

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

***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. (Jn 1 :14).***

Dear Friends,

When we reflect on the Christmas Story we notice the importance of the spoken word. The Advent of Christ is the fulfillment of the Promise of salvation that God made to his Chosen People. It is the Words from the Angel spoken to Mary and the “Yes” of Mary that allows the Incarnate Word to be a reality. It is the courage of St. Joseph that allows him to believe the words spoken by the Angel and remain faithful to Mary and his new Son. And it is the words from the angels to the shepherds that announce the Virgin Birth. In a year that has been filled with so many words, we come to reflect on the importance of the Word of God. It is our willingness to hear these words of God that allow us to rejoice at the coming of Christ. It is this “Word”, *full of grace and truth*, which loved us so much that he desired to be as close to us as humanly possible. During this Christmas Season may the words you speak be ones of peace, love and joy. May they be words of hope and courage. May they be words to inspire and encourage. As you gaze on the Holy Manger may your words be filled with prayer and praise

As we farewell yet another extraordinarily challenging yet rewarding year, may the presence of God remain with you speaking to you words of peace and prosperity.

*God Bless*

Fr Jarek, Fr Wojtek and Fr Peter James



## THANK YOU

Thank you to all our Parishioners who have sent Christmas greetings and given gifts this year. You have been truly generous.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

### 26th December Holy Family (Sunday)

St Therese's Church	7.30am	Mass of the Holy Family
St. Benedict's Shrine	9.00am (Italian)	Mass of the Holy Family
	10.30am	Mass of the Holy Family
	6pm	Mass of the Holy Family

### Christmas Octave 27th December—1st January

St. Therese's Church	8.00am
St. Benedict's Shrine	10.30am

*Note: These times are also for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God*

6.00pm Vigil of the Epiphany

### 2nd January Epiphany

St. Therese's Church	7.30am
St. Benedict's Shrine	9.00am (Italian)
	10.30am
	6.00pm



## CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office will close **on Thursday 23rd December and re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2022.**



### RIP Fr. Stanislaw Hodun

Please keep in your prayers Fr. Stanislaw Hodun, a Pauline Father who passed away on 22/12/2021. Fr. Stanislaw was 76 years of age, was in the Order for 51 years, 45 years as a priest.

## BLESSING OF THE GARDEN OF ST. JOSEPH

On Sunday 26th December on the Feast of the Holy Family the Parish will bless the new “Garden of St. Joseph” after the 10.30am Mass. This garden is in honour of St. Joseph, celebrating the Year of St. Joseph and dedicated to families in our Parish.

## 2022 PARISH FACILITY BOOKINGS (Smithfield & Fairfield West Church & Hall)

Groups wanting to use these facilities on a regular basis, please book your dates and times in writing/email to the Parish Office [office@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:office@stgertrude.org.au) Thank you.

## 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.

## 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 on (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.*

# ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

## St Benedict's Shrine

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.



### Parish Priest

Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

### Assistant Priests

Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE &  
Fr Peter James Strohmayer OSPPE

## St Therese's Church

Corner The Boulevard & Stella Street  
FAIRFIELD WEST

### Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5pm (Vietnamese);  
7:30am (English); 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

## 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

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





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

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.

**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.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

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

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.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*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.'

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.



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**REMINDER ~ PLEASE TURN OFF MOBILE PHONES**

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

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) ~ Mass during the Day**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;  
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,  
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel

**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 see 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**

**(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.

**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.

