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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

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. 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."

The Parish does not imply any endorsement for advertisements listed in this bulletin.

Blessing of Homes on Epiphany

(Sing a Christmas Hymn as you gather as a family.)

Leader: Peace be upon this house and all of us who live here

ALL: AMEN.

(Choose a reader to proclaim the Gospel)

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew

The wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking: *where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.* When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.

All gather at the front door of the house. Then the leader holding the chalk writes as he says:

The three wise men

C Caspar
M Melchior
B Balthasar

Followed the light of the star to find Jesus, the son of God, who came to live among us,

20 Two Thousand
22 and twenty two years ago
+ May Christ bless our home today and
+ remain with us throughout the year.

(then all move to the desired doors of the house and repeat the above, signing as they move from room to room. Once completed the leader says:)

Leader: Let us pray

God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ that it may be a place of hospitality and welcome. May Christ be our shelter when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. Through Christ our Lord

ALL: AMEN

Leader: Let us bless the Lord

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

(Another Christmas hymn may be sung at the end.)

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:
9.15 am followed by Devotions
7pm Mass & Adoration followed by Devotions

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tuesdays after Mass & Fridays after 9.15am Mass with Exposition.



Parish Administrator
Fr Peter James Strohmayr OSPPE

Assistant Priest
Fr Wojtek Sliwa 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 (Syriac)

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

First Friday of the Month:
6.30am Exposition & Confession; 7am Mass

First Saturday of the Month:
7am Rosary 8am Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:
Tuesdays after Mass

The Epiphany of the Lord

2 January 2022



We pray for the sick of this parish

Alyssa Ferreri,
Fr Gabriel Taylor OSPPE, David Lazarus,
Giuseppina Pignataro, 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

Remember in your prayers

Kevin William Knight, Giuseppa Reitano,
Teresa Chandra, Luisa Santucci, James Vella
Josephine Goddard.

Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time

Therese Nguyen Do, Constantino Axiak, Josephine Cachia

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office:

6 Justin St, Smithfield
Phone: 9604 1199 Fax 9609 6585
Email: office@stgertrude.org.au
Website: 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

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: Currently not available at this time.

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

Safeguarding:
wccc@stgertrude.org.au (all WWCC renewals)
psso@stgertrude.org.au (Parish Safeguarding Support Officers)

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

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER Intention for January

For true human fraternity
We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

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 us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

Church Cleaners—
w/e 8th January 2022
St Benedict: Group A **Frances**
St Therese's: Group C **Spanish**

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

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING

Is. 60: 1-6

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Eph. 3: 2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with
the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I
was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has
now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and
prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means
that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of
the same body, and that the same promise has been made to
them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt. 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign
of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east.

'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star
as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod
heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem.
He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the peo-
ple, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At
Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet
wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

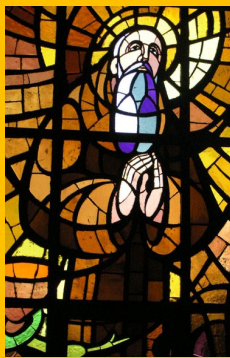
Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He
asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and
sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he
said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may
go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to
say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had
seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the
child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going
into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling
to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures,
they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they
were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to
their own country by a different way.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Thank You Fr. Jarek !

It is with a melancholy heart that the Parish of St. Gertrude's Smithfield will be without Fr. Jarek from this week. Fr Jarek has led our Parish for the past seven years and has faced many challenges in that time, the most recent being the Covid Pandemic, where his "steady as she goes" attitude has seen the Parish through this difficult period. Fr. Jarek has brought to our Parish a positive outlook and energetic Pastoral work. His encouragement has inspired many to be the best they can be. Fr. Jarek will take Sabbatical leave. Fr. Peter James has been appointed as the Administrator of St. Gertrude's and Fr. Wojtek the Administrator of the Community House.



In thanksgiving we pray for Fr. Jarek for all his efforts in his Spiritual and Pastoral direction of our Parish. We also pray that through the intercession of St. Gertrude, St. Benedict and St. Therese that Fr. Jarek has a fruitful Sabbatical. Once more, thank you Fr. Jarek for all that you have done for our Parish and know that you always can find a home in our Parish. God Bless

EPIPHANY CHALK

Chalk, which has been blessed, is available for you to take and
bless your homes. The prayer of blessing is included on the
back of this bulletin.

Next Week: The Baptism of the Lord Year C

Readings: Is.42: 1-4, 6-7; Acts10: 34-38; Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22.

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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



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christmas Offering envelopes will be available in the church over the Christmas Season. Please take an envelope home and return it with your offering in the first collection. These offerings support the priests of the Parish. Thank you for your constant support and generosity.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS !

CONFIRMATION:

Confirmation Ceremonies for the 2020 & 2021 cohorts will take place as follows:

- Ceremony 1: **Saturday 12th February** at 11:30 am
- Ceremony 2: **Sunday 13th February** at 12:30 pm
- Ceremony 3: **Sunday 13th February** at 2:30 pm

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR THE IMPORTANT EMAIL REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S CONFIRMATION CEREMONY.

- ♦ Reconciliation, Retreat, Rehearsals and Ceremony dates to be advised. These dates may be subject to change beyond our control.
- ♦ Confirmation Programme: To pray for the candidates, view their work or see updates about the programme, visit the Parish website: <https://www.stgertrude.org.au/confirmation-programme-2021/>

FIRST RECONCILIATION / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022:

Enrolments have closed.

If you missed the enrolment period, please contact the Sacrament Office ASAP.

Late enrolments may not be accepted.

For the latest Sacramental Programme news – please visit the Parish Website: <http://www.stgertrude.org.au/ministries/sacramental-program/>

For all enquiries please email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or phone: 9725 4317 to leave a message



CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

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

First Friday of the Month: 7th January

Mass times:
St. Therese 6.30am exposition and confession
7.00am Mass

St. Benedict's 9.15am Mass followed by devotions.

Please note there is no evening Mass at St. Benedict's



REMINDER ~ PLEASE TURN OFF MOBILE PHONES

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

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.