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Advertising Space Available - Beginning New Financial Year
 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."


Blessed Easter & Buona Pasqua to ALL Parishioners from Italian Catholic Federation
April Bingo will be Friday 9 & 23 April 2021
 in Montefano Hall at 10:00 am
 \$10 entry includes Bingo Games, morning tea/coffee and light lunch.
 Come Join us for a morning of Community friendship, 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&id=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

Fifth Sunday of Lent
21 March 2021

Congratulations to
 Maria Grazia BRUNETTA & Paul THOMSON
Married in our Parish
May God confirm them in their love.

We welcome the following
 Massimo FAGA, Serena HA, &
 Alyena TUWHAKARAINA
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
 Debra Spencer, 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 Ponso,

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 27
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**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Cf. Ps 42:1-2*

*Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.*

FIRST READING *Jer 31:31-34*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12*

(R.) **Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt. and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (R.)

SECOND READING *Heb 5:7-9*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Jn 12:26*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 12:20-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Jn 12: 24*

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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Next Week: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Readings: Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1–15:47



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. Please return boxes at Easter or soon thereafter.

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.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Masses:

St Benedict:

27 March—6 pm Vigil (Blessing of Palms)

28 March—9am (Italian); 10.30am & 6pm

Parishioners are invited to bring their own palms.

St Therese:

28 March— 7.30am & 9am

Reconciliation: 31 March

6—8 pm (7pm Mass) St Benedict’s

Palm Sunday Preparations—We need your help!

We would appreciate your help, if you can spare a few hours on Saturday 27 March, to decorate our churches in preparation for Palm Sunday.

Meet at St Benedict’s 9am. Thank you

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

At the end of each Mass there 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.**

**** Please contact Parish Office on 9604 1199 if you are using ENVELOPE NO: 109**

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME NEWS!

- Week 4 First Reconciliation classes taking this weekend.
- First Holy Communion Meeting for 2020 and 2021 cohorts: Tuesday 20th April at 7 pm in the Montefano Hall.
- Reconciliation Revision lessons and rehearsal to be held on 23/4 and 27/4 - email update coming soon.
- Communion lessons start 30/4, 1/5, 2/5.

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/>
Enrolments due back by 26/3/21.

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 this 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 this 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.