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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](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.**



**Italian Catholic Federation**  
 Committee & Members  
 wish ALL Parishioners a  
**Merry Christmas & a  
 safe and Blessed 2021 NEW  
 YEAR.**



**Please join us for the  
 restart of FCI 2021 BINGO on  
 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021**



**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.

**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 Priest**  
 Fr Jarek Zan OSPPE

**Assistant Priests**  
 Fr Wojtek Sliwa OSPPE &  
 Fr Peter James Strohmayr OSPPE

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**20 December 2020**



**Congratulations to**  
 Isabella PORTELA & Alejandro ANJANDRO  
*Married in our Parish  
 May God confirm them in their love.*

**We welcome the following**  
 Charlotte SAWYER, James KORBILAS,  
 Remy LAGUNZAD

**Baptised in our Parish Community**


**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,  
 Bertillo 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](mailto:office@stgertrude.org.au)  
 Website: [www.stgertrude.org.au](http://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](mailto:catechist@stgertrude.org.au)

**Sacraments:** 9725 4317 Helena Martin  
[sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au)  
 Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation

**Liturgy:** 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert  
[liturgy@stgertrude.org.au](mailto: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  
 1<sup>st</sup> 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 26**  
**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**



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent’. Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’ But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

- I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
- ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.’ (R.)
- He will say to me: ‘You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.’ I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

SECOND READING Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel

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Next Week: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Readings: Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3; Heb 11:8. 11-12. 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

Saturday 26th December ~ Feat  
St Stephen, the first martyr

Sunday 27th December ~ Feast  
The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Monday 28th December ~ Feasts  
The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Friday 1st January ~ Solemnity  
Mary, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday 3rd January ~ Solemnity  
The Epiphany of the Lord

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Benedict’s Shrine

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

(26th & 28th December 2020 to 1st January 2021)



St Therese’s Church

24th December

5pm (Vietnamese)

9.30pm (Spanish)

25th December

7.30am & 9am Mass

11.30am (Vietnamese)

Christmas Octave 8am

(26th & 28th December 2020 to 1st January 2021)

Reconciliation: (till Christmas Day)

7.30pm Wednesday (after Mass)

Saturday 4.45-5.45pm & 15 minutes before Mass on Sunday

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.

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.

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 .

Parish Working Bee and Christmas Decorations

Thank you for all your help in preparing the church ready for Christmas!

Your assistance is very much appreciated!

Pope proclaims “Year of St. Joseph”

To celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> 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 (8<sup>th</sup> 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.

Christmas Fundraising Raffle Winners

1st Religious Artwork Blue D60 (drawn by Fr Wojtek)

2nd Christmas Hamper Green A25 (drawn by Stephen Gissane)

3rd Roses Art Work Orange B17 St T C (drawn by James Mertin)

4th Teal Flowers Blue D29 (drawn by Mary Wilson)

No prizes were claimed at the Mass.

Thanks to Annick, the parishioners who sold tickets and all those who purchased tickets to support our raffle.

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](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au) or call 9725 4317 to leave a message.

We congratulate Ines Davila, Ana Davila & Aleksandr Pastoors & their families as they receives their First Holy Communion this Weekend.

Wedding Anniversary Blessings

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

Communion to the Sick will be given on a fortnightly basis. The next date in December will be 22nd

2021 PARISH FACILITY BOOKINGS  
(Smithfield & Fairfield West Church & Hall)

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

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.