



**Mark Malone J.P.**  
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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](mailto: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."

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



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## Italian Catholic Federation

Wish all parishioners a Merry Christmas &  
a Safe and Blessed New Year 2023



Bingo will restart on Friday 3rd February 2023



**St Gertrude's**  
Catholic Primary School  
Smithfield



## ENROL NOW FOR 2023

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# ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

## St Benedict's Shrine

Corner Justin & Neville Street  
SMITHFIELD

### Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm;  
9:00 am (Italian); 10:30am; 6:00pm.

### Weekday Masses:

9:15am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday;  
7:00 pm Wednesday

Weekday Public Holidays: 10:00am

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Adoration:

Wednesdays after evening Mass with Novena to  
St Benedict until 8:30 pm; Saturday from  
4:30pm—5:30pm; & Friday 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: Tuesday after Mass &  
Friday after 9:15am Mass with Exposition.



### Parish Administrator

Fr Peter James Strohmayer OSPPE

### Assistant Priest

Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE

## St Therese's Church

Corner The Boulevard & Stella Street  
FAIRFIELD WEST

### Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm (Vietnamese);  
7:30 am (English); 12 noon (Spanish); 6:00 pm (Syriac)

### Weekday Masses:

Mon - Fri 7:00 am; Saturday 8:00 am  
Weekday Public Holiday: 8:00 am

### First Friday of the Month:

6.30 am Exposition & Confession; 7:00 am Mass

### First Saturday of the Month:

7:00 am Rosary 8:00 am Mass

### Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Tuesday after Mass

## Third Sunday of Advent Year A

11 December 2022



## PARISH INFORMATION

### Parish Office:

6 Justin St, Smithfield  
Phone: 9604 1199 Fax 9609 6585

Email: [office@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:office@stgertrude.org.au)

Website: [www.stgertrude.org.au](http://www.stgertrude.org.au)

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
& Friday (closed Wednesday)

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Parish Council: Denise Namroud

Finance Committee: Tan Do

Andrew Maia: Work Health & Safety

Catechists: 9725 4317

Mimi Romeo: [catechist@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:catechist@stgertrude.org.au)

Sacraments: Contact: Jodie Micallef

Mob: 0412-804-465 (to leave a message)

[sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au)

Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation

Liturgy: 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert

[liturgy@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:liturgy@stgertrude.org.au)

Adult Sacraments (RCIA): Mariola Herbert

Every Sunday at 8:30 am 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 - Saturday 4:30 — 5:30 pm

Sunday 5:45 pm (or by appointment)

Baptisms: Parish Office 9604 1199

Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at

12:00 noon in St Benedict's Shrine Church  
Smithfield

Marriages: Parish Office 9604 1199

By appointment only (6 months required)

Sick Calls: 9604 1199 — Any Time

Safeguarding: [psso@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:psso@stgertrude.org.au)

(Parish Safeguarding Support Officers and  
all WWCC renewals)

Other: FCI (Italian Catholic Federation)

Tony Coiera 0409 908 424

Parish Playgroup: Thursday during school  
term. 9:30 am - 11:30 am.

## Our Schools

### ST GERTRUDE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SMITHFIELD

Boys & Girls: K-6: Ph: 9609-4414  
Principal: Mrs Linda Katsibras  
1-11 Justin, Street, Smithfield NSW 2164  
[www.stgsmithfield.syd.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stgsmithfield.syd.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.facebook.com/stgertrudessmithfield](https://www.facebook.com/stgertrudessmithfield)  
[www.instagram.com/stgsmithfield/](https://www.instagram.com/stgsmithfield/)

### MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE

### WAKELEY

Girls: 7-12: Ph: 9725 4322  
Principal: Ms Gilda Pussich  
5 Carnarvon St, Wakeley NSW 2176  
[info@mmcwakeley.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@mmcwakeley.catholic.edu.au)  
[mmcwakeley.syd.catholic.edu.au](http://mmcwakeley.syd.catholic.edu.au)

### PATRICIAN BROTHER'S COLLEGE FAIRFIELD

Boys: 7-12: Ph: 9728-4488  
Principal: Mr Peter Wade  
268 The Horsley Drive, Fairfield NSW 2165  
[info@pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au](http://www.pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au)

## THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER

### For volunteer not-for-profit organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations  
committed to human developments find people  
dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly  
seek out new paths to international cooperation.

## Novena to St Benedict

Wednesday after the 7:00 pm Mass with  
Rosary & Exposition  
of the Blessed Sacrament.  
Reconciliation is available during this time.

## Church Cleaners

W/E 17 December

St Benedict: Group E: Neo-Cats  
St. Therese: Group D: Syriacs

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 am—4:00 pm  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday  
(closed Wednesday)



## Third Sunday of Advent Year A

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

### FIRST READING Is 35:1-6,10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

### SECOND READING Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James  
Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer:  
how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it  
has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to  
be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be  
soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers,  
so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is  
already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example,  
brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who  
spoke in the name of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew  
John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he  
sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to  
come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus  
answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see;  
the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed,  
and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the  
Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man  
who does not lose faith in me.'  
As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the  
people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness  
to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did  
you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those  
who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what  
did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and  
much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture  
says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he  
will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all  
the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist  
has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven  
is greater than he is.'

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

<b>24th December Christmas Eve (Saturday)</b>	
St. Therese's Church	8.00am Mass of the Day
St. Benedict's Shrine	5.00pm Children's Carols
	6.00pm Christmas Vigil & Family Mass
	11.00pm Christmas Carols
	12.00am Midnight Mass
<b>25th December Christmas Day (Sunday)</b>	
St Therese's Church	7.30am Mass of Christmas Day
	12.00pm Spanish Mass
	5.30pm Syriac Rite
St. Benedict's Shrine	9.00am (Italian) Mass of Christmas Day
	10.30am Mass of Christmas Day
<b>26th— 30th December (Monday—Friday)</b>	
St Therese's Church	8.00am
St. Benedict's Shrine	10.00am
<b>31st December (Saturday)</b>	
St. Therese's Church	8.00am Mass of the Day
	5.00pm Vietnamese Vigil
	7.00pm Syriac Rite Vigil
St. Benedict's Shrine	6.00pm English Vigil
<b>1st January—Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Sunday)</b>	
St. Therese's Church	7.30am English Mass
	10.00am Vietnamese Mass
	12.00pm Spanish Mass
St. Benedict's Shrine	9.00am Italian Mass
	10.30am Mass
	6.00pm Mass
<b>2nd January—Public Holiday (Monday)</b>	
St. Therese's Church	8.00am
St. Benedict's Shrine	10.00am



### CHRISTMAS NOVENA 16 - 24 DECEMBER

The Christmas Novena begins on 16th  
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.

#### Novena Prayer

HAIL, and blessed be the hour and moment  
At which the Son of God was born  
Of a most pure Virgin  
At a stable at midnights in Bethlehem in the piercing cold  
At that hour vouchsafe,  
I beseech Thee,  
To hear my prayers and grant my desires  
(mention your request here)  
Through Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother.  
Say 1: Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



### PARISH VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION MASS & PARISH PICNIC THIS SUNDAY, 11TH DECEMBER

The Parish invites all our volunteers who have contributed to  
the continued Mission of our Parish to celebrate a Mass of  
Appreciation for all your efforts. **Mass will be celebrated at  
10:30am, this Sunday.** Followed by Picnic in the Paddock..

### CHRISTMAS COMMUNION VISIT TO THE HOUSEBOUND TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Confession and Eucharist for those unable to attend Mass will  
take place between 10:00 am –1:00 pm on Tuesday 20th  
December 2022. If you know anyone who would like to receive  
the sacraments but are unable to attend Church, please contact  
the parish office on 9604 1199.

### CHRISTMAS CONFESSION - WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER

Confession in preparation for Christmas will be held on  
Wednesday 21st December following the 7:00 pm Mass.

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES TO THE PARISH

As you are all aware, the Province Chapter was held in  
November this year. This week, the Province Council met to  
discuss the necessary reallocation of priests ministering in  
our Shrines and Parishes in Australia. A number of priests  
have been Decreed new positions. As a result, there will be  
some changes in Smithfield Parish over the next few  
months:

- Fr. Jarek Zan is appointed to the *Shrine of Our Lady Help  
Of Christians—"Marian Valley"* in QLD as Prior.
- Fr. Wojtek Sliwa is appointed to *St. Margaret Mary's  
Parish, Merrylands* as Superior and Parish Priest
- Fr. Peter James Strohmayer is appointed to *St.  
Gertrude's Parish Smithfield* as Superior and Parish Priest.

On behalf of the Pauline Fathers we thank you for your prayers  
at this time of decision making. We also ask for your continued  
prayers as we undertake our new appointments.

**Next Week:** Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A  
**Scripture:** Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7;  
**Gospel:** Mt 1:18-24

### SACRAMENTAL NEWS!

### 2023 FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENTS OPEN - 1 MORE WEEK

Enrolments for the 2023 First Reconciliation and First Holy  
Communion Sacramental Preparation Program are now open.  
Children in 2023 who are enrolled in Year 3 and above, who  
have been **Baptised** in the **Catholic Church**, are eligible to  
enrol in the combined First Reconciliation/First Communion  
Program. To enrol please complete the online form by  
scanning the following **QR code or logging onto**  
<https://tinyurl.com/3zfheh5r>.



The form can also be accessed by visiting the **Parish Website**.  
Enrolments are due by no later than **Sunday, 18 December**.  
**Late enrolments will not be accepted.**  
For all 2023 Sacramental Preparation Program dates and  
further information please visit the Parish Website.

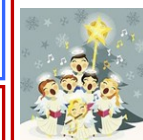
<https://www.stgertrude.org.au/ministries/sacramental-program/>

For all enquiries, please contact the Sacramental Office  
by emailing [sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au) or  
phone 0412-804-465 to leave a message.

Thank you.

God bless

Jodie



### CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE

**Christmas Carol Service and Midnight Mass**  
rehearsals will be held on Mondays at 7:30 pm in  
the Church. All welcome to attend.

### NEW PARISH ROSTERS AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION

The new parish rosters are available for collection for those  
who minister in our Parish. Please collect these rosters from  
the church foyer. Thank you for your dedication and  
commitment in serving our parish. Have a blessed and holy  
Christmas.

### CATECHISTS NEWS

Dear Catechists, as our Scripture year comes to a close, our  
Parish would like to thank you for volunteering your time and  
patience, most of all your love for God and the children.  
We couldn't do it without you.!

God Bless

Mini Romeo

### PARISH WORKING BEE - THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all those who came on Friday and helped to  
prepare and decorate our parish for Christmas.

May the Lord bless you a hundred fold for your generosity.

### 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.