

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Phil 4:4-5

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

FIRST READING

Is 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.  
All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3.

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING

Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting

at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.  
All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord  
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 35:4

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

Next Week: Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Readings: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24 11:2-11

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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); 6pm (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

ST. GERTRUDE'S PARISH • SMITHFIELD




Parish Priest  
Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

Assistant Priests  
Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE &  
Fr Peter James Strohmayer OSPPE

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15 December, 2019



We welcome the following

Anton Andreata, Grayson Ambrose, Gabriel Passarelli, Jaxon Cornell  
Baptised in our Parish Community

We pray for the sick of this parish

Fr Anthony David OSPPE, Kevin Dicconson, Adam Westwood, Emile & Mary Kodsy, Kartia Grace Russell, Gino Mifsud & Ivy Fernandes.

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

Lucia (Lucy) Branca, Vincenzo Bruno, Santina Pomili, Rosario Violi Maria Szady,

Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time :

Mario Micallef, Alberto Magri, Agnese Baratto

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:  
Tan Do

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)

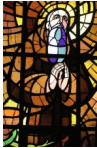
Baptisms: Parish Office 9604 1199  
1<sup>st</sup> Sundays of the month during the 10.30am Mass at St Benedict's Church; & Every 3rd Sunday at 12noon St Benedict's

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

Sick Calls: 9604 1199  
Any Time

Pope's Intention: DECEMBER  
The Future of the Very Young  
That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

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!

Historical Context

Least and Greatest

Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.

Church Cleaners

Weekending 21 December  
Group D ~ Grace & Pina



### Weekend Parish Collections Week- Ending 08/12/2019

1<sup>st</sup> Collection goes to Fr. Jarek, Fr Wojtek & Fr Peter James as well as the upkeep of their Order of St Paul the First Hermit \$1,700.05

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Envelopes and/or Credit Card payments: **\$1,742.00**

Loose Money: **\$1,082.00**

*Thank you for your generous support & May God Bless you all!*

# Advent



New liturgical year begins:  
Sunday cycle A, weekday cycle 2

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 time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

## Christmas Mass Times



### St Benedict's Church

**Wednesday 18 December 7pm**

Reconciliation - 1<sup>st</sup> Rite

(after Mass & Exposition & Shortened Novena)

**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

NO EVENING MASS



### St Therese's Church

**Christmas Eve 24 December**

9.30pm Spanish

**Christmas 25 December**

7.30am, 9am,

11am (Vietnamese), 6pm (Syriac)

**Christmas Octave 26 December 2019 to  
1st January 2020**

10:30am St Benedict

8:00am St Therese

The **Christmas Novena** begins 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. GNLYC42

### Altar Servers Meeting ~ 4.30 to 5.15pm Tuesday 17 December

There will be no Meetings during the School holidays.  
*Thank you for your dedicated service throughout the year.*

### PARISH OFFICE ~ HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 24 December 2019 and will reopen on Tuesday 7 January.



### SACRAMENT NEWS:

The Sacrament Office will close on Wednesday 18th December 2019 and will re-open at the beginning of Term 1, in January 2020.

For all enquires regarding the Sacramental Program for children, please email: [sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au)

**Parish Youth Group Christmas Party**  
Sunday 15 December at 3pm in Montefano Hall  
Youth and parents are warmly invited to celebrate together.

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

*A sincere THANKS to our Youth Leaders for their continued help and guidance throughout the year.*

*Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season!*

### Donations at the Crib

*Donations at the crib will be sent to Catholic Mission.*



### Nativity ~ St Benedict's Church

As the Nativity is on the Sanctuary this year, if you wish to view it, we ask that you please *do not* walk up the steps.

*Thank you for your cooperation!!*

### 2020 Parish Facility Bookings

(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church & Hall)

Would all groups wanting to use the facilities at our parish, please book your dates and times in writing /email with the parish office as soon as possible. [office@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:office@stgertrude.org.au)  
Thank you.

### Safeguarding

The **Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney** have introduced new requirements for volunteers 18yrs and over. All volunteers must sign a **Volunteer Acceptance Form**, a **Code of Conduct for Working with Children** and complete a **Safeguarding Induction Training Course**. The **ONLINE Induction Training Course** is available to new parish volunteers. Please register by following this link:-

<https://goo.gl/forms/wSkRi3ZO6PzkRfbo1>.

Additionally, some new volunteers are also required to attend an interview. These include \* Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Children's Liturgy, Catechists, Collectors, Acolytes etc.

Thank you for your co-operation. Any concerns please contact [psso@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:psso@stgertrude.org.au). or the Parish Office [office@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:office@stgertrude.org.au)

### FEDERAZIONE CATTOLICA ITALIANA '

**LA TOMBOLA ricomincerà il 7 FEBBRAIO 2020**

**\*Da Parte Mia, Antonio Coiera e Membri del mio Comitato Vi Auguriamo**

**Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo. Sperando che Gesu' Bambino vi riempie di Buona Salute e Benedizione per L'Anno Nuovo e per Sempre. CHRISTO REGNI.**  
( CON LA BENZIONE DEL SIGNORE SPERO DI RIVEDERCI NEL 2020 )

### THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION [ECI]

\*BINGO will Restart in FEBRUARY the 7th & 21st 2020  
**The Italian Catholic Federation of S/Field & I Tony Coiera would like to wish you all**  
**A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. May God Bless you all with Good Health.**  
God Bless .

For more information call, Tony Coiera 0409 908 424  
Gina Morosin 0417 203 908

### Calling All Catechists – Children's Liturgy, Sacramental Preparation, Public School Catechists

You are invited to 'come and see' and experience the pilgrimage of a lifetime to where Jesus walked. "To be there! To experience the Garden of Gethsemane, the place of the Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee – Scriptures come alive and you will never be the same again!" Very Rev Michael McLean, Episcopal Vicar for Education (Schs), Leader of the Archdiocese's CCD Parish Catechist Support team's Jubilee Pilgrimage. Departs 16 May 2020, 10 Nights/13 Days in the Holy Land with Optional Rome Extension (5 Nights). Book now 1800 819 156 [www.harvestjourneys.com/PV3120](http://www.harvestjourneys.com/PV3120) DEPOSIT due 20 Dec 2019. "Next year, Jerusalem!"

The **National Pilgrimage of the Relics of Saints Therese**, and her parents, Louis and Zelig, will be making their way around the Archdiocese of Sydney in February and March 2020. You will find the full itinerary on our notice board, so you can take this opportunity to venerate the relics at nearby churches.



Please pray for Br Fabian Ozog who recently passed away in Poland. He was a brother in the Order of St Paul the First Hermit.  
Rest In Peace.

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime 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](mailto: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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**Mark Malone J.P.**  
Director

**67B Brenan Street, Smithfield**  
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[www.integrityfuneralsnsw.com.au](http://www.integrityfuneralsnsw.com.au)

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