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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."

The Parish does not imply any endorsement for advertisements listed in this bulletin.

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Patrician Brothers' College FAIRFIELD

OPEN DAY

Tuesday 12 March 2024
3.00pm-6.00pm

MARY MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE WAKELEY

OPEN DAY

Tuesday 19 March
4.00-7.00pm

We warmly invite you and your family to come along and tour our college, Campus. Meet our wonderful students, teachers and see our State-of-the-Art Facilities. Please register your attendance via this link: <https://bit.ly/42rod7g>

ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH

St Benedict's Shrine

Corner Justin & Neville Street
SMITHFIELD

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm;
9:00 am (Italian); 10:30am; 6:00pm.

Weekday Masses:

9:15am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday;
7:00 pm Wednesday

Weekday Public Holidays: 10:00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Adoration:

Wednesdays after evening Mass with Novena to St Benedict until 8:30 pm; Saturday from 4:30pm—5:30pm; & Friday after the 9:15am Mass

First Friday of the Month:

9:15 am followed by Devotions
7pm Mass & Adoration followed by Devotions

Chaplet of St. Michael: Tuesday after Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Friday after Mass



Parish Priest

Fr Peter James Strohmayer OSPPE

Assitant Priest

Fr Casimir Zielinski OSPPE

St Therese's Church

Corner The Boulevard & Stella Street
FAIRFIELD WEST

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm (Vietnamese);
7:30 am (English); 12 noon (Spanish); 6:00 pm (Syriac)

Weekday Masses:

Mon - Fri 7:00 am; Saturday 8:00 am

Weekday Public Holiday: 8:00 am

First Friday of the Month:

6.30 am Exposition & Confession; 7:00 am Mass

First Saturday of the Month:

7:00 am Rosary 8:00 am Mass

Chaplet of St. Michael:

Tuesday after Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Friday after Mass

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, Year B

25 February 2024



Congratulations to

Michael Faga & Claire Long
Married in our Parish

We pray for the sick of this Parish

Fr. Anthony David, OSPPE, Fr. Bob Bossini,
Josica Marotta, Dot Danecek, Michael Hyzy,
Aldo Girardi, Alyssa Ferreri,
Ray Wilson, Gino Mifsud, Adam Westwood,
Kartia Grace Russell, Ivy Fernandes,
Giuseppe Tozzi, Emile & Mary Kodsy &
Lawrence Briffa.

Bless our sick today so that they may bear their illness in union with Jesus' sufferings and restore them quickly to health.

Recently Deceased

George Dacoronia, Felice Palma Todaro,
Giuseppe Luppino, Giuseppe Tozzi,
Renato Pesavento, Raymond Cunico.

And for those whose Anniversary occur at this time

Angelina VACCARI.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office:

22 Neville 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)

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Parish Council: Denise Namroud

Finance Chair: Robert Esposito

Andrew Maia: Work Health & Safety

Catechists: 9725 4317

Mimi Romeo: catechist@stgertrude.org.au

Sacraments:

Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation

Contact: Jodie Micallef

Mob: 0412-804-465 (to leave a message)

sacraments@stgertrude.org.au

Liturgy: 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert

liturgy@stgertrude.org.au

Adult Sacraments (RCIA): Fr. Peter James

Every Sunday at 8:30 am in the

Crying Room (in front of St Benedict's)

Contact: Parish Office

Children's Liturgy: Currently not available at this time

Reconciliation:

Smithfield - Saturday 4:30 — 5:30 pm

Baptisms: Parish Office 9604 1199

Every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:00 noon in St Benedict's Shrine Church Smithfield

Marriages: Parish Office 9604 1199

By appointment only (6 months required)

Sick Calls: 9604 1199 — Any Time

Safeguarding: psso@stgertrude.org.au (Parish Safeguarding Support Officers and all WWCC renewals)

Parish Youth:

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month following the 6pm Mass.

Contact: Fr. Peter James via Parish Office

Other: FCI (Italian Catholic Federation)

Tony Coiera 0409 908 424

Parish Playgroup: Thursday during school term.

10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Our Schools

ST GERTRUDE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SMITHFIELD

Boys & Girls: K-6: Ph: 9609-4144
Principal: Mrs Linda Katsibras
1-11 Justin, Street, Smithfield NSW 2164
www.stgsmithfield.syd.catholic.edu.au
www.facebook.com/stgertrudessmithfield
www.instagram.com/stgsmithfield/

MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE WAKELEY

Girls: 7-12: Ph: 9725 4322
Principal: Ms Janine Kenney
5 Carnarvon St, Wakeley NSW 2176
info@mmwakeley.catholic.edu.au
mmwakeley.syd.catholic.edu.au

PATRICIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE FAIRFIELD

Boys: 7-12: Ph: 9728-4488
Principal: Mr Peter Wade
268 The Horsley Drive, Fairfield NSW 2165
info@pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au
www.pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER

For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

Novena to St Benedict

Wednesday after the 7:00 pm Mass with Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Reconciliation is available during this time.

Church Cleaners

W/E: 2nd March

St Benedict: Group C: Wilson Family
St. Therese: Group C: Spanish

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
(closed Wednesday)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, Year B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

or

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Let not our enemies exult over us.
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

FIRST READING Gen 22:1-2.9-13.15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) *I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. (R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

SECOND READING Rom 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mk 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new set of planned giving envelopes are ready for collection. **These are available this week at St. Therese's Church.** The Giving envelopes are a vital way that the Parish can plan for future expenses. Your weekly contributions allow us to calculate and forecast income to pay for expenses such as Parish loans, utilities, maintenance, etc. If you would like to join our Planned Giving System, please complete the form and contact the Parish Office. There is also the option of direct debit. Thank you for your continued support of the Parish!



BLESSING OF BACKPACKS: THIS SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM MASS

The annual blessing of School back packs will take place this Sunday the 25th February at 10.30am Mass. In particular our Kindergarten students are invited to bring their backpacks. This will also be the first of our "Stage" Masses for the year. You are invited for tea and coffee after Mass to meet our new families.



HOLY WEEK CHOIR

We will rehearse at St. Benedict's Shrine on Mondays, starting 26th February at 7:30 pm. Enter via the back door of Church through Justin Street opposite the school. Please email Anna at liturgy@stgertrude.org.au if you have any queries.



MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

Members of the Parish Maintenance Committee are invited to attend a meeting on Tuesday 27th February at 7:00 pm in the Parish Office.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 5TH MARCH

All members of the Parish Pastoral Council are invited to attend our first meeting for 2024 on Tuesday 5th March at 7:00 pm in the St. Augustine Catechesis Centre. Please advise Fr. Peter James if you are unable to attend this meeting.

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Lent



LENTEN PROGRAM 2024

LENTEN MEDITATION GROUPS

Lenten Meditation Groups will be held in the St. Augustine Catechesis Centre on:

Tuesday – following the 9.15am Mass
Thursday evening – beginning at 6.30pm



FIRST FRIDAY - 1ST MARCH 2024

Mass times as follows:

St Therese's Church:

6:30 am exposition and
confession

7:00 am Mass followed by Stations of
the Cross

St. Benedict's Shrine: 9:15 am Mass followed by devotions.

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross
followed by Mass

FIRST SATURDAY - 2ND MARCH 2024

Mass times as follows:

St Therese's Church: 7:00 am Exposition and Confession
8:00 am Mass

FR. CASIMIR NAME'S DAY SOLEMN VESPERS SUNDAY 3RD MARCH

To celebrate the Name's Day for Fr. Casimir, Solemn Vespers will be prayed at 5:00 pm on Sunday 3rd March at St. Benedict's Shrine. All Parishioners are invited to attend.



ST. BENEDICT'S SHRINE FOYER REPAIRS

During the week, repairs were undertaken to the entrance foyer of St. Benedict's Shrine. The Parish would like to extend our thanks to Mateo and Anto and their team who generously gave of their time and donated the materials for the repairs.

Please keep Mateo and Anto and their families in your prayers.



NO FLOWERS DURING LENT

As part of our Lenten tradition, there are no flowers in the church during the Season of Lent. If you would like to bring flowers, please feel free to place them at the St. Joseph or Sacred Heart Gardens on the Justin Street side of the Shrine. The visual simplicity of the church is another reminder of our preparations to celebrate the Paschal Mystery at Easter.



PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction.

Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.** Project Compassion boxes are available in the Foyer of the church.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS!

FIRST RECONCILIATIONS LESSONS BEGIN THIS SUNDAY

First Reconciliation lessons will take place from 8:45am to 10:15am in the Parish Montefano Hall.

Lesson 1 – Sunday 25th February

Lesson 2 – Sunday 3rd March

Lesson 3 – Sunday 10th March

Lesson 4 – Sunday 17th March



For all enquiries, please contact the Sacramental Office by emailing sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or text/phone 0412-804-465 to leave a message.

God bless

Jodie



PRIMARY KIDS YOUTH GROUP: YRS. 3 - 6

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH 6:30PM

The Parish is starting a new youth group this year for our Primary School children in year 3 to year 6. This youth group will meet once a month on the third Friday of the month during school term at 6.30pm (and finish no later than 8pm) in the St. Augustine Catechesis Centre. All Primary Youth are welcome.



PARISH YOUTH GROUP THIS SUNDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY

Our teenage and Adult Youth Group will recommence this Sunday 25th February following the Sunday 6pm Mass. New members always welcome to attend.



PARISH PLAYGROUP

When: Thursday 29th February 2024
Where: St. Augustine Catechesis Centre
Time: 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Playgroup will meet every Thursday during the school term. New and existing families are invited to attend. Hope to see you all there!



FCI – Italian Catholic Federation

Bingo Numbers called out in *English & Italian*
Next Bingo 10:00 am Friday, 1st March 2024.
Montefano Hall \$15 entry includes
Bingo Games, prizes; Morning Tea/Coffee and light lunch.
Come join us.



Next Week: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B
Scripture: Ex 20:1-17, 1 Cor 1:1:22-25.
Gospel: Jn 2:13-25.

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. 100001084

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God Bless.