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 Quarterly (No Easter Ads): \$330
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 • 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. 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 19th 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




St Gertrude's
 Catholic Primary School
 Smithfield

ENROLLING NOW
OPEN DAY
 Wednesday 24, March 9 am-11 am and Thursday 25, March 4 pm-5 pm
 Bookings are essential
 Call the school office on 96094144 or book online
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?embed&eid=726963>
 Please note this is for new and prospective families only.


 Patrician Brothers' College
 FAIRFIELD

Open Day **TUESDAY**
23 MARCH 2021
3.00pm-6.30pm
 P 9728 4488
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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

14 March 2021



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
 Bishop Bede Heather, Ivan (John) Bakic,
 Roberto Bordin, Caterina Nadalinni,
 Br Mark Kevin Ryan fsp, Rosalia Tirrito, Maria Frizzo, Joseph Cortez, Caesar Sammut,
 Adreana Attard,

Recently Deceased

And for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time
 Lorriane Mock, Domenica Ponzo,
 Salvatore Piazza

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

Safeguarding:
wwcc@stgertrude.org.au (all WWCC renewals)
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 March
Sacrament of reconciliation
 Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

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—
March 20
Group D: Grace & Pina (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**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Is 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.'"

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 136. R. v.6

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! (R.)

SECOND READING Eph 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he

brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe
in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer
darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth
comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done
in God.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 121: 3-4

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

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Next Week: Fifth Sunday of Lent
Readings: Yr B: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33



LENT 2021
Project Compassion Boxes.
Please 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 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.
Masses & Liturgies during Holy Week and Easter
Please see separate insert in Bulletin

SOLEMNITY OF ST PATRICK, BISHOP—WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH		
	St Therese's S Benedict's	7am Mass 7pm Mass
Free from Lenten Observances		

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH – FRIDAY 19 MARCH
As this year is celebrated as the Year of St. Joseph, there will be three Masses celebrated in our Parish churches:

St. Therese	7.00am Mass
St. Benedict's	9.15am Mass
	7.00pm Stations of the Cross
	7.30pm Solemn Mass followed by devotion.

Please join us to honour the Spouse of Mary in this special year.

LITANY TO ST. JOSEPH.
As part of our Year of St. Joseph celebrations, during the month of March which is the month especially dedicated to St. Joseph, we will pray the Litany to St. Joseph after each Mass. The Litany is also available on the Parish website for you to pray at any time.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD – THURSDAY 25 MARCH
There will be three Masses celebrated in the Parish

St. Therese	7.00am: Mass
St. Benedict's	9.15am: Mass
	7.00pm Mass including commencement of Spiritual Adoption.

At the 7pm Mass at St. Benedict's Shrine will be the official commencement of the nine months of the Spiritual Adoption of the Unborn. As part of the Mass there will be an acceptance and commitment rite.

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

Everyone loves the beauty and innocence of a baby. As an expression of that love, St Gertrude's Parish announces an adoption program for young and old alike. There are millions of unborn babies desperately in need of your prayers. **Won't you please "spiritually adopt" one and share the love for life that God have given you?**

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 – 25th March.

CHOIR REHEARSALS – MONDAYS 7.30PM
Choir rehearsals have recommenced in preparation for Easter on Monday at 7.30pm at St. Benedict's Shrine.

NEW ENVELOPES
The new set of Giving Envelopes are available for collection from St Benedict's Foyer. Anyone wishing to join the Parish 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.**

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM NEWS

- Week 3 First Reconciliation classes taking place – continue for one more week.
- First Holy Communion Meeting for 2020 and 2021 cohorts: Tuesday 20th April at 7 pm in the Montefano Hall.

CONFIRMATION 2021 Enrolments – Children in Year 6 and above, who have made their Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, are eligible to enrol for the confirmation Programme. Enrolment forms are available from the Church foyer or can be downloaded from the Parish Website: <http://www.stgertrude.org.au/ministries/sacramental-program/>

For all enquiries please email Helena – sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or call 9725 4317 and leave a message.

PARISH YOUTH GROUP
A great start to our Parish Youth Group! Thanks to all who attended. The next Youth Meeting will be Sunday 21st March. 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!

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS
Those celebrating a wedding anniversary in March are invited to renew their vows on Sunday 21st March at the 10.30am Mass

MEN'S ROSARY GROUP – 29 APRIL
The Men's Rosary Group will meet the last Thursday of every month at **7pm at St. Benedict's Shrine**. As March coincides with the Solemnity of the Annunciation, the group will next meet on Thursday 29th April. New members are always welcome to join.

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 2m² 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.

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.