 2020, 10 Nights/13 Days in the Holy Land with Optional Rome Extension (5 Nights). Book now 1800 819

156 www.harvestjourneys.com/PV3120 DEPOSIT due 20 Dec 2019. "Next year, Jerusalem!"

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.



Integrity Funerals

Mark Malone J.P.

Director

67B Brenan Street, Smithfield

Ph: (02) 9727 0400 Fax: (02) 9727 0800

www.integrityfuneralsnsw.com.au

Serving our community for almost 30 years with dignity and compassion

Adriano Coluccio
Managing Director
0414 524 860

Giovanni Rosati
Arranger/Conductor
0420 905 092

Professional, Experienced & Compassionate Funeral Directors

Office: (02) 9604 9604

Always With You

NEED A PLUMBER
PROFESSIONAL PLUMBING

GAS AND ELECTRIC
LEAKING TAPS
NEW GAS SERVICE
BLOCKED DRAINS
SEWER RENEWALS
CLEANING GUTTERS
RAINWATER TANKS (35 YEARS EXPERIENCE)

HOT WATER HEATERS
LEAKING TOILETS
& REPAIRS - GAS LEAKS
BURST PIPES
GUTTERING
ROOF VENTILATION
WATER SAVING DEVICES

E. MAGRI PLUMBING SERVICES P/L
STEPHEN MAGRI 0412 926 185 9625 3353 MALTESE SPOKEN
Lic- No L 11703 ABN 83 111 970 024 e.magriplumbing@bigpond.com **Free Quotes**

TRAZTAND Pty.Ltd
WESTFIELD
AUTO BODY REPAIRS
ABN 65 002 201 961 - Lic. MVRL45341
www.westfieldsmash.com.au
FRANK SPAGNOLO
Managing Director

20 - 22 Tangerine Street
Fairfield East NSW 2165
P.O. Box 206 Villawood, NSW 2163
Email: frank@westfieldsmash.com.au

Ph: (02) 9726 8866
Fax: (02) 9726 2381
Mob: 0412 305 506
24 Hr Towing **9757 2666**

*The Parish does not imply any endorsement
for advertisements listed in this bulletin*