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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

SCHOENSTATT GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN

GIRLS SUMMER CAMP
12-16 YEARS OLD
SESSIONS ARE SPLIT INTO AGE GROUPS

Places are limited & registrations are necessary.

START 15th January 4pm
END 17th January 2pm
COST \$85

Activities
✓ Arts & Craft
✓ Games
✓ Spiritual Input
✓ Singing
✓ Prayers
✓ Discussions

Venue
"Home of Light"
230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745

Contact
Sr. M. Rita Baysari
0493 026 628
srrita@schoenstatt.org.au

Schoenstatt Girls & Young Women

My little piece of HEAVEN
Weekend Retreat for Young Women 17+

START: FRIDAY 12TH JAN @ 6.30 PM
FINISH: SUNDAY 14TH JAN @ 4 PM*

COST: \$75
VENUE: "Home of Light"
230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745

*There is the opportunity to stay on and be a leader at the following Girls Camp

THE WEEKEND INCLUDES:
talks | laughs | singing | music sharing | discussions | prayers walks | adoration | holy mass
PLUS a 'Home Shrine' dedication ceremony

Places are limited. Registrations are essential & close on 07/01/2024.

CONTACT:
Sr. M. Rita Baysari
0493 026 628
srrita@schoenstatt.org.au

"Because someone we love is in heaven, there is a little bit of heaven in our home."

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

The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B

31st December 2023



We pray for the sick of this Parish

Fr. Anthony David, OSPPE, Fr. Bob Bossini, Josica Marotta, Dot Danecek, Michael Hyzy, Aldo Girardi, Alfred Muscat, Alyssa Ferreri, Ray Wilson, Gino Mifsud, Adam Westwood, Emile & Mary Kody, 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

Guiseppe Galvagno, Tony Ventra, Marco Livio, Maria Zadro, Emanuel Pace, Pasquale (Pat) Faga, Silvio Mario Fortini, Marjory Mary Costa.

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): Fr. Peter James

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
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 the Gift of Diversity in the Church
We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

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: 6th January

St Benedict: Group E: Neo-Cats

St. Therese: Group A: Frances

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

The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph ,Year B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

FIRST READING Gen 15:1-6,21:1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) **The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! (R.)
2. Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. (R.)
3. Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. (R.)
4. He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. (R.)

SECOND READING Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master,
you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



Wishing you, your family
and friends many
Blessings and Peace in
the New Year.
We hope 2024 brings
you much love, happiness
and good health.

Next Week: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Scripture: Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3,5-6
Gospel: Mt 2:1-12.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

31st December - The Holy Family (Sunday)

St Therese's Church
7:30 am Mass of the Day
5:30 pm Syriac Rite Mass

St Benedict's Shrine
9:00 am Italian Mass
10:30 am Mass
6:00 pm Mass

1st January 2024 - Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Monday)

St Therese's Church
8:00 am Mass
10:00 am Vietnamese Mass

St Benedict's Shrine
10:00 am Mass

2nd January - (Tuesday)

St Therese's Church
7:00 am Mass

St Benedict's Shrine
9:15 am Mass

**Please note: No weekday Devotions or
Wednesday evening Mass during January.
Devotions, Wednesday evening Mass and Novena
will recommence in February 2024.**



FIRST FRIDAY - 5TH JANUARY 2024

Mass times as follows:

St Therese's Church: 6:30 am Exposition and Confession
7:00 am Mass

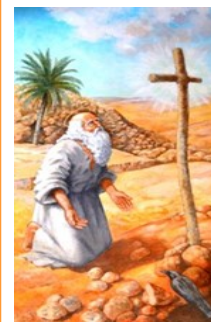
St. Benedict's Shrine: 9:15 am Mass

FIRST SATURDAY—6TH JANUARY 2024

Mass times as follows:

St Therese's Church: 7:00 am Exposition and Confession
8:00 am Mass

NOVENA TO ST. PAUL THE FIRST HERMIT 5TH-14TH JANUARY 2024



In preparation for the Solemnity of St. Paul, the First Hermit on 14th January we will pray the Novena to St. Paul beginning Friday 5th January 2024.

Patriarch of the Pauline Order

St. Paul the First Hermit or Paul of Thebes
the Patriarch of the Pauline Order.

As a parish community this important Solemnity of the Pauline Fathers will be celebrated at the 10:30 am Mass, Sunday 14th January 2024 with readings of St. Paul.

As is the custom for the Pauline Order, there will be a special blessing for all children on the Solemnity.

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.

PRESBYTERY PHONES

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

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
8:45 am to 10:15 am 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



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

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office will **close on Friday 22nd December** and **re-open on Monday 8th January 2024.**

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@stgertrude.org.au)
Thank you



Italian Catholic Federation



Announces that:

BINGO will RESTART on Friday 2nd Feb 2024

**Our committee would like to wish
all parishioners a Merry Christmas &
a safe & blessed New Year 2024**



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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.