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Director

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www.integrityfuneralsnsw.com.au

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

ABUSE IS A CRIME. THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH A CRIME 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.

Parish Catechesis for Adults and Young People

Come and listen to the catechesis in the Montefano hall Monday and Thursday at 7:30pm.

THE LORD WANTS TO MEET YOU THERE!
And warmly invites all young adults from 13 to 93yrs
Even babysitting is made available so that you may listen freely

For information please contact **Louisa on 0413 231 531**

FCI BINGO is BACK!

ALL Parishioners WELCOME.

Come, join us 10:00 am



Next Dates:
18 December
in the Montefano Hall.

Only \$10 entry - includes prizes, morning tea/coffee and light lunch.



For more info. call Tony on 0409 908 424.

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

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ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

St Benedict's Church

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 Strohmayr OSPPE

St Theresa'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:

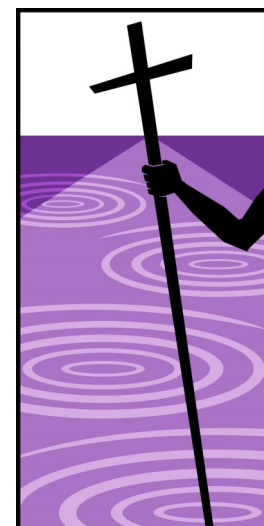
7am Rosary 8am Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Tuesdays after Mass

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13 December 2020



Congratulations to

Kristyn PACE & Daniel VUKOVICH

Married in our Parish
May God confirm them in their love.

We pray for the sick of this parish

Fr Gabriel Taylor OSPPE,
David Lazarus, Giuseppina Pignataro,
Fr Anthony David OSPPE, Kevin Dicconson,
Adam Westwood, Emile & Mary Kody,
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

Josephine Cachia, Constantino Axiak,
Therese Do, Dorothy Vella, Joseph Fennech,
Rocco Ferraro,
Bertilino Marino De Biasi, Rosa Corso,

Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time
Vincenzo Valitutti



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: Mariola Herbert

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

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

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER

Intention for December

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

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

Church Cleaners— December 19
Group A: Edith's Group (St Benedict's)
Group B: Vietnamese (St Therese)

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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING

Is 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.)

My soul rejoices in my God.

1.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)

2.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (R.)

3.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Thes 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising. The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

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Next Week: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Parish Office Hours

Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Break from Monday 21 December 2020 and reopen on Thursday 7th January 2021. Please Note that thereafter during January the office will only be opened on Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays. Thank you for your cooperation.

2021 PARISH FACILITY BOOKINGS

(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church & Hall)

Any groups wanting to use these facilities on a regular basis, please book you dates and times in writing to the Parish Office. Thank you.

Advent

New Liturgical Year begins:
Sunday cycle B, weekday cycle 1

ADVENT has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

THE ADVENT WREATH

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Benedict's

24th December

5.30pm Carols

6pm Family Mass

11.30pm Carols

25th December

12am Midnight Mass

9am (Italian)

10.30am Mass

12pm Mass

7.30pm (Syriac)

*Christmas Octave 10.30am

St Therese's

24th December

5pm (Vietnamese)

9.30pm (Spanish)

25th December

7.30am & 9am Mass

*Christmas Octave 8am

Reconciliation:

Before Mass on Sundays; 7.30pm Wednesday (after Mass); and Saturdays between 4.45–5.45pm Smithfield.

Parish Working Bee and Christmas Decorations of both Churches Monday 14 December from 4:00 pm

Your help is needed even if only for 1 hour. Bring your tools

Christmas Fundraising Raffle drawn this Sunday at 6pm

All money raised will go towards awnings to be installed for both St Benedict's & St Therese's Church. Good Luck & Thank you for your support!

Sacristans needed for St Therese's Church F/W

Parishioners interested in caring for the Sacristy at St Therese's Church, on a rostered basis, please attend a Meeting on Tuesday 15 December at 7pm at St Therese. Thank you!

Communion to the Sick

will be given on a fortnightly basis. The next date in December will be 22nd

Wedding Anniversary Blessings –

Next Anniversary Blessing will be Sunday 27 December—Feast of the Holy Family

Sacramental Programme 2021

For information regarding the Sacramental programme for 2021 please visit: <http://stgertrude.org.au/sacramental-program/> Enrolment Information and any changes will also be published in the parish bulletin. The Sacramental Office is currently closed. For all enquiries, please email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or call 9725 4317 to leave a message.

COVID 19: New Regulations

As of Monday 7th December 2020, the NSW Government has implemented changes to their Covid regulations for places of worship. Accordingly, capacity limits for places of worship have been replaced with the 2m² rule. This means that St. Benedict's Shrine can now hold 300 people, St. Therese's Church 100 people and Montefano Hall 180 people. If the churches reach their limit, outdoor seating can be arranged and comply with the 2m² rule. Singing by congregations and choirs is now permitted with up to 50 choristers indoors and no limit outdoors. However, the choir is subject to distancing regulations. Holy Water will still be removed from the stoops in the church, however, should you wish to take some holy water home, there is some available. Please bring a bottle with you and ask the acolyte or priest. This week we will also return to the practice of coming forward to receive Holy Communion. We ask that you be mindful of the distance between yourself and the person in front of you when leaving your pew for communion. Receiving Holy Communion in the hand continues to be encouraged at this time. In the coming weeks we will gradually re-introduce the collection plate at Mass according to guidelines set out from the Sydney Chancery Office. Until then, please continue to make use of the collection boxes in the church foyer and electronic transfers. NSW Health continues to encourage the wearing of masks in places where people do not feel they can appropriately distance. As part of the Covid-safe Plan for the Parish, it is still imperative that you record your attendance at church. Please ensure that you sign-in at the various Parish venues when you gather.

Dispensation now lifted

The Archbishop of Sydney has lifted the dispensation of Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation: In light of the significant easing of the restrictions upon church attendance, I rescind my decree of 20 March 2020 dispensing the faithful of Sydney from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and the Holy Days of Christmas and the Assumption. Under canon 1247 attendance at Mass on those days is now obligatory once again. You can find the Archbishop's comments in the 8th Pastoral Letter for the Archdiocese of Sydney. There are some copies available in the church foyer or you can read the letter on the Bulletin Board or on-line.

Sanitising of the Church

With the increased numbers now allowed in places of worship it means that there is more cleaning following services. We ask that if anyone can help sanitise the church after services that would be greatly appreciated.

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. 6675001
Thank you for your continued support and generosity . God Bless.