FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING Jer 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v. 1

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

- Lord, make me know your ways.
 Lord, teach me your paths.
 Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)
- 2. The Lord is good and upright.

 He shows the path to those who stray,
 he guides the humble in the right path;
 he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)
- 3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;

to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Thes 3:12 - 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 21:25-28. 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Next Week: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Baruch 5:1-9, Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Doubleday

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ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

St Benedict's Church

Corner Justin & Neville Street SMITHFIELD

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm; 8.00am (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



Parish Priest Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

Assistant Priest

Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE

St Theresa's Church

Corner The Boulevarde & Stella Street FAIRFIELD WEST

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5pm (Vietnamese); 7.30am & 9.00am; 12 noon (Spanish); 5pm (Arabic)

Weekday Masses:

Mon - Fri 7.00am; Saturday 8am Weekday Public Holidays: 8.00am

First Friday of the Month:

First Saturday of the Month: 7am Rosary 8am Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tuesdays after Mass

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2nd December, 2018



We welcome the following Gabriele Faggalla & Hristo Bagala

Baptised in our Parish Community

We pray for the sick of this parish

John Denniss, Santina Ponili, Kartia Grace Russell Gino Mifsud, Rina Favotto, Ivy Fernandes, Alina Przewoznik, Philomena Greenwood,

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

Please remember in your prayers

Zofia Jarzyna, Betty Stepkovitch, Antonio Mammone, Carmela Stivala, Vita Blanda Achille (Frank) Pavone, Giuseppe Brunetta, Pasquale Berardinelli, Domenic Lagudi, Allanah Cassar Falappi, Immacolata Carioti

Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time :

Carmelo Cordina, Liliana Raisa.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office:

6 Justin St, Smithfield Tuesday-Friday 10am - 2pm Phone: 9604 1199 Fax 9609 6585 Email: office@stgertrude.org.au Website: www.stgertrude.org.au

Parish Council:

Denise Namroud

Finance Committee:

Jurgen Mertin

Catechists: 9725 4317

Mimi Romeo: catechist@stgertrude.org.au

Sacraments: 9725 4317 Helena Mertin 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

Novena to St Benedict

Every Wednesday after the 7pm Mass with Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



Reconciliation is available during this time.

Everyone is encouraged to

participate!

Have you thought?

Waiting, waiting, waiting ...

I'm not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting prepared and getting ready are OK, too. But when is comes down to being all dressed up and ready to go, I'm just hopeless at waiting. If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we've somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. But it's not just about anticipating Christmas. That's part of it, sure. However, Advent is about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.

Church Cleaners

Week ending 8th December ~ Group E- Neo Cats Group Weekend Parish Collections Week- Ending 25/11/2018

1st Collection \$2976.35 goes to Fr. Jarek & Fr Wojtek as well as the upkeep of their Order of St Paul the First Hermit.

2nd Collection: Envelopes and/or Credit Card payments: \$1727.65 and \$2290.75 Loose Money.

Thank you for your generous support & May God Bless you all!



New liturgical year begins: weekday cycle 1

Saturday 8th December ~ Solemnity The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**



~ Memorials ~

Monday 3rd December ~ St Francis Xavier Friday 7th December ~ St Ambrose

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! We couldn't do it without you

We warmly welcome all Volunteers & Staff to an End of Year

Thanksgiving Mass 7pm at St Benedict's Church followed by a Christmas Party in the Montefano Hall on Wednesday 5th December.

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK Friday 7pm 7th December St Benedict's Church, Smithfield

> Please invite family members or friends in need of this Sacrament.

Working Bee Thank You

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to help with the working bee this weekend. Your help in preparing the Church look beautiful for Christmas is very much appreciated. Just a reminder that the working bee for St Therese's Church is on next Saturday 8th December.

~ DONATION THANK YOU ~

A big Thank you to the Catholic Italian Federation (FCI) For their very generous donation of \$8000 to our parish of St Gertrude's, which was raised through their various fund raising events throughout the year.

SACRAMENT NEWS

Last weekend, 74 young people from our Parish Community received Eucharist for the first time. Congratulations! We pray that all these young people and their families will be strengthened by the continued reception of Jesus in the Eucharist each Sunday.

The prayer support from members of the Parish Community was much appreciated by parents and children. Thank you parents for the sacrifices you made in preparing your children for this special time. A big shout out to the Group Facilitators who generously donated their time to lead the Holy Communion classes. Thank you also to the many people who were involved in the preparation program, meetings, rehearsals, and to all who assisted in making the Holy Communion ceremonies a wonderful and memorable time for the children.

HOLY COMMUNION PHOTO COLLECTION EVENING: Holy Communion Photos can be collected from the

Montefano Hall on Friday 7th December from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT MARIA FROM **TRACES OF TIME - 0407 662 535**

FIRST RECONCILATION / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION **ENROLMENTS FOR 2019:** Enrolments for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2019 are now complete. If you missed out, please contact the Sacramental Office no later than 7th December 2018. Families who have submitted an enrolment form will be contacted by mid-February 2019, with information about classes etc. The Parent Information

SACRAMENTAL OFFICE: Please be advised the Sacramental Office will be closed from Monday 26th November until February 2019. For all enquiries please email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or call 9725 4317 and leave a message. If you wish to see Helena face-to-face, please email/call the Sacramental Office to make an appointment. Thank You.

Evening will be held on: Wednesday 13th March 2019.

~ Reconciliation Before Christmas ~ St Therese's Church, Fairfield West Friday 7th December at 6:30am (Before Mass)

> St Benedict's Shrine, Smithfield Wednesday 12th December at 7:00pm

YOUTH GROUP ~ MUSIC REHEARSALS

Monday 10 December at 7.30pm Group 1 (Second Monday of the Month) Monday 31 December at 7.30pm Group 2 (last Monday of the Month

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sunday 16th December ~ Starting at 3pm. Children and parents are warmly invited to celebrate together

Smithfield YOUTH MASS

Held on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month at the 6pm evening Mass

Next Mass: Sunday 2nd December at 6pm

Youth Program is held on the 3rd Sunday of the month. 7pm - 8pm in the Montefano Hall. !

Next YOUTH PROGRAM: 16th December 2018 **All Youth Welcome**

Choir Rehearsals for Christmas continues every Monday at 7:30pm. All welcome.

Altar Servers Meeting

Tuesday 4th December 4.30pm to 5.15pm

Italian Catholic Federation invites all Parishioners to join us for Christmas Lunch at 12:00 noon on Friday

7 December in the Montefano Hall.

3 course meal including drinks, dessert & coffee.

Cost: \$30 pp.

RSVP by: 30 November.

Tony Coiera – 9757-1961 or Gina Morosin – 9604-2458

St Gertrude's Parish Playgroup

When: Thursday (during school term)

Time: 10 am - 12 pm

Where: Demountable behind the hall on the paddock.

Contact: playgroup@stgertrude.org.au

ST GERTRUDE'S SCHOOL **END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS CONCERT** On School grounds

Friday 14th December 6:30pm - 7:30pm Everyone is invited

St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School, Smithfield-**Enrolling Now!**

St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School was opened in 1952 by the Josephite Sisters and continues today to foster the values and traditions of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Year 6.

St Gertrude's is a four stream, low fee paying Catholic School with small class sizes and positions available for 2019. Bursaries (fee reductions) are available for qualifying new arrivals (those who have lived in Australia less than 3 years) and families experiencing financial hardship. Book a school tour now!

Arabic speaking staff available on Monday to assist with enrolments. T: 96094144 www.stgsmithfield.catholic.edu.au

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office, in conjunction with the Parish Support and Development Team, has identified the following require a Working with Children Check (WWCC): Youth ministers, children's liturgy, children's choir, Catechists, Sacramental group leaders, readers, acolytes, senior altar servers, extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion, Parish counters & collectors and ministers to the homebound. Please note that some ministries that did not previously require a WWCC, now need one, please visit the RMS before the end of November to obtain a WWCC. otherwise you will need to cease your ministry until this requirement is met.

Volunteers who have not yet completed a Code of Conduct please visit the Parish ASAP.

If you have not attended Safeguarding induction training, please speak to Maria or Helena to arrange a time – safeguarding induction training is mandatory for all volunteers. The training can also be completed online, please contact us to ask us how!

All volunteers - please check the expiration date of your WWCC. If it is due for renewal please visit the RMS. Once renewed please notify the Parish Office.

Thank you for your continued co-operation to ensure our Parish meets Safeguarding requirements. For more information, please contact the Parish Office or email psso@stgertrude.org.au

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on ph 02 9390 5812.



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