



Mark Malone J.P.
Director

67B Brenan Street, Smithfield NSW 2164
Ph: (02) 9727 0400 Fax: (02) 9727 0800 Mob: 0404 718 528
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 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6 December 2020



We welcome the following

Ruby NOVO, Pheonix BARBARO,
Elliana CONIGLIO, Malachi COH
Baptised in our Parish Community

We pray for the sick of this parish

Josephine Cachia, 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

Therese Do, Dorothy Vella, Joseph Fennech,
Rocco Ferraro,
Bertillo Marino De Biasi, Rosa Corso,
Teena Mayer, Rose Farrugia, Cesarina Lando

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 12
Group E: Neo Catechumens (St Benedict's)
Group A: Frances/Margaret (St Therese)

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

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

‘Console my people, console them’
says your God.
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
‘Here is your God.’
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

2.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

3.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

SECOND READING

2 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a

thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Next Week: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14;
Mk 1:1-8

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The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the
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Advent

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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.

Advent Program “Adore” will be available this week, the cost is \$5. We are inviting our parishioners to reflect on Nativity of Our Lord with there families during this holy time of Advent.

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

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 4.5–5.45pm Smithfield.

Communion to the Sick will be given on a fortnightly basis. The next date in December will be 8th & 22nd

COVID-19

As you will have seen from the media reports earlier this week, the NSW Government has announced a significant easing of restrictions on Places of Worship which will come into effect on **Monday 7 December**. We are still waiting on the new Public Health Order to be issued, hopefully sometime over the weekend, but we know that churches will now be subject to the 1 person per 2sqm rule in line with other venues and there will be no upper limit as there currently has been. Therefore St. Benedict's Shrine has the capacity to have **300 people** and St. Therese's church up to **100**.
Funerals and Weddings are limited to 300 persons.

Permission is now given to congregate outdoors if numbers in the Church are up to capacity, as outdoor gatherings are also based on the 2sqm rule and up to 500 people.

Choirs will be able to have 50 people indoors and no limit outdoors. Congregational singing is allowed.

The Archbishop will be lifting the dispensation to attend Sunday Mass once the 2sqm rule comes into effect. We will issue further communications next week but it is important that you are alert to these changes and be back to Mass from now on.

Church use during COVID-19

Please take note that during the current Pandemic situation if a family has chosen a priest from outside the Smithfield Parish to preside at a wedding or funeral or other religious service, then it is a requirement that the family arrange for the church to be cleaned and sanitised. The Parish will only take responsibility for Parish events with our priests.

Christmas Fundraising Raffle

All money raised will go towards awnings to be installed for both St Benedict's & St Therese's Church. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

1st Prize: Religious artwork; 2nd Prize: Christmas Hamper;
3rd Prize: Roses artwork; 4th Prize: Teale Floral Design artwork.

All 3 artworks were lovingly made and donated by parishioner Annick Mifsud, with much thanks!

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

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!

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.

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.

Safeguarding:

During COVID 19 The Working with Children Checks were extended for 6 months by the Kids Guardian.
However, now that it has been longer than 6 months there are some Parish Volunteer WWCC now expired.
To keep your current WWCC No: it is essential that all Volunteers renew their application. Please contact the Parish Office and make an appointment for Mimi on any Tuesday between 10:00 - 2:00 pm.