


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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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."

Italian Catholic Federation
 Welcomes all Parishioners to join us for the restart of
FCI 2021 BINGO at 10:00 am
Friday 5th & 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





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

Third Sunday of Lent
7 March 2021


We welcome the following
 Annalise Hosni
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 Kodsy,
 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 13
Group C: Wilson Family (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**

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING Ex 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus

God spoke all these words. He said, ‘I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

‘You shall have no gods except me.

‘You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father’s fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

‘You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

‘Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

‘Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

‘You shall not kill.
‘You shall not commit adultery.
‘You shall not steal.
‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
‘You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.’

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

- The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
- The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
- The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)
- They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Cor 1:22-25

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans

madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL Jn 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers’ coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, ‘Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.’ Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, ‘What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?’ Jesus answered, ‘Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

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Next Week: Fourth Sunday of Lent
Readings: Yr B: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD – THURSDAY 25TH MARCH

There will be three Masses celebrated in the Parish

St. Therese	7am:	Mass
St. Benedict’s	9.75am:	Mass
	7.pm	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.


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.	

Lenten Program

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!

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.

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. More information will be given in the Parish Bulletin.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM NEWS

- Week 2 First Reconciliation classes taking place – continue for 2 more weeks.
- First Holy Communion Meeting for 2020 and 2021 cohorts: Tuesday 20th April at 7 pm in the Montefano Hall.
- Confirmation Enrolments – please see the Parish website for more information and to obtain an enrolment form.

Prayer Partners: Sacramental time is a special time of grace for all in our community. This weekend, before or after the Masses, children preparing for First Reconciliation may ask members of the community to be “Prayer Partners”. Accepting an invitation to be a “Prayer Partner” involves taking the prayer card and praying for the candidate during the time leading up to their receiving the Sacrament. Should you be invited to become a “Prayer Partner” please accept the candidate’s invitation and reassure him/her of your support. If you do not receive a prayer card, please pray for all the children – a heart display with all the candidate’s names will be placed on the wall at the back of the church.

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

CHOIR REHEARSALS – MONDAYS 7.30PM

Choir rehearsals have recommenced in preparation for Easter on Monday at 7.30pm at St. Benedict’s Shrine.

ATTENTION LITURGY MINISTERS!

Please pick up the new Liturgy Roster in the Foyer. God Bless

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 19th 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 this Sunday 7th March at 10.30am.

NEW ENVELOPES

The new set of Planned Giving Envelopes will be ready for collection this weekend from Fairfield West. 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.**

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.

PARISH PILGRIM ICON

We have resumed the Parish Pilgrim Icon. 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.

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.

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.