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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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SCAN ME

Christmas Cookies

Singles \$4 each or 3 for \$10
Boxes \$10 each

While Stocks Last

Italian Catholic Federation
Announces that:

BINGO will RESTART on Friday 2nd Feb 2024

Our Committee would like to Wish All Parishioners a Merry Christmas & a Safe & Blessed NEW YEAR 2024

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 St. Michael: Tuesday after Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Friday after Mass



Parish Priest

Fr Peter James Strohmayer OSPPE

Assitant Priest

Fr Casimir Zielinski 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 St. Michael:

Tuesday after Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Friday after Mass

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

17th December 2023



Welcome into our Parish

Arlo Valentino Abdallah
Baptised this weekend

We pray for the sick of this Parish

Fr. Anthony David, OSPPE, Fr. Bob Bossini, Dot Danecek, Michael Hyzy, Aldo Girardi, Alfred Muscat, Alyssa Ferreri, Ray Wilson, Gino Mifsud, Helen Maric, Adam Westwood, Emile & Mary Kods, 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

Tony Ventra, Marco Livio, Maria Zadro, Emanuel Pace, Pasquale (Pat) Faga, Silvio Mario Fortini, Marjory Mary Costa, Elio Veneran.

And for those whose Anniversary occur at this time

Joe IDA, Walter SCHRANZ, Robyn HANKINSON, Marlene PACE, Angelo VIT.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office:

22 Neville 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:

Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation

Contact: Jodie Micallef

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

sacraments@stgertrude.org.au

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: Parish Office

Children's Liturgy: Currently not available at this time

Reconciliation:

Smithfield - Saturday 4:30 — 5:30 pm

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)

Parish Youth:

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month following the 6pm Mass.

Contact: Fr. Peter James via Parish Office

Other: FCI (Italian Catholic Federation)

Tony Coiera 0409 908 424

Parish Playgroup: Thursday during school term. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Our Schools

ST GERTRUDE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SMITHFIELD

Boys & Girls: K-6: Ph: 9609-4144
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@mmwakeley.catholic.edu.au
mmwakeley.syd.catholic.edu.au

PATRICIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE FAIRFIELD

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

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

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: 23rd December

St Benedict: Group C: Wilson Family
St. Therese: Group A: Frances

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

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

FIRST READING Is 61:1-2.10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **(R.)**
3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1Thess 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give
thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in
Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy
with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to
what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may
you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and
he will not fail you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 1:6-8.19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent
priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'
he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not
the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,'
he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they
said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to
those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So
John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put
this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are
not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John
replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you –
unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not
fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the
far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PARISH CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Confession in preparation for Christmas will be held on
Wednesday 20th December following 7pm Mass. There will
be no Novena after the Mass.

Please note that there will be no Confession on the 23rd or the
24th of December.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION VISIT TO THE HOUSEBOUND TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Confession and Eucharist for those unable to attend Mass will
take place between 10-1pm on 19th December 2023.
Please, contact the parish office on 9604 1199.

2024 PARISH FACILITY BOOKINGS

(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church and hall)

Any Parish groups wanting to use these facilities on a regular
basis in 2024, please book your dates and times in writing/email
to the Parish Office (office@stgertrude.org.au)

Thank you

PRESBYTERY PHONES

The Presbytery phones are not working at the moment. In the
matter of urgency please contact the Parish office.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HSC STUDENTS



St. Gertrude's Parish would like to congratulate all
our HSC students on their excellent results. We wish
you every success and happiness in the future
God bless you always!



YOUTH GROUP THIS SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

The next Youth Group will be this Sunday in the
St. Augustine Catechesis Centre following the
6 pm Mass.

High Schoolers and over 18s invited to attend.

Christmas gathering

Please join us for prayer, fun, friendship and food.

Next Week: FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Scripture: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 Rom 16:25-27
Gospel: Lk 1:26-38.

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CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

24th December - Christmas Eve (Sunday)

St Therese's Church	Mass
7:30 am	
12:00 pm	Spanish Mass
St Benedict's Shrine	
9:00 am	Italian Mass
10:30 am	Mass
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 (Monday)

St Therese's Church	Mass of Christmas Day
7:30 am	
9:30 am	Syriac Rite Christmas Day Mass
St Benedict's Shrine	
9:00 am	Italian Mass
10:30 am	Mass of Christmas Day
	No 6pm evening Mass

26th - 29th December (Tuesday - Friday)

St Therese's Church	Mass
8:00 am	
St Benedict's Shrine	
10:00 am	Mass

30th December – (Saturday)

St Therese's Church	Mass
8:00 am	
5:30 pm	Vietnamese Mass
St Benedict Shrine	
6:00 pm	Mass

31st December - The Holy Family (Sunday)

St Therese's Church	Mass of the Day
7:30 am	
5:30 pm	Syriac Rite Mass
St Benedict's Shrine	
9:00 am	Italian Mass
10:30 am	Mass
6:00 pm	Mass

1st January - Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Monday)

St Therese's Church	Mass
8:00 am	
10:00 am	Vietnamese Mass
St Benedict's Shrine	
10:00 am	Mass

2nd January - (Tuesday)

St Therese's Church	Mass
7:00 am	
St Benedict's Shrine	
9:15 am	Mass

**Please note: No Wednesday evening Mass during
January. Wednesday evening Mass and Novena will
recommence 8th February 2024.**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



To all children interested in participating in the
Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve.

We will rehearse at St Benedict's Church on **Fridays
at 7.30 pm.** Enter via the back door of Church through Justin Street
opposite the school. Please email Anna at liturgy@stgertrude.org.au
if you have any queries.

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS CHOIR



We will rehearse at St Benedict's Church on Mondays
at 7.30pm. Enter via the back door of Church through
Justin Street opposite the school.

Please email Anna at liturgy@stgertrude.org.au if you have any
queries.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS!

2024 SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENT NOW OPEN

Enrolments for the 2024 First Reconciliation and First
Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation Program
is now open. Children in 2024 who are enrolled in
Year 3 and above, who have been Baptised in the
Catholic Church, may be eligible to enrol.



To enrol please complete the online
Google form by scanning the **QR code** or
logging onto:

<https://tinyurl.com/547783mk>

Enrolments are due no later than

Sunday, 4th February.

Late enrolments will not be accepted.



FIRST RECONCILIATION IMPORTANT DATES

The 'Parent Only Information Night' will be held on
Thursday 8th February at 7.00pm to 8.00pm
in the Parish Montefano Hall.

First Reconciliation lessons will take place from 8:45am to
10:15am in the Parish Montefano Hall.

- Lesson 1 – Sunday 25th February
- Lesson 2 – Sunday 3rd March
- Lesson 3 – Sunday 10th March
- Lesson 4 – Sunday 17th March



For all enquiries, please contact the
Sacramental Office by emailing
sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or text/phone 0412-804-465 to
leave a message.

God bless

Jodie

SACRED HEART GARDEN

Thank you to volunteers who donated their time and materials
to build a garden devoted to Sacred Heart.
We invite you to have a look at the Sacred Heart Garden.



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.

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.