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A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

"A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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."

Advertising Space Available - Beginning New Financial Year

Quarterly (No Easter Ads): \$330
Half Year (26 Weeks - No Easter Ads): \$550
Annually (No Easter Ads): \$990

- 10% discount for parishioners who are actively donating via the St Gertrude's Fund.

Contact Parish Office - 9604 1199
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10 am—2 pm



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Click on the link for our Expression of Interest form

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ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

St Benedict's Shrine

Corner Justin & Neville Street
SMITHFIELD

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm;
9am (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:
9.15 am followed by Devotions
7pm Mass & Adoration followed by Devotions

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tuesdays after Mass & Fridays after 9.15am Mass with Exposition.



Parish Priest
Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

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

St Therese's Church

Corner The Boulevard & Stella Street
FAIRFIELD WEST

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil 5pm (Vietnamese);
7:30am (English); 12 noon (Spanish); 6pm (Syriac)

Weekday Masses:
Mon - Fri 7.00am; Saturday 8am
Weekday Public Holidays: 8.00am

First Friday of the Month:
6.30am Exposition & Confession; 7am Mass

First Saturday of the Month:
7am Rosary 8am Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:
Tuesdays after Mass

Third Sunday of Advent

12 December 2021



Congratulations to

Michael LOMBARDO & Anne-Marie LIGATO

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

We pray for the sick of this parish

Alyssa Ferreri,
Fr Gabriel Taylor OSPPE, David Lazarus,
Giuseppina Pignataro, 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

Remember in your prayers

Josephine Goddard, John Gissane,
Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time

Therese Nguyen Do, Constantino Axiak, Josephine Cachia

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office:

6 Justin St, Smithfield
Phone: 9604 1199 Fax 9609 6585
Email: office@stgertrude.org.au
Website: www.stgertrude.org.au

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday (closed Wednesday)
10am - 2pm

Parish Council: Denise Namroud

Finance Committee: Tan Do
Andrew Maia: Work Health & Safety

Catechists: 9725 4317
Mimi Romeo: catechist@stgertrude.org.au

Sacraments: 9725 4317 Helena Martin
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: Currently not available at this time.

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

Safeguarding:

wcc@stgertrude.org.au (all WWCC renewals)
psso@stgertrude.org.au (Parish Safeguarding Support Officers)

Other: FCI (Italian Catholic Federation)
Tony Coiera 0409 908 424

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER Intention for December Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Novena to St Benedict

Wednesday after the 7pm Mass with Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Reconciliation is available during this time.

Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

Church Cleaners—w/e 18 December
St Benedict: Group C **Wilson Family**
St Therese's: Group C **Spanish**

Parish Office Hours: 10am—2pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
(closed Wednesday)

*** COVID19 Safety Procedures—Please see Church Notice Boards**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING Zeph. 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

- 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.)
- 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.)
- 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 READING Phil 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE			
24th December Christmas Eve (Friday)			
St. Therese's Church	7.00am	Mass of the Day	
	4.30pm	Vietnamese	
	9.30pm	Spanish	
St. Benedicts Shrine	9.15am	Mass of the Day	
	5.00pm	Children's Carols	
	6.00pm	Christmas Vigil & Family Mass	
	11.00pm	Christmas Carols	
	12am	Midnight Mass	
25th December Christmas Day (Saturday)			
St Therese's Church	7.30am	Mass of Christmas Day	
	11.00am	Syriac	
	5.00pm	Vietnamese	
St. Benedict's Shrine	9.00am (Italian)	Mass of Christmas Day	
	10.30am	Mass of Christmas Day	
	6pm	Vigil of the Holy Family	
26th December Holy Family (Sunday)			
St Therese's Church	7.30am	Mass of the Holy Family	
St. Benedict's Shrine	9.00am (Italian)	Mass of the Holy Family	
	10.30am	Mass of the Holy Family	
	6pm	Mass of the Holy Family	
Christmas Octave 27th December—1st January			
St. Therese's Church	8.00am		
St. Benedicts Shrine	10.30am		
<i>Note: These times are also for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God</i>			
	6.00pm	Vigil of the Epiphany	
2nd January Epiphany			
St. Therese's Church	7.30am		
St. Benedict's Shrine	9.00am (Italian)		
	10.30am		
	6.00pm		



CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office will close on Thursday 23rd December and re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

Next Week: Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C.

Readings: Micah. 5:1-4; Heb. 10: 5-12; Lk. 1:39-45.

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PARISH WORKING BEE—FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER

A big thank you to all those who came and helped clean and prepare the our parish grounds in readiness for the Christmas celebrations.



CHRISTMAS CONFESSION
WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

In addition to our regular confession times, confession will be available on Wednesday 15th December following the 7pm Mass.

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

Due to WHS and Child Protection Protocols we ask all carers/parents/guardians to keep **children under supervision at all times**. This is especially important during Mass times. Please do not allow your child or children to be playing alone outside the church and ALWAYS accompany your child to the toilet. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

CONGRATULATIONS JANE AWAD

The Parish would like to extend our congratulations to Jane Awad, a student at Mary MacKillop College, for receiving the Archbishop's Award. Jane received this award because of her commitment to her school, studies and her involvement in Parish life.



CONGRATULATIONS ST. GERTRUDE'S
YEAR 6 CLASS OF 2021 !

St. Gertrude's Parish would like to congratulate all our year 6 students who graduated this week. We will miss your presence in our community as you move on into High School. May you all have a wonderful future and may God bless you abundantly !!

CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 12 !

We would also like to extend our congratulations and best wishes to our year 12 cohort who have now completed their HSC Exams. You should all be proud of your achievements, especially in this very difficult year. God Bless you always!!

We would especially like to show our appreciation to all the parents/carers/guardians and staff who have led our school communities in these challenging times. You have been an inspiration to us all!

WRITTEN MATERIAL IN THE CHURCH

Please do not place any written material in the church without the **express permission of the Parish Priest**. If you would like to place some written material to share with others, please ask the Parish Priest first. Thank you for your cooperation.

BULLETIN FOR CHILDREN !

This week we have introduced a bulletin for children. The bulletin has some fun activities for children to complete and to help them appreciate the Mass. Please take a copy for your child.

MASS FOR THE SPIRITUAL ADOPTION OF
THE UNBORN

The next Mass for the Spiritual Adoption will be on **Monday 27th December at 7pm**.



REMINDER ~ PLEASE TURN OFF MOBILE PHONES

Please remember to turn off your mobile phones – or switch to silent – when entering the Church.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS !

CONFIRMATION:

- Confirmation Ceremonies: Tentatively booked for either 12/13 OR 19/20 February 2022 – more information will be provided before Christmas as soon as the Chancery confirm dates. Please look out for the email. We thank you for your patience.**
- Reconciliation, Retreat, Rehearsals and Ceremony dates to be advised. These dates may be subject to change beyond our control.
- Confirmation Programme: To pray for the candidates, view their work or see updates about the programme, visit the Parish website: <https://www.stgertrude.org.au/confirmation-programme-2021/>

FIRST RECONCILIATION / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022:

Enrolments have closed.

If you missed the enrolment period, please contact the Sacrament Office ASAP.

Late enrolments may not be accepted.

For the latest Sacramental Programme news – please visit the Parish Website: <http://www.stgertrude.org.au/ministries/sacramental-program/>

For all enquiries please email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or phone: 9725 4317 to leave a message



CHOIR PRACTICE



The Choir has resumed its rehearsals in preparation for the Christmas Season. Practices are held Monday evenings at 7pm in the church. New choir members are always welcome!

CWF COLLECTION

The CWF collection took place last weekend. However, for those who were unprepared there are still envelopes in the pews for your donation.



This collection is taken on behalf of the Sydney Archdiocese to help in services such as Ephpheta Centre for the hearing impaired, Seminarians, Catholic Care, Aboriginal Ministries and Chaplains. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

PARISH DONATIONS

First Collection (Priests) Account : Smithfield House – Order of St Paul the First Hermit
BSB 066711 Acct. No. 007392

Second Collection (Parish) Account : Smithfield Catholic Church
BSB: 062784 Acct. No. 100001084

Thank you for your continued support and generosity . God Bless.