

Merry Christmas



Dear Friends,

In extraordinary circumstances, delighted by the sight of the Star, the Magi were led to the Christ Child where their eyes looked upon the saving grace of our loving God. During this Christmas Season may you also be filled with the delight of seeing the Star and hear the message of hope that it brings. May your eyes gaze upon the Christ Child and see the loving face of our Saviour who desired nothing more than walk as one with his people. As we farewell the extraordinary year that was 2020, may the presence of God remain with you leading you to peace and prosperity.

Fr Jarek, Fr Wojtek and Fr Peter James

Pope proclaims "Year of St. Joseph"

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church by Bl. Pope Pius IX, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special *"Year of St. Joseph"* beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 (8th December) and extending to the same feast in 2021. The Holy Father has also issued a new Apostolic Letter entitled *"Patris Corde" (With a Father's Heart)*.

Plenary Indulgence for the Year of St. Joseph.

The Apostolic Penitentiary has issued a Decree granting plenary indulgences for the Year of St. Joseph and "to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian Jesus." The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope's Intention) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph. More information about the Indulgence will be given in the near future.

Wedding Anniversary Blessings

Anniversary Blessing will be held at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 27th December—Feast of the Holy Family.

Public Holiday & "Octave Season" Mass Times

26th December 2019 (Feast of St Stephen);
28th December to 1st January 2020 inclusive:

8:00am St Therese's Church &
10:30am St Benedict's Shrine

Christmas Offerings

For those who would like to make a Christmas Offering to our priests, Fr. Jarek, Fr. Wojtek and Fr. Peter James, there are **Christmas Offering Envelopes** in the pews of the church. You can place your offering in the envelope and place it in the First Collection. We understand that this has been a difficult year for many and thank you for your offering.

Christmas Crib Donations

This year all offerings at the Christmas Crib will be given to **Catholic Missions** to support their many projects and works. Thank you for your generous offerings and support for Catholic Missions.

Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish Office will reopen on
Thursday 7th January 2021 and thereafter will only be opened during January on Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays .

Saturday 26th December ~ Feast

St Stephen, the first martyr

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.

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 on (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.*

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 Strohmayer 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

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

Christmas 2020



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

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) ~ Vigil & Mass during the Night	
FIRST READING	Is 9:1-7
A reading from the prophet Isaiah	
The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.	
The word of the Lord.	
All: Thanks be to God.	
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Lk 2:10-11
Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!	
GOSPEL	Lk 2:1-14
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke	
Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David’s House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, ‘Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:	
‘Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.’	
The Gospel of the Lord	
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ	
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The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) ~ Mass during the Day	
FIRST READING	Is 52:7-10
A reading from the prophet Isaiah	
How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, ‘Your God is king!’ Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.	
The word of the Lord.	
All: Thanks be to God.	
RESPONSORIAL PSALM	Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3
(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.	
1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)	
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)	
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)	
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)	
SECOND READING	Heb 1:1-6
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews	
At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit every-thing and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God’s glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful com-mand; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.	
The word of the Lord.	
All: Thanks be to God.	
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	
Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!	
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GOSPEL Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. 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. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. 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. John appears as his witness, He proclaims: ‘This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.’ Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ