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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."

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



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## FCI – Italian Catholic Federation

Bingo Numbers called out in **English & Italian**

Next Bingo 10:00 am Friday, 2nd February 2024.

Montefano Hall \$15 entry includes

Bingo Games, prizes; Morning Tea/Coffee and light lunch.

Come join us, united as a Parish.



## 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 9:00 am—4:00 pm

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# 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 Strohmayr 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

## Solemnity of St Paul The First Hermit

14 January 2024



### 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

Carlo Decri, Alba Gallo, Guiseppe Galvagno, Tony Ventra, Marco Livio, Maria Zadro.

**And for those whose Anniversary occur at this time**

Regina DE BIASI, Mike ERAK, Elizabeth EBEJER, Antonius HAAKMAN.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### Parish Office:

22 Neville 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)

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](mailto:catechist@stgertrude.org.au)

### Sacraments:

*Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation*

Contact: Jodie Micallef

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

[sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au)

Liturgy: 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert

[liturgy@stgertrude.org.au](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> & 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](mailto: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](http://www.stgsmithfield.syd.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.facebook.com/stgertrudessmithfield](https://www.facebook.com/stgertrudessmithfield)  
[www.instagram.com/stgsmithfield/](https://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](mailto:info@mmcwakeley.catholic.edu.au)  
[mmcwakeley.syd.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:info@pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au](http://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: 20th January

St Benedict: Group B: PPC/Teachers  
St. Therese: Group B: Vietnamese

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



## Solemnity of St Paul the First Hermit

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Oh that I had wings like a dove to fly away and be at rest. So I would escape far away and take refuge in the desert. I would hasten to find a shelter from the raging wind.

### FIRST READING 1 Kings 17:2-6

A reading from the book of Kings

Then the Lord said to Elijah, “Leave this place and go east and hide yourself near Cherith Brook, east of the Jordan. The brook will supply you with water to drink, and I have commanded ravens to bring you food there”.

Elijah obeyed the Lord’s command, and went and stayed by Cherith Brook. He drank water from the brook and ravens brought him bread and meat every morning and every evening.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) I will always thank the Lord.**

1. I will always thank the Lord,  
I will never stop praising him.  
I will praise him for what he has done.  
May all who are oppressed listen and be glad. **(R.)**
2. Proclaim with me the Lord’s greatness;  
let us praise his name together!  
The oppressed look to him and are glad;  
they will never be disappointed. **(R.)**
3. Find out for yourself how good the Lord is.  
Happy are those who find safety with him.  
Come, my young friends, and listen to me,  
and I will teach you to honour the Lord. **(R.)**
4. Then keep from speaking evil  
and from telling lies.  
Turn away from evil and do good;  
strive for peace with all your heart. **(R.)**

### SECOND READING Gal 2, 19-20; 5:24-25; 6:14-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

Brothers, so far as the Law is concerned, however, I am dead – killed by the Law itself – in order that I might live for God. I have been put to death with Christ on his cross, so that it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me.

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. The Spirit has given us life; He must also control our lives.

As for me, however, I will boast only about the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for by means of his cross the world is dead to me, and I am dead to the world. It does not matter at all whether or not one is circumcised; what does matter is being a new creature.

As for those who follow this rule in their lives, may peace and mercy be with them and with all of God’s people!

To conclude; let no one give me any more trouble, because the scars I have on my body show that I am the slave of Jesus.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have shown these things to the unlearned.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL Mt 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

At that time Jesus said; “Father, Lord of heaven and earth! I thank you because you have shown to the unlearned what you have hidden from the wise and learned. Yes, Father, this was how you were pleased to have it happen.

My Father has given me all things. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy and the load I will put on you is light”.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

He makes us remember his words. The Lord is compassion and love. He gives food to those who fear him; keeps his covenant ever in mind.

#### SOLEMNITY OF ST. PAUL THE FIRST HERMIT PATRIARCH OF THE PAULINE ORDER 15TH JANUARY



St. Paul the First Hermit, or St. Paul of Thebes, is the Patriarch of the Pauline Order. St. Paul the Hermit is traditionally considered the first saint living a solitary life. He was born around 228 to wealthy and noble parents in Alexandria, Egypt.

During the persecution of the Christians by Caesar Decius in 250 AD, young Paul fled to the Desert in Thebes by the Red Sea and learned to enjoy his solitary life **“alone with God alone,”** so much that he remained there for the rest of his life.

He lived nearly ninety years in prayerful solitude, constant penance, and contemplation of God. Then, before he died, he was discovered by St. Anthony the Abbot, who spread the news about his holiness.

It is believed that St. Paul was kept alive by the fruit of a palm tree and by a raven which brought him a piece of bread daily. He died at the age of 113, when, as related by St. Anthony, two lions dug a grave for him.

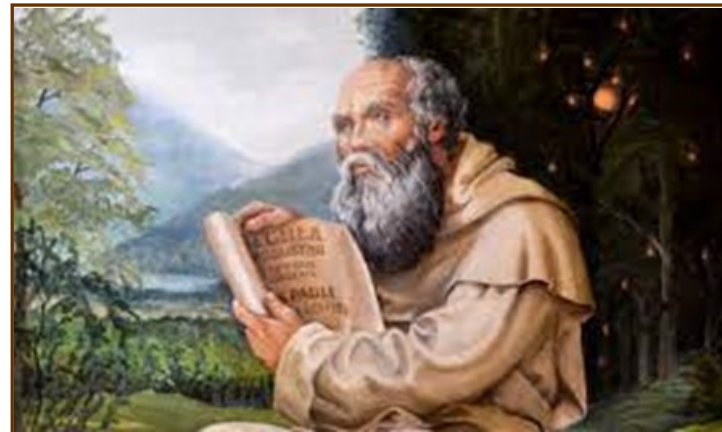
This story is captured in the coat-of-arms of the Order, showing the palm tree, two lions and a raven. The Pauline Order chose St. Paul the First Hermit as its Patron and Patriarch and thus took the name “Order of St. Paul the First Hermit”.

As Parish community this important Solemnity of the Pauline Order will be celebrated on **Sunday, 14th January 2024 at the 10.30 am Mass**, with the Prayers and Scripture Readings of the Solemnity at all Masses this weekend. Blessing of fruit will also occur at this Mass. As is customary, there will be a special blessing for children at all Masses.

Oh behalf of the Pauline Fathers in Australia and across the world, I extend my blessings and prayers on this Solemnity.

**Next Week:** 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B  
**Scripture:** Jonah 3:1-5,10 1 Cor 7:29-31  
**Gospel:** Mk :14-20.

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#### FEAST OF BL. EUSEBIUS OF ESZTERGOM —20TH JANUARY

Eusebius was born in the Hungarian town of Esztergom in the early thirteenth century.

He stood out from others even when very young. Those who knew him marvelled at his knowledge and piety. He often stayed awake all night keeping vigil. He devoted all his time to prayer, the psalms, meditation and learning. Sometimes he spoke to people about ways they could gain special wisdom which would bring them closer to God.

Eusebius was made a canon in Esztergom. Eusebius was not only famous for his virtues, but also for his generous hospitality. He was often visited by hermits who lived in abodes scattered throughout the mountainous region around Esztergom. On these occasions the hermits exchanged woven baskets for food. Eusebius admired these hermits so much that he decided to become a hermit himself.

The invasion of the Tartar hordes into Hungary interrupted his plan. After the Tartars had left he still remained at his post and may have helped in the rebuilding of his country. In all it took him three years to ask permission from his superior, the Archbishop Istvan Vancsa to leave and begin a new life as a hermit. He thus did not flee from difficulties but made a peacetime, conscious decision for a life of self-sacrifice and penance.

At this time many others also become hermits, determined to serve Christ in solitude. Their parents and friends tried to persuade them to return. Eusebius made this reply to them: **Although Christ loved his Mother and also his cousin John the Apostle and knew his crucifixion was causing them both untold sorrow, Christ did not save himself from the cross. Christ died the way he chose to.**

Following Christ's example Eusebius and his fellow hermits cannot choose to descend from the cross of penance in spite of the lamentations of beloved ones. We are staying! Hearing these words from the depths of Eusebius' soul the parents and friends could make no reply.

Eusebius moved into a triple cave near Szanto. He placed a large wooden cross in front of the cave. It was there where he prayed and meditated.

One night while praying he had a vision. The entire Pilis mountain range was full of tiny flames. These flames started to move towards him and finally in front of the cross by his cave, the flames converged into one enormous blazing torch. Eusebius then heard a voice coming from the cross: **Eusebius, summon all the hermits and found a monastic community. The love present in each will be the bond that will unite you and enable each to give loving service.**

At the beginning of the second half of the thirteenth century Eusebius established the first Hungarian monastic order.

At the National Synod at Esztergom in 1256 he signed his name as the first provincial of the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit.

In 1262 Eusebius and some fellow monks journeyed to the Court of Pope Urban IV. There the pontiff was asked to endorse the Order.

Eusebius had the support of St. Thomas of Aquino and also of the first Hungarian Cardinal, Istvan Vancsa, the very same person who gave permission to Eusebius to become a hermit.

Eusebius was the abbot of his cloister for 20 years. When he was near death he gathered his brother hermits around him and blessed them. On the 19th January 1270 in the cloister of Szentkereszt (Holy Cross) Eusebius died.

There were sixteen Pauline cloisters during Eusebius' lifetime and after his death this number rose to nearly 150.

### 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



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

God bless

Jodie

#### OUR LADY QUEEN OF HERMITS TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2024



The Pauline Fathers have drawn inspiration in their history from the Desert Fathers who lived as hermits and as their Charism calls them to spread devotion to Our Blessed Mother, they naturally have sought the intercession of the Mother of God under the title

#### Queen of Hermits.

The Australian Province of the Order is dedicated to Our Lady under this title.

As is customary, during the Mass there will be the renewal of the Covenant with Mary.

#### NO WEEKDAY DEVOTIONS OR WEDNESDAY EVENING MASSES DURING JANUARY

Devotions, Wednesday evening Mass and Novena will recommence in February 2024.



#### 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.