

  
**Mark Malone J.P.**  
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 67B Brenan Street, Smithfield NSW 2164  
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[www.integrityfuneralsnsw.com.au](http://www.integrityfuneralsnsw.com.au)

  
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**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

**A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY**  
*"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 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**  
 Welcomes all Parishioners to join us for the restart of  
**FCI 2021 BINGO at 10:00 am**  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
 in Montefano Hall  
 \$10 entry includes Bingo Games, morning tea/coffee and light lunch.  
 Come Join us for a morning of fun and prizes  
  
  


  
**Patrician Brothers' College**  
 FAIRFIELD  
  
**Open Day** TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2021  
 3.00pm-6.30pm  
 P 9728 4488  
[pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au](http://pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au)

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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 (Syriac)

**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

**First Sunday of Lent**  
**21 February 2021**  
  
**Congratulations to**  
 Lisa Al Hage & Mathew Saman  
*Married in our Parish*  
**May God confirm them in their love.**

**We welcome the following**  
 Celina Ortiz, Adriana Paic, Sebastian Ratcliffe  
**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**  
 Maria Frizzo, Joseph Cortez, Caesar Sammut,  
 Adreana Attard, Giovanni Oliverio,  
 Maria Caltabiano, Josephine Cachia,  
**Recently Deceased**

**And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time**  
 Maria Oliveri, Angel Mimoso, Bruno Dileo,  
 Leslie Spagnol, Francesco Bruzzano, &  
 Maria Torresan

**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

**Safeguarding:**  
[wwcc@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:wwcc@stgertrude.org.au) (all WWCC renewals)  
[psso@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:psso@stgertrude.org.au) (Parish Safeguarding Support Officers)

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

**Parish Playgroup:** Thursday during school term. 9.30am - 11.30am

**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER**  
**Intention for February**  
**Universal Intention—Violence against women**  
**We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.**

**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—February 27**  
**Group A—(St Benedict's)**  
**Group D: Syriacs (St Therese)**

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

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



**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**   *Cf. Ps 90:15-16*

*When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.*

**FIRST READING**   *Gen 9:8-15*

*A reading from the book of Genesis*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, ‘See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.’  
 God said, ‘Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.’

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**   *Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10*

**(R.) *Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.***

- 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.)**
- Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
- 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.)**

**SECOND READING**   *1 Pt 3:18-22*

*A reading from the first letter of St Peter*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people ‘by water’, and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God’s right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**   *Mt 4:4*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

**GOSPEL**   *Mk 1:12-15*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.  
 After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**   *Mt 4:4*

*One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*

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**Next Week: Second Sunday of Lent**  
*Readings: Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31-34;  
Mk 9:2-10*

**YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH – VOTIVE MASS**

As part of our celebrations for the Year of St. Joseph, the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month will be celebrated as a Votive Mass for St. Joseph, except for when it falls on a Solemnity or a Sunday. Our first Votive Mass was on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION OF THE UNBORN CHILD: CELEBRATING THE MIRACLE OF LIFE**

What is Spiritual Adoption

- It is a prayer for the child in the womb
- It is a prayer acknowledging the miracle and gift of life
- It is a prayer of encouragement for expectant parents
- It is a movement of life and fruitfulness inspired by the Holy Spirit

The Spiritual Adoption lasts for nine months. The prayer consists of praying one decade of the Rosary each day for nine months and a prayer for your adopted child. We will start this Spiritual Adoption on the Solemnity of the Annunciation – 25<sup>th</sup> March. More information will be given in the Parish Bulletin.

**PARISH PILGRIM ICON**

We will resume the Parish Pilgrim Icon this Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. If you would like to take the Pilgrim Icon to your home, please indicate by placing your name on the booking sheet in the church foyer. The Pilgrim Icon is taken home at the Wednesday evening Mass and returned the following week.

**LENT 2021**

**Project Compassion Boxes.**

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed “Be More”. Through your generosity and by aspiring to be more, you are assisting some of the world’s most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

**Stations of the Cross: Friday during Lent**

St. Therese’s Church following the 7.00am Mass  
 St. Benedict’s Shrine 7.00pm.

**Lenten Program**

Books & CD’s have sold out.  
 You can download /purchase from the following link for the Lenten Program: <https://www.dow.org.au/shop/>  
 Due to Covid we will not hold group sessions in the Parish but encourage you as a family to use these resources in your homes. A great way for the family to gather and pray together!

**KINDERGARTEN MASS – SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

Mass for our Kindergarten students and the blessing of backpacks will be held this Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 10.30am

**YOUTH GROUP IS BACK ! SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY**

Youth Group returns! After a long absence our Parish Youth Group will resume on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February**. Join us for Mass at 6pm and following the Mass, youth meeting in the Parish Demountables. This year there will be 2 groups: Kindergarten – Year 8, and Year 9 and above. New members and returning members are most welcome.

**FAIRFIELD ACTIVE MALTESE SENIORS**

Resumes: Tuesday 23 Feb @ 10.00am St Theresa’s Church Hall, Cnr The Blvrd & Stella St, Fairfield West.

Covid-19 rules must be observed in the Hall (social distancing)  
 Bring your masks - Sanitizers & Temp check on entry.  
 Contact Marisa on 0414 86 123.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2021**

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion  
 If your child is in Year 3 and above, and you would like them to make their First Holy Communion this year, please contact the Sacramental Office no later than Friday 19/2/21.  
 Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the parish website.

Please visit: <http://stgertrude.org.au/sacramental-program/>

Please email the form back to [sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au)

If you need a paper copy, please contact the sacramental office.

2021 Families who enrolled last year and 2020 enrolled families, will be contacted in the next 2 weeks with more information.

**Reminder**

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting - **Tuesday 23rd February at 7 pm** (please note time change).  
 Enrolment information and any changes will be published in the parish bulletin.

*For all enquiries, please email: [sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au) or call [9725 4317](tel:97254317) to leave a message.*

**MEN’S ROSARY GROUP – 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

It’s back!! The Men’s Rosary group will meet this month on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm at St. Benedict’s Shrine**. We will then continue to meet the last Thursday of every month. New members are always welcome to join.

**RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS**

Those celebrating a wedding anniversary in March are invited to renew their vows on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March at the 10.30am Mass

**NEW ENVELOPES**

The new set of Planned Giving Envelopes will be ready for collection next weekend. Anyone wishing to join the Parish Planned Giving please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of your Parish.  
 For those who are opting to ***direct debit***, please include your **envelope number in the reference section of your entry.**

**ST. GERTRUDE’S PRIMARY NEWS**

It is with mixed emotions that we announce that our Principal Mrs. Linda O’Regan will be leaving St. Gertrude’s Primary on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, and taking up a new role as Principal of St. Christopher’s, Holsworthy. Linda has been at our school for six years and has shown impeccable leadership, especially during the current Pandemic, and continued support of our Parish. Linda will be missed by staff, students and Parishioners. We thank Linda for her service and pray abundant blessings upon her as she moves to other pastures. As a Parish we will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for Linda on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am.

**PARISH TOILETS**

This week there were some extensive plumbing works to the toilets at St. Therese’s Church due to the pipes being blocked with baby wipes and other products. We ask that when using the parish toilets **do not flush baby wipes, cleaning wipes, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, tissues or rubbish of any kind** in the toilet.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

There have been some changes to the NSW Health directives in regards to places of worship: The wearing of masks is no longer mandatory. However, NSW Health does maintain that this is **strongly recommended**. The number of people attending church services has also changed. Under the new regulations, there is no longer a “cap” of people attending provided that the **one person per 2m<sup>2</sup> rule** is observed. As such, St. Benedict’s Shrine can hold a maximum of 300 people, St. Therese’s Church 100 people and Montefano Hall 180 people. This includes regular Mass, weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Unfortunately, congregational singing is still not allowed at this time.

**Dispensation Lifted**

Archbishop Anthony Fisher has lifted **the dispensation from our Sunday Mass obligation**. The Catholic faithful are once again obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation when this is reasonably possible. Those who are of great age, have health conditions or are otherwise anxious about the risks of COVID-19 are free to remain at home and find another way of keeping the Sabbath holy.

**WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (WWCC)**

It has come to our attention that a number of Parish volunteers have expired WWCC. Due to Covid, the NSW granted a 6 month period of ‘grace’ until 15 September 2020. This time has now passed and all WWCCs must be current. ***If your WWCC expired in 2020 it is imperative you renew your WWCC to continue with your Parish Ministry.*** Failing to renew your WWCC will mean that you will have to re-do the application from start resulting in a NEW WWCC number. Once you have renewed your WWCC please email your documents to [wwcc@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:wwcc@stgertrude.org.au) or contact the Parish office.

If you are having difficulties renewing, please contact the Parish Office for assistance.

**TAP N GO DONATION**

The Parish has recently installed an electronic *Tap n Go* collection point at St. Benedict’s Shrine. The amount that is automatically deducted is \$10 which goes directly into the Church Fund or second collection loose. If you want to donate \$20, then you just need to tap twice. It is still very important that those who contribute via the Parish Planned Giving System (envelopes) continue to do so and if anyone would like to join Planned Giving, please contact the Parish Office.

**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.**

**Where do my Collections Go?**

In Australia there are two collections at Sunday Mass. The allocation of funds is as follows:

**First Collection: to the Priests.** This collection is used for the needs of the Parish Presbytery expenses for our priests.

**Second Collection: to the Parish.** This collection is used for the maintenance and repairs of Parish buildings and for expenses to the Parish such as utilities, staff wages, liturgical needs (bread and wine), etc.