

ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

St Benedict's Church

Corner Justin & Neville Street
SMITHFIELD

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm;
8.00am (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 till 7.30pm; Saturdays from
4.45pm—5.45pm; & Fridays after the 9.15am Mass

First Friday of the Month:

7pm Mass & Adoration

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Tuesdays after Mass



Parish Priest

Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

Assistant Priest

Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE

St Theresa's Church

Corner The Boulevard & Stella Street
FAIRFIELD WEST

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5pm (Vietnamese);
7.30am & 9.00am; 11am (Spanish); 5pm (Arabic)

Weekday Masses:

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

First Friday of the Month:

from 6.30am

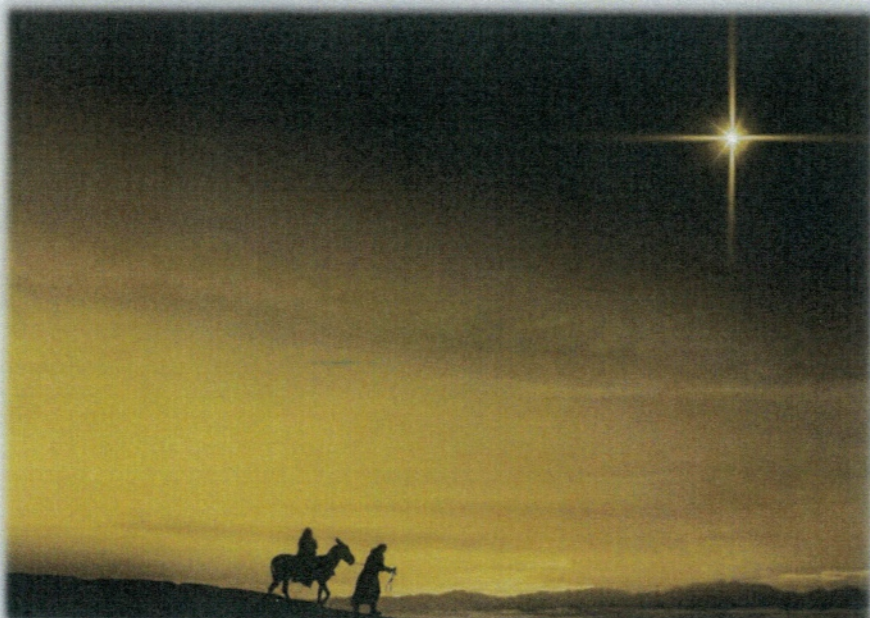
First Saturday of the Month:

7am Rosary 8am Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Tuesdays after Mass

Monday, 25 December 2017 ~ The Nativity of the Lord



God's sign is simplicity.

God's sign is the Baby.

God's sign is that He makes himself small for us.

This is how He reigns.

He does not come with power and outward splendour.

He comes as a Baby - defenceless and in need of our help

He does not want to overwhelm us with His strength.

He takes away our fear of His greatness.

He asks for our love:

so He makes himself a child.

Let us enjoy in Jesus as Pope Francis said:

"The flavour of the true spirit of Christmas: The beauty of being loved by God."

May we look to the crib this Christmas and pray, asking the Blessed Mother
"O Mary Ever Virgin, show us Jesus".

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office:

6 Justin St, Smithfield
Tuesday-Friday 10am - 2pm
Phone: 9604 1199 Fax 9609 6585
Email: office@stgertrude.org.au
Website: www.stgertrude.org.au

Parish Council:

Denise Namroud

Finance Committee:

Jurgen Martin

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

Mariola Herbert

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



Please remember to switch off your
mobile phones!

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) ~ Vigil & Mass During the Night

FIRST READING *Is 9:1-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the
spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt
and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11*

**R.) Today is born our Saviour Christ the Lord.
(sung)**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

SECOND READING *Ti 2:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made
salvation possible for the whole human race and
taught us that what we have to do is to give up
everything that does not lead to God, and all our
worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and
live good and religious lives here in this present
world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing
which will come with the Appearing of the glory of
our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He
sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from
all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could
be his very own and would have no ambition except
to do good.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Lk 2:10-11*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Lk 2:1-14*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the
whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took
place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and
everyone went to his own town to be registered. So
Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in
Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of
David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's
House and line, in order to be registered together
with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.
While they were there the time came for her to
have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her
first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger because there was no
room for them at the inn. In the countryside
close by there were shepherds who lived in the
fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks
during the night. The angel of the Lord
appeared to them and the glory of the Lord
shone round them. They were terrified, but the
angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you
news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the
whole people. Today in the town of David a
saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the
Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a
baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a
manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was
a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God
and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass During the Day

FIRST READING *Is 52:7-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,

'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they ...the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3*

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving
power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. (R.)
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

SECOND READING *Heb 1:1-6*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different
ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the
prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has
spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has
appointed to inherit everything and through whom he
made everything there is. He is the radiant light of
God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature,
sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and
now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he
has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand
of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels
as the title which he has inherited is higher than their
own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son,
today I have become your father, or: I will be a father
to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the
First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of
God worship him.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Jn 1:1-18*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.

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.

The Word was the true light

that enlightens all men;

and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world

that had its being through him,

and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain

and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God,

to all who believe in the name of him

who was born not out of human stock

or urge of the flesh

or will of man

but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,

he lived among us,

and we saw his glory,

the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness, He proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me

ranks before me

because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us,
received -

yes, grace in return for grace,

since, though the Law was given through Moses,

grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

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MAY YOU HAVE THE GIFT

OF **FAITH**,

THE BLESSING

OF **HOPE**

AND THE PEACE OF

THE NEW BORN JESUS' **LOVE**



Merry Christmas

The Parish Team would like to wish our Parish community and visitors a very special Christmas, filled with blessings for the Season and a happy, healthy, safe, prosperous & peaceful 2018! Thank you for your prayers and generous support throughout the year.

We especially thank the many volunteers who are an integral part of the every day running of the daily life of our parish, without your help many things would not be possible.

God Bless you all.

Fr Jarek, Fr Wojtek, Br Deacon Joseph Maria, Br Zachary, Linda, Suzanne, Karen, Mimi, Helena, & Anna.

Public Holidays & 'Octave Season' Mass Times

26th December 2017 (Feast of St Stephen) to
2nd January 2017 (inclusive)

St Benedict's Church - Smithfield: 10:30am

St Therese's Church - Fairfield West: 8am

Wednesday 27th December— NO EVENING MASS,
Mass will be at 10:30am

~ Wednesday 27 December ~

Feast of the St John, Apostle Evangelist ~Wine Blessing~

Parishioners are invited to bring a bottle(s) of wine to
the 8am Mass at St Therese's or the
10.30am Mass at St Benedict's
and have their wine blessed

The Church provides a special blessing of wine in honor of the Saint. According to legend St. John drank a glass of poisoned wine without suffering harm because he had blessed it before he drank. The wine is also a symbol of the great love of Christ that filled St. John's heart with loyalty, courage and enthusiasm for his Master; he alone of all the apostles was not afraid to stay close to Our Lord during the Passion and Crucifixion.

NEW YEAR'S DAY ~ MASS TIMES

St Benedict's Church ~ Smithfield: 10:30am

St Therese's Church ~ Fairfield West: 8:00am

Monday 1st January—Solemnity

MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD

Masses: St Therese's Church ~ 8am

St Benedict's Church ~ 10:30am

Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish Office will be closed from
Friday 22 December and reopen on
Wednesday 3rd January 2017.



Sacraments

The Sacramental Office is now closed and will
reopen in the New Year on
Friday 6th February 2017.

*Thank you for your support throughout the year. We wish you all
a very safe, holy and joyous Christmas season!*

Smithfield YOUTH Mass

Next Mass: Sunday 1st January at 6pm.

**THERE WILL BE NO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP IN
JANUARY.**

The Youth fellowship will resume in February.

Donations at Crib

Donations made at the crib will go

Towards the orphanage and community

of Sr Anna Maria in Pakistan. *Thank you for your support and
offerings to help the poor during this Christmas Season!*



2018 PARISH FACILITY BOOKINGS

(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church & Hall)

Attention ALL groups wanting to use the above facilities
for 2018. Please book your dates and times, in writing,

to the Parish office at either

office@stgertrude.org.au or

6 Justin Street, Smithfield NSW 2164. *Thank you.*

HELP URGENTLY NEEDED!!

We urgently need more Church cleaners for 2018 on a
roster one-day-a-month basis.

If you are interested in putting a group together or just
wish to help another group, then please contact the
parish office.

Men are also welcome to help.

Royal Commission

Copies of Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev.
Anthony Fisher's statement following the recent release
of the final report into the Royal Commission into
institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse are
available at the Church doors.