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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."

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T 9725 4322 E info@mmcwakeley.catholic.edu.au

Patrician Brothers' College Fairfield

ENROLLING NOW YEAR 7 2025

PLEASE ENSURE YOU DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE YOUR SON'S ENROLMENT

APPLY NOW ONLINE - SCAN THE QR CODE OR CONTACT THE COLLEGE ON (02) 9728 4488

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PARISH PLAYGROUP

When: Thursday 7th December 2023
Where: St. Augustine Catechesis Centre
Time: 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Playgroup will meet every Thursday during the school term. New and existing families are invited to attend. Hope to see you all there!

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 Strohmayr 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

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

3rd December 2023



Welcome into our Parish

Matthew Eugene VAZ, Zelda Ida ZHANG,
Christian RIGHETTO, Eva Elizabeth CASTRO,
Santina Rosalie PIPERATA.

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 Kody, 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

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@mmcwakeley.catholic.edu.au
mmcwakeley.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: 9th 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)

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING Is 63:16-17;64:1.3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

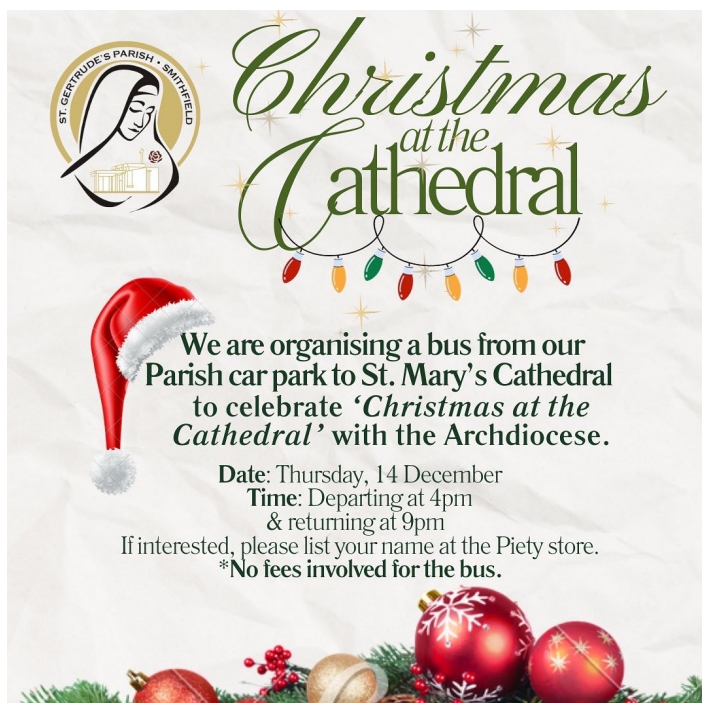
GOSPEL Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



Christmas at the Cathedral

We are organising a bus from our Parish car park to St. Mary's Cathedral to celebrate 'Christmas at the Cathedral' with the Archdiocese.

Date: Thursday, 14 December
Time: Departing at 4pm & returning at 9pm
If interested, please list your name at the Piety store.
*No fees involved for the bus.

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.



REMINDER ~ PLEASE TURN OFF MOBILE PHONES

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

Next Week: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture: Is 40:1-5,9-11 2 Pet 3:8-14

Gospel: Mk 1:1-8.

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.



END OF YEAR WHOLE SCHOOL MASS

The end of year whole school Mass will be celebrated at **9:30 am on Thursday 7th December 2023** at St Benedict's Shrine.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MASS

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 on Sunday 10th December 2023 followed by a BBQ.** Parishioners are invited to bring a plate to share.

PPC & PFC MEETING — 11TH DECEMBER 2023

The next Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council Meeting will be a joint meeting.

The meeting will take place at 7pm on **Monday 11th December in St Augustine Catechesis Centre.**

All members are asked to be in attendance.



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.



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 Cookies

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

While Stocks Last

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 8.45 am to 10.15 am 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



CONFIRMATION PHOTO PICK UP DATE AND TIME

Please be advised that the 2023 Confirmation photo pick up date is on **NEXT SUNDAY, 10 DECEMBER** between **12:30pm and 2:00pm** in the St Augustine Catechesis Centre. Individual and group photos are available for purchase on this day.



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



St Gertrude's Parish CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

This Christmas, we would like to put together Christmas Hampers for the less fortunate families in our area. If you wish to donate non-perishable items, please come see us at the Parish Piety Store, or look out for boxes in the Parish foyer to place the items in.

Items may include:
Pasta & sauce, beans, canned meats/fish, breakfast foods, hot/cold cereal, Christmas pudding, pancake mix, syrup, instant mashed potatoes, rice, peanut butter, jam, coffee, tea, canned vegetables, soup, bread mix, dried milk, soy milk, toiletries, toothpaste, bathroom tissue, soap and shampoo, diapers/wipes.