

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

Mi 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:
You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives
birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come
back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will
extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

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

1. 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.)

2. 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.)

3. 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

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices
for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the
book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'
Notice that he says first: You did not want what the
Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is:
the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the

sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in
them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming
to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to
replace it with the second. And this will was for us
to be made holy by the offering of his body made
once and for all by Jesus Christ.
The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a
town in the hill country of Judah. She went into
Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as
soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child
leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the
Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all
women you are the most blessed, and blessed is
the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured
with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the
moment your greeting reached my ears, the child
in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who
believed that the promise made her by the Lord
would be fulfilled.'
The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Next Week: The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and
Joseph

Readings: Sirach 3:2-6; 12-14; Col 3:12-21;
Lk 2:41-52

The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright
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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 until 8.30pm; 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

St Theresa's Church

Corner The Boulevard & Stella Street
FAIRFIELD WEST

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil 5pm (Vietnamese);
7.30am & 9.00am; 12 noon (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



Parish Priest


Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

Assistant Priest

Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

23rd December, 2018



We pray for the sick of this parish

John Denniss, Santina Ponili, Kartia Grace Russell,
Gino Mifsud, Rina Favotto, Ivy Fernandes,
Alina Przewoznik, Philomena Greenwood,
Bless our sick today so that they may bear
their illness in union with Jesus' sufferings and
restore them quickly to health

Please remember in your prayers

Alberto Magri, Mario Micallef, Zofia Jarzyna,
Betty Stepkovitch,
Antonio Mammone, Carmela Stivala, Vita Blanda,
Achille (Frank) Pavone,
Giuseppe Brunetta, Pasquale Berardinelli,
Domenic Lagudi, Allanah Cassar Falappi,
Immacolata Carioti

Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur
at this time :

Carmelo Cordina, Liliana Raisa.

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 Mertin

Catechists: 9725 4317

Mimi Romeo: catechist@stgertrude.org.au

Sacraments: 9725 4317 Helena Mertin
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)

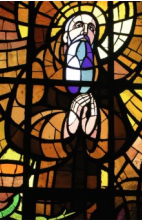
Baptisms: Parish Office 9604 1199
1st Sundays of the month during the
10.30am Mass at St Benedict's Church; &
Every 3rd Sunday at 12noon St Benedict's

Marriages: Parish Office 9604 1199
By appointment only (6 months required)

Sick Calls: 9604 1199
Any Time

Novena to St Benedict

Every Wednesday after the 7pm Mass
with Rosary & Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament



Reconciliation is available during this time.
Everyone is encouraged to
participate!

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Looking for signs

When Mary went to visit Elizabeth
she was not looking for a sign that
she had made the right decision.
Rather, because she had accepted
God's will the sign was given to her.
Her acceptance and action came first.
The sign came later as a confirmation.
At times we look to God to provide us
with a sign that our impending action
is the right choice. However, faith acts
in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait
around for a green light from God.
When we do act in faith, the flow-on
effects are the sign of confirmation.

Church Cleaners

Week ending 29th December ~
Group C: Warren Wilson & family

Weekend Parish Collections Week- Ending 16/12/2018
1st Collection \$1,534.10 goes to Fr. Jarek & Fr Wojtek as well as the upkeep of their Order of St Paul the First Hermit.
2nd Collection: Envelopes and/or Credit Card payments: \$2,492.00 and \$936.90 Loose Money.
Thank you for your generous support & May God Bless you all!

Advent
 ☆☆☆☆☆
New liturgical year begins: Sunday cycle C, weekday cycle 1



ADVENT has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second coming at the end of the time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

The Christmas Novena began on 17 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. This is the best time to hold carols services and to begin to sing Christmas carols in the liturgy.



St Benedict's Church

Christmas Eve 24 December

5pm Carols (Children)
 6pm Christmas Vigil (Children/Family)
 11.00pm Carols

Christmas 25 December

Midnight Mass (12 am)
 8am (Italian)
 10.30am



Christmas Octave & Public Holidays

10.30am

St Therese's Church

Christmas 25 December

7.30am & 9am
 11am (Spanish); 6pm (Syriac)

Christmas Octave & Public Holidays

8am

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS & 'OCTAVE SEASON' MASS TIMES

26th December 2018 (Feast of St Stephen) to
 1st January 2019 (inclusive)
 St Therese's Church Fairfield West: 8am
 St Benedict's Church Smithfield: 10:30am
Please note: Wednesday 26th December
There will be NO EVENING MASS.
Mass will be at 10:30am.

~ Feasts ~

Wednesday 26th December ~ St Stephen, the first martyr
 Thursday 27th December ~ St John, Apostle, Evangelist

Wine Blessing Thursday 27th December (Feast of St John, Apostle, Evangelist)

Parishioners are invited to bring a bottle(s) of wine to the
8am Mass at St Therese's Church or the
10:30am Mass at St Benedict's Church
 to have your wine blessed

Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish office is now closed from
Monday 24th December and will re-open on
Monday 7th January.

*We wish you all a Holy and Joyous Christmas
 And a safe and happy New Year!
 Linda, Suzanne & Karen.*

Christmas Offering Envelopes

Money given will go to our priests, Fr Jarek & Fr Wojtek
Thank you for your kindness.

Holy Family Sunday

Couples who celebrated their Wedding Anniversary this year are invited to celebrate and renew their vows at the
 10:30am Mass on

Sunday 30th December ~ St Benedict's Church

For anyone wishing to participate, please place your names on the form located in the Church foyer

SACRAMENT NEWS!

Thank you so much to the dedicated group of facilitators who generously donated their time during 2018 to help the parents prepare their children for the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Your support is greatly appreciated.

HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOS PLEASE CONTACT HELENA IN THE SACRAMENTAL OFFICE AT THE EMAIL BELOW: ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT MARIA FROM TRACES OF TIME - 0407 662 535

FIRST RECONCILIATION / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENTS 2019: Enrolments are now complete. The Parent Information Evening will be held on: **Wednesday 13th March 2019.**

SACRAMENTAL OFFICE: Please be advised the Sacramental Office is now closed. It will re-open in February 2019. For all enquiries please email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or call 9725 4317 and leave a message. If you wish to see Helena face-to-face, please email/call the Sacramental Office to make an appointment. Thank You.

Donations at the Crib

Donations at the crib this year will go to Catholic Mission.
A core part of the work of Catholic Mission is the development and sustenance of children in some of the poorest communities around the world.

Unfortunately, we are unable to send money as a parish to Sr Anna Maria any more due to the difficulties of transferring this money to Pakistan. We thank you kindly for your very generous support to Sr Anna over the years.

2019 PARISH FACILITY BOOKINGS

(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church & Hall)
 Attention ALL groups wanting to use the above facilities for 2019, please book your dates and times, in writing, to the parish office as soon as possible. Thank you.

YOUTH MASS & YOUTH GROUP

Youth group Mass, meetings and music rehearsals will re-commence in February.

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 A big **Thank You** to our Youth Leaders for their continued help and guidance throughout the year.

### **~ Altar Servers~**

No Altar Servers meeting throughout the school holidays

### **House for Rent**

The property next to the Church Carpark on Neville Street, will be available for rent in 2019.  
 Please direct any interest to the parish office.

### **St Gertrude's Parish Playgroup**

Playgroup is closed during the school holidays and will re-open when the new school term begins.

Contact: [playgroup@stgertrude.org](mailto:playgroup@stgertrude.org).

### **SAFEGUARDING NEWS**

The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office, in conjunction with the Parish Support and Development Team, has identified the following require a Working with Children Check (WWCC): Youth ministers, children's liturgy, children's choir, Catechists, Sacramental group leaders, readers, acolytes, senior altar servers, extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion, Parish counters & **collectors** and ministers to the homebound. **Please note that some ministries that did not previously require a WWCC, now need one, please visit the RMS before the end of November to obtain a WWCC, otherwise you will need to cease your ministry until this requirement is met.**

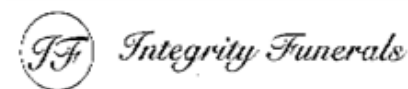
Volunteers who have not yet completed a Code of Conduct please visit the Parish ASAP.

If you have not attended Safeguarding induction training, please speak to Maria or Helena to arrange a time – safeguarding induction training is mandatory for all volunteers. The training can also be completed online, please contact us to ask us how!

**All volunteers – please check the expiration date of your WWCC. If it is due for renewal please visit the RMS. Once renewed please notify the Parish Office.**

Thank you for your continued co-operation to ensure our Parish meets Safeguarding requirements. For more information, please contact the Parish Office or email [pssso@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:pssso@stgertrude.org.au)

**The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office**  
 If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on ph 02 9390 5812.



**Mark Malone J.P.**  
**Director**

**67B Brenan Street, Smithfield**  
**Ph: (02) 9727 0400 Fax: (02) 9727 0800**  
[www.integrityfuneralsnsw.com.au](http://www.integrityfuneralsnsw.com.au)

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