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Director

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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."

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



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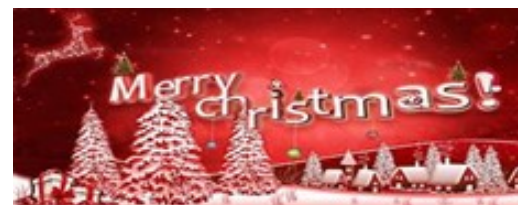


268 The Horsley Drive, Fairfield
Website: www.pbcairfield.syd.catholic.edu.au

Inspiring tomorrow's leaders today

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

Contact us for an Enrolment Package
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stgsmithfield.catholic.edu.au



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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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

18 December 2022



Welcome into our Parish

Martin Francesco IACOPETTO &
Liam Aaron MILLER
Baptised this weekend

We pray for the sick of this Parish

Alyssa Ferreri, Giuseppina Pignataro, Gino Mifsud
Fr. Anthony David, OSPPE, Fr. Gabriel Taylor,
OSPPE, Adam Westwood,
Emile & Mary Kodsy, Kartia Grace Russell,
& Ivy Fernandes.

Bless our sick today so that they may bear
their illness in union with Jesus' sufferings and
restore them quickly to health.

Recently Deceased

Walter Schranz, Dora Gabriel, Sylvia Muscat,
Carmen Bugeja, Michael Muscat,
Ernesto Campolongo, Filippa Cutelli, Lucia Flores,
Maria Assunta Garofolletti, Rina Crestani

And for those whose Anniversary occur at this time

Kevin William Wright, Giuseppina Reitano,
Luisa Santucci, Teresa Bramha Chandra,
Salvatore Mazzeo, Eustace Cyril Rebeiro

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)
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

Sacraments: Contact: Jodie Micallef

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

sacraments@stgertrude.org.au

Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation

Liturgy: 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert

liturgy@stgertrude.org.au

Adult Sacraments (RCIA): Mariola Herbert

Every Sunday at 8:30 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 1st & 3rd 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

(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
www.facebook.com/stgertrudessmithfield
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
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@pbcairfield.catholic.edu.au
www.pbcairfield.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 24 December

St Benedict: Group A: Frances
St. Therese: Group D: Syriacs

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

SECOND READING Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

24th December Christmas Eve (Saturday)

St. Therese's Church

8:00 am Mass of the Day

St. Benedict's Shrine

5:00 pm

Children's Carols

6:00 pm

Christmas Vigil & Family Mass

11:00 pm

Christmas Carols

12:00 am

Midnight Mass

25th December Christmas Day (Sunday)

St Therese's Church

7:30 am

Mass of Christmas Day

12:00 pm

Spanish Mass

5:30 pm

Syriac Rite

St. Benedict's Shrine

9:00 am

Italian Mass

10:30 am

Mass of Christmas Day

26th— 30th December (Monday—Friday)

St Therese's Church

8:00 am

Mass

St. Benedict's Shrine

10:00 am

Mass

31st December (Saturday)

St. Therese's Church

8:00 am

Mass of the Day

5:00 pm

Vietnamese Vigil

7:00 pm

Syriac Rite Vigil

St. Benedict's Shrine

6:00 pm

English Vigil

1st January—Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Sunday)

St. Therese's Church

7:30 am

English Mass

10:00 am

Vietnamese Mass

12:00 pm

Spanish Mass

St. Benedict's Shrine

9:00 am

Italian Mass

10:30 am

Mass

6:00 pm

Mass

2nd January—Public Holiday (Monday)

St. Therese's Church

8:00 am

Mass

St. Benedict's Shrine

10:00 am

Mass



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 midnight 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

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION VISIT TO THE HOUSEBOUND TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Confession and Eucharist for those unable to attend Mass will take place between 10 – 1pm on Tuesday 20th December 2022. 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 7pm Mass.

Please note there is no Novena after the Mass.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR STUDENTS

St. Gertrude's Parish would like to congratulate all our Year 6 students who graduate this week.

We would like to extend our congratulations to our 2022 HSC students on their excellent results.
God bless you always!



PIETY STALL

Religious Christmas Cards available for purchase this week as well as some Christmas gift ideas.

Columban Calendars are also available for sale

@ \$10 each. Eftpos now available!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christmas Offering envelopes will be available in the church over the Christmas Season. Please take an envelope home and return it with your offering in the first collection. These offerings support the priests of the Parish. Thank you for your constant support and generosity.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE

Christmas Carol Service and Midnight Mass rehearsals will be held on Mondays at 7.30pm in the Church. All welcome to attend.



REMINDER ~ PLEASE TURN OFF MOBILE PHONES

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

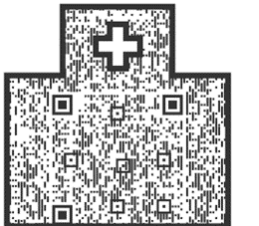
SACRAMENTAL NEWS!

**2023 FIRST RECONCILIATION AND
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
ENROLMENTS CLOSING THIS SUNDAY,
18 DECEMBER**



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 or phone 0412-804-465 to leave a message.

Thank you.

God bless

Jodie

PICNIC THANK YOU



Thank you everyone who organised the picnic and the volunteers who worked hard to make the day a success.

2023 PARISH FACILITY BOOKINGS

(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church & Hall)

Any groups wanting to use these facilities on a regular basis, please book your dates and times in writing/email to the Parish Office (office@stgertrude.org.au).

Thank you

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office will **close on Tuesday 27th December** and **re-open on Monday 9th January 2023**.

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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.