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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](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."*

**Italian Catholic Federation**  
 Welcomes all Parishioners to join us  
 for the restart of  
**FCI 2021 BINGO**  
 on 10:00 am  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021**  
 in Montefano Hall  
 \$10 entry includes Bingo Games, morning tea/  
 coffee and light lunch.  
 Come Join us for a morning of fun and prizes







  
**Patrician Brothers' College**  
 FAIRFIELD



**Open Day** TUESDAY  
 23 MARCH 2021  
 3.00pm-6.30pm  
 P 9728 4488  
[pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au](http://pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au)

**Advertising Space Available - Beginning New Financial Year**

Quarterly (No Easter Ads): \$330  
 Half Year (26 Weeks - No Easter Ads): \$550  
 Annually (No Easter Ads): \$990

- 10% discount for parishioners who are actively donating via the St Gertrude's Fund.

Contact Parish Office - 9604 1199  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10 am—2 pm

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 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10 am—2 pm

# ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

**St Benedict's Church**  
 Corner Justin & Neville Street  
 SMITHFIELD

**Sunday Masses:**  
 Saturday Vigil 6.00pm;  
 9am (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 & Fridays after 9.15am Mass with Exposition.

**St Theresa's Church**  
 Corner The Boulevard & Stella Street  
 FAIRFIELD WEST


**Sunday Masses:**  
 Saturday Vigil 5pm (Vietnamese);  
 7:30am (English); 12 noon (Spanish); 6pm (Syriac)

**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 Priests**  
 Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE &  
 Fr Peter James Strohmayr OSPPE

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 7 February 2021



We welcome the following  
 Christian Muoio  
*Baptised in our Parish Community*

We pray for the sick of this parish  
 Fr Gabriel Taylor OSPPE,  
 David Lazarus, Giuseppina Pignataro,  
 Fr Anthony David OSPPE, Kevin Dicconson,  
 Adam Westwood, Emile & Mary Kody,  
 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*

Remember in your prayers  
 Maria Frizzo, Joseph Cortez, Caesar Sammut,  
 Adreana Attard, Giovanni Oliverio,  
 Maria Caltabiano, Josephine Cachia,  
 Constantino Axiak, Therese Do, Dorothy Vella,  
**Recently Deceased**

And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time  
 Maria Sciglitano, Peter Capolupo,  
 Aldo De Gasperi, Maria Grech

**PARISH INFORMATION**

**Parish Office:**  
 6 Justin St, Smithfield  
 Phone: 9604 1199 Fax 9609 6585  
 Email: [office@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:office@stgertrude.org.au)  
 Website: [www.stgertrude.org.au](http://www.stgertrude.org.au)

**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday (closed Wednesday)  
 10am - 2pm

**Parish Council:** Denise Namroud

**Finance Committee:** Tan Do  
 Andrew Maia: Work Health & Safety

**Catechists:** 9725 4317  
 Mimi Romeo: [catechist@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:catechist@stgertrude.org.au)

**Sacraments:** 9725 4317 Helena Martin  
[sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au)  
 Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation

**Liturgy:** 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert  
[liturgy@stgertrude.org.au](mailto: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

**Safeguarding:**  
[wwcc@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:wwcc@stgertrude.org.au) (all WWCC renewals)  
[psso@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:psso@stgertrude.org.au) (Parish Safeguarding Support Officers)

**Other:** FCI (Italian Catholic Federation)  
 Tony Coiera 0409 908 424

**Parish Playgroup:** Thursday during school term. 9.30am - 11.30am

**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER**  
**Intention for February**  
**Universal Intention—Violence against women**  
**We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.**

**Novena to St Benedict**  
 Wednesday after the 7pm Mass with Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.  
*Reconciliation is available during this time.*

**Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic**  
 O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.  
 You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.  
 Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection.  
 Amen.  
 Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

**Church Cleaners—**  
**February 13 Group D—Grace & Pina's (St Benedict's)**  
**Group D: Syriacs (St Therese)**

**Parish Office Hours: 10am—2pm**  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday  
 (closed Wednesday)

**\* COVID19 Safety Procedures—Please see Church Notice Boards**



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon Ps 94:6-7

O come, let us worship God  
and bow low before the God who made us,  
for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading Jb 7:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the book of Job

Job began to speak:

Is not man’s life on earth nothing more than pressed service,  
his time no better than hired drudgery?  
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,  
or the workman with no thought but his wages,  
months of delusion I have assigned to me,  
nothing for my own but nights of grief.  
Lying in bed I wonder, ‘When will it be day?’  
Risen I think, ‘How slowly evening comes!’  
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.  
Swifter than a weaver’s shuttle my days have passed,  
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.  
Remember that my life is but a breath,  
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;  
sing to our God for he is loving:  
to him our praise is due. (R.)
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem  
and brings back Israel’s exiles,  
he heals the broken-hearted,  
he binds up all their wounds.  
He fixes the number of the stars;  
he calls each one by its name. (R.)
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;  
his wisdom can never be measured.  
The Lord raises the lowly;  
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23

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

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.  
So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

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

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Gospel Acclamation Mt 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!  
He bore our sickness,  
and endured our suffering.  
Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon’s mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.  
That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.  
In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, ‘Everybody is looking for you.’ He answered, ‘Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.’ And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

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

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,  
his wonders for the children of men,  
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,  
and the hungry he fills with good things.

Next Week: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Readings: Lev 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1;  
Mk 1:40-45

LENT 2021  
The season of Lent is almost upon us once again!  
Ash Wednesday – 17<sup>th</sup> February  
Mass Times  
St. Therese’s church 7.00am  
St. Benedict’s Shrine 7.00pm, followed by a shortened Novena to St. Benedict.  
Note: Ash Wednesday is a day of **fast and abstinence**. The law of **fast-ing** (one main meal and two light snacks) binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year (18-60). The law of **abstinence** (refrain from eating meat) binds those who have completed their fourteenth year (14+).

**Stations of the Cross: Friday during Lent**  
St. Therese’s Church following the 7.00am Mass  
St. Benedict’s Shrine 7.00pm.

**Lenten Program**  
Lenten Books and CDs are available for purchase at Mass this weekend. These resources can be used to help you prepare during Lent for Easter. Due to Covid we will not hold group sessions in the Parish but encourage you as a family to use these resources in your homes. A great way for the family to gather and pray together! Books \$8 and CDs \$8.

Our Lady of Lourdes – 11<sup>th</sup> February  
The memorial of *Our Lady of Lourdes* will be celebrated on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will also be celebrated at Mass on this day at St. Therese’s Church, 7.00am and St. Benedict’s Shrine, 9.15am.

**Communion to the Sick** will be given on a fortnightly basis. The next date is **16th February 2021**.

CATECHIST NEWS  
Catechist Meeting – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

All catechists are invited to attend the first Catechist meeting for 2021 on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February following the 9.15am Mass at 10.15am in the Montefano Hall**. It’s been a long time since we have been able to gather and it would be great to see as many catechists as possible in attendance.

**Catechist Sunday Commissioning Mass – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Our Parish Catechist Commissioning Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February at the 10.30am Mass at St. Benedict’s Shrine**. All catechists who are teaching will be commissioned and sent forth to bring the Word of God to the children in our State School System. May God continue to bless you as you bring the hope and joy of Jesus to the children you teach.

We will also celebrate those who have served our Parish for a number of years:

5 years:	Kasia Serafin.
10 years	Royala Fernandes, Marlene O’Connor, Aloma Rebeiro.
15years:	Josephine Carbone, Gloria Wilson, Annick Mifsud.

We also thank and congratulate those who will receive certificates of service from the Archbishop at St.Mary’s Cathedral at the annual Catechist Mass on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February:

25 years:	Mary Andrew, Felicia Riviera.
20 years:	George Andrew, Dee Vranjes

*Well done, good and faithful servants. God bless you!*

Due to Covid restrictions, attendance at the Annual Catechist Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral is via invitation only. All catechists are encouraged to participate in the Mass by viewing a live stream of the Mass at 2.30pm via St. Mary’s Cathedral website: [https://youtu.be/myqi2nC\\_SpQ](https://youtu.be/myqi2nC_SpQ)

Statistics show that 75% of Catholic students attend Government Schools. Our Smithfield Catechists are currently teaching approximately 900 students in 4 primary schools. An amazing commitment and great representation of our Parish! If you would like to become a Catechist please contact our Catechist Co-Ordinator Mimi Romeo on 9725-4317 or [catechist@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:catechist@stgertrude.org.au)

**Men’s Rosary Group – 25<sup>th</sup> February**  
It’s back!! The Men’s Rosary group will meet this month on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm at St. Benedict’s Shrine**. We will then continue to meet the last Thursday of every month. New members are always welcome to join.

**Sacramental Programme 2021**

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion  
If your child is in Year 3 and above, and you would like them to make their First Holy Communion this year, please contact the Sacramental Office no later than Friday 19/2/21.  
Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the parish website.

Please visit: <http://stgertrude.org.au/sacramental-program/>

Please email the form back to [sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au)

If you need a paper copy, please contact the sacramental office.

2021 Families who enrolled last year and 2020 enrolled families, will be contacted in the next 2 weeks with more information.  
**Reminder**  
First Reconciliation Parent Meeting - **Tuesday 23rd February at 7 pm** (please note time change).  
Enrolment information and any changes will be published in the parish bulletin.  
*For all enquiries, please email: [sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au) or call [9725 4317](tel:97254317) to leave a message.*

**Thank you to Neo-Catechumenal Way**  
The Parish would like to acknowledge and thank the Neo-Catechumenal Way who presented Archbishop Anthony Fisher with a generous donation to be used for the needy in the Archdiocese.

**Thank you FCI**  
The Parish would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to the FCI who recently made a generous contribution to our Parish. May God return to you grace and blessings for your generosity.

**Welcome back to School**  
As school commences for 2021, we would like to welcome our staff, students and parents – new and returning – to the new academic year. We pray that 2021 is a successful year for all.

**Kindergarten Mass – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**  
Mass for our Kindergarten students and the blessing of backpacks will be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 10.30am

**COVID-19 update**  
In keeping with NSW Health directives, anyone attending a church either for private prayer or for a service must wear a face mask. The only exemptions are those with a medical condition, where it is essential to remove a mask to carry out one’s responsibilities (e.g. readers) or children under the age of 12. NSW Health can impose a \$200 fine on each individual failing to abide by this rule.

The number of people attending church services has been changed this week by the State Government. Under the new regulations there is no longer a “cap” of people attending, as long as the 4m² rule is applied. As such, St Benedict’s Shrine can hold a maximum of 150 people, St. Therese’s Church 50 people and Montefano Hall 90 people. This includes regular Mass, weddings, funerals and baptisms.

**QR Codes**  
The NSW Government strongly recommends the use of QR Codes for contact tracing should the need arise. There are QR Codes at the doors of St. Benedict’s Shrine, St. Therese’s Church and the Montefano Hall. For those who are able, we ask that you use the QR code when entering the parish sites and to show the usher at the door your successful registration. For those who cannot use the QR Codes you are still able to ‘sign-in’ using the sheets at the doors of the parish buildings.

**Sacristy Regulations**  
Please note that the church sacristy is for the use of the priests and those who minister at Mass. No other persons should enter the sacristy or use the sacristy as a thoroughfare. If you have a Mass intention, please hand it to the Acolyte who will give it to the priest. Likewise, if you need to use the bathrooms at St. Benedict’s, please **do not walk through the sacristy**, but rather walk around the church building. For our ministers at Mass, please note which sacristy is available to you. Junior Altar servers should not congregate in the priest’s sacristy. These regulations are in place according to our Safeguarding Protocols, WHS, and current Covid practices. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Working With Children Check (WWCC)**

It has come to our attention that a number of Parish volunteers have expired WWCC. Due to Covid, the NSW granted a 6 month period of ‘grace’ until 15 September 2020. This time has now passed and all WWCCs must be current. **If your WWCC expired in 2020 it is imperative you renew your WWCC to continue with your Parish Ministry.** Failing to renew your WWCC will mean that you will have to re-do the application from start resulting in a NEW WWCC number. Once you have renewed your WWCC please email your documents to [wwcc@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:wwcc@stgertrude.org.au) or contact the Parish office. If you are having difficulties renewing, please contact the Parish Office for assistance.

**Tap n Go Donation**  
The Parish has recently installed an electronic *Tap n Go* collection point at St. Benedict’s Shrine. The amount that is automatically deducted is \$10 which goes directly into the Church Fund or second collection loose. If you want to donate \$20, then you just need to tap twice. It is still very important that those who contribute via the Parish Planned Giving System (envelopes) continue to do so and if anyone would like to join Planned Giving, please contact the Parish Office.

**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. 6675001  
**Thank you for your continued support and generosity . God Bless.**  
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**Where do my Collections Go?**  
In Australia there are two collections at Sunday Mass. The allocation of funds is as follows:  
**First Collection: to the Priests.** This collection is used for the needs of the Parish Presbytery expenses for our priests.  
**Second Collection: to the Parish.** This collection is used for the maintenance and repairs of Parish buildings and for expenses to the Parish such as utilities, staff wages, liturgical needs (bread and wine), etc.