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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. 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.

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SCAN ME

St Gertrude's Parish CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

This Christmas, we would like to put together Christmas Hampers for the less fortunate families in our area. If you wish to donate non-perishable items, please come see us at the Parish Piety Store, or look out for boxes in the Parish foyer to place the items in.

Items may include:
Pasta & sauce, beans, canned meats/fish, breakfast foods, hot/cold cereal, Christmas pudding, pancake mix, syrup, instant mashed potatoes, rice, peanut butter, jam, coffee, tea, canned vegetables, soup, bread mix, dried milk, soy milk, toiletries, toothpaste, bathroom tissue, soap and shampoo, diapers/wipes.



Christmas Cookies

Singles \$4 each or 3 for \$10
Boxes \$10 each

While Stocks Last



ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

St Benedict's Shrine

Corner Justin & Neville Street
SMITHFIELD

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm;
9:00 am (Italian); 10:30am; 6:00pm.

Weekday Masses:

9:15am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday;
7:00 pm Wednesday

Weekday Public Holidays: 10:00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Adoration:

Wednesdays after evening Mass with Novena to St Benedict until 8:30 pm; Saturday from 4:30pm—5:30pm; & Friday after the 9:15am Mass

First Friday of the Month:

9:15 am followed by Devotions
7pm Mass & Adoration followed by Devotions

Chaplet of St. Michael: Tuesday after Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Friday after Mass



Parish Priest

Fr Peter James Strohmayer OSPPE

Assitant Priest

Fr Casimir Zielinski OSPPE

St Therese's Church

Corner The Boulevard & Stella Street
FAIRFIELD WEST

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm (Vietnamese);
7:30 am (English); 12 noon (Spanish); 6:00 pm (Syriac)

Weekday Masses:

Mon - Fri 7:00 am; Saturday 8:00 am

Weekday Public Holiday: 8:00 am

First Friday of the Month:

6.30 am Exposition & Confession; 7:00 am Mass

First Saturday of the Month:

7:00 am Rosary 8:00 am Mass

Chaplet of St. Michael:

Tuesday after Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Friday after Mass

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

10th December 2023



We pray for the sick of this Parish

Fr. Anthony David, OSPPE, Fr. Bob Bossini, Dot Danecek, Michael Hyzy, Aldo Girardi, Alfred Muscat, Alyssa Ferreri, Ray Wilson, Gino Mifsud, Helen Maric, Adam Westwood, Emile & Mary Kodszy, Kartia Grace Russell, & Ivy Fernandes.

Bless our sick today so that they may bear their illness in union with Jesus' sufferings and restore them quickly to health.

Recently Deceased

Emanuel Pace, Pasquale (Pat) Faga, Silvio Mario Fortini, Marjory Mary Costa, Elio Veneran.

And for those whose Anniversary occur at this time

Joe IDA, Walter SCHRANZ, Robyn HANKINSON, Marlene PACE, Angelo VIT.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office:

22 Neville 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)

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Parish Council: Denise Namroud

Finance Committee: Tan Do

Andrew Maia: Work Health & Safety

Catechists: 9725 4317

Mimi Romeo: catechist@stgertrude.org.au

Sacraments:

Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation

Contact: Jodie Micallef

Mob: 0412-804-465 (to leave a message)

sacraments@stgertrude.org.au

Liturgy: 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert

liturgy@stgertrude.org.au

Adult Sacraments (RCIA): Mariola Herbert

Every Sunday at 8:30 am in the

Crying Room (in front of St Benedict's)

Contact: Parish Office

Children's Liturgy: Currently not available at this time

Reconciliation:

Smithfield - Saturday 4:30 — 5:30 pm

Baptisms: Parish Office 9604 1199

Every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:00 noon in St Benedict's Shrine Church Smithfield

Marriages: Parish Office 9604 1199

By appointment only (6 months required)

Sick Calls: 9604 1199 — Any Time

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

Parish Youth:

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month following the 6pm Mass.

Contact: Fr. Peter James via Parish Office

Other: FCI (Italian Catholic Federation)

Tony Coiera 0409 908 424

Parish Playgroup: Thursday during school term. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Our Schools

ST GERTRUDE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SMITHFIELD

Boys & Girls: K-6: Ph: 9609-4144
Principal: Mrs Linda Katsibras
1-11 Justin, Street, Smithfield NSW 2164
www.stgsmithfield.syd.catholic.edu.au
www.facebook.com/stgertrudessmithfield
www.instagram.com/stgsmithfield/

MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE WAKELEY

Girls: 7-12: Ph: 9725 4322
Principal: Ms Gilda Pussich
5 Carnarvon St, Wakeley NSW 2176
info@mmcwakeley.catholic.edu.au
mmcwakeley.syd.catholic.edu.au

PATRICIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE FAIRFIELD

Boys: 7-12: Ph: 9728-4488
Principal: Mr Peter Wade
268 The Horsley Drive, Fairfield NSW 2165
info@pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au
www.pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Novena to St Benedict

Wednesday after the 7:00 pm Mass with Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Reconciliation is available during this time.

Church Cleaners

W/E: 16th December

St Benedict: Group B: PPC/ Teachers
St. Therese: Group A: Frances

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
(closed Wednesday)

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING Is 40:1-5,9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and
grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 2 Pet 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget:
that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a
thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to
carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow;
but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost
and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of
the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky

will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth
and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be
living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day
of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the
elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he
promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where
righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you
are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so
that he will find you at peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Mark
The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son
of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to
him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they
confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and
he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his
preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and
undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water,
but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Confession in preparation for Christmas will be held on
Wednesday 20th December following 7pm Mass. There will
be no Novena after the Mass.

Please note that there will be no Confession on the 23rd or the
24th of December.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION VISIT TO THE HOUSEBOUND TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Confession and Eucharist for those unable to attend Mass will
take place between 10-1pm on 19th December 2023.
Please, contact the parish office on 9604 1199.

2024 PARISH FACILITY BOOKINGS

(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church and hall)

Any Parish groups wanting to use these facilities on a regular
basis in 2024, please book your dates and times in writing/email
to the Parish Office (office@stgerturde.org.au)

Thank you

PPC & PFC MEETING—THIS MONDAY

The next Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance
Council Meeting will be a joint meeting. The meeting
will take place at **7pm this Monday, 11th December**
in St Augustine Catechesis Centre. All members are asked to
be in attendance.

PRESBYTERY PHONES

The Presbytery phones are not working at the moment. In the
matter of urgency please contact the Parish office.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 6 STUDENTS



St. Gertrude's Parish would like to congratulate all
our Year 6 students who graduate this week. We
wish the all the best in high school next year.
God bless you always!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MASS

The Parish invites all our volunteers who have contributed to the
continued Mission of our Parish to celebrate a Mass of
Appreciation for all your efforts. **Mass will be celebrated at
10:30am this Sunday, 10th December 2023 followed by a
BBQ.** Parishioners are invited to bring a plate to share.
On behalf of the Parish a big thank you to all our volunteers for
all your donated time and effort this year.
May God bless you always.

PARISH WORKING BEE FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER



In preparation for Christmas, a working bee has been
organised for Friday 15th December from 6:30 pm
If you are available and willing to give of your time for the Parish
you are most welcome!!

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS CHOIR



We will rehearse at St Benedict's Church on Mondays
at 7.30pm. Enter via the back door of Church through
Justin Street opposite the school.
Please email Anna at liturgy@stgertrude.org.au if you have any
queries.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



To all children interested in participating in the
Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve.
We will rehearse at St Benedict's Church on
Fridays at 7.30 pm. Enter via the back door of Church through
Justin Street opposite the school. Please email Anna at
liturgy@stgertrude.org.au if you have any queries.

SACRED HEART GARDEN

Thank you to volunteers who donated their time and materials to
build a garden devoted to Sacred Heart.
We invite you to have a look at the Sacred Heart Garden.



CHRISTMAS NOVENA 16 - 24 DECEMBER

The Christmas Novena begins on 16th
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.

Novena Prayer

**HAIL, and blessed be the hour and moment
at which the Son of God was born
of a most pure Virgin**

**at a stable at midnight in Bethlehem in the
piercing cold**

at that hour vouchsafe,

I beseech Thee,

**to hear my prayers and grant my desires
(mention your request here).**

**Through Jesus Christ and His most Blessed
Mother.**

Say 1: Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be

Next Week: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture: Is 61:1-2,10-11 1Thess 5:16-24

Gospel: Jn 1:6-8,19-28.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS!

2024 SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENT NOW OPEN

Enrolments for the 2024 First Reconciliation and First
Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation Program
is now open. Children in 2024 who are enrolled in
Year 3 and above, who have been Baptised in the
Catholic Church, may be eligible to enrol.



To enrol please complete the online
Google form by scanning the **QR code** or
logging onto:

<https://tinyurl.com/547783mk>

Enrolments are due no later than **Sunday,
4th February.**

Late enrolments will not be accepted.



FIRST RECONCILIATION IMPORTANT DATES

The 'Parent Only Information Night' will be held on **Thursday
8th February** at 7.00pm to 8.00pm in the Parish Montefano
Hall.

First Reconciliation lessons will take place from 8:45am to
10:15am in the Parish Montefano Hall.

- Lesson 1 – Sunday 25th February
- Lesson 2 – Sunday 3rd March
- Lesson 3 – Sunday 10th March
- Lesson 4 – Sunday 17th March



CONFIRMATION PHOTO PICK UP DATE AND TIME

Please be advised that the 2023 Confirmation photo pick up
date is on **THIS SUNDAY, 10 DECEMBER**
between **12:30pm and 2:00pm** in the St
Augustine Catechesis Centre. Individual and
group photos are available for purchase on this
day.



For all enquiries, please contact the
Sacramental Office by emailing sacraments@stgertrude.org.au
or text/phone 0412-804-465 to leave a message.

God bless
Jodie



Italian Catholic Federation

Would like to Thank Members, Friends &
Parishioners for your support in 2023

We have raised \$17,000 & will donate to:

- ♦ St. Gertrude's Parish
- ♦ Madagascar Childrens Orphanage
- ♦ Westmead Childrens Hospital
- ♦ Scalabrinian Borsa di Studio
- ♦ Braeside Hospital Wetherill Park
- ♦ Fred Hollows Foundation



YOUTH GROUP NEXT SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

The next Youth Group will be this Sunday in
the **St. Augustine Catechesis Centre**
following the 6 pm Mass.

High Schoolers and over 18s invited to attend.

Christmas gathering

Please join us for prayer, fun, friendship and food.

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.