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Office: 134 Wyralla Road, Miranda  
Chapel: 10 Jane Street, Blacktown  
www.acolucciofs.com

**PARISH PLAYGROUP**

When: Thursday 21st March 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!

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**FCI – Italian Catholic Federation**

Bingo Numbers called out in English & Italian  
Next Bingo 10:00 am **Friday, 5th April 2024.**  
Montefano Hall \$15 entry includes  
Bingo Games, prizes; Morning Tea/Coffee and light lunch.  
Come join us.



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**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/42rod7q>



**ENROL NOW!**

Enrolling now for Kindergarten 2025  
Limited positions Years 1 - 6 available for 2024 and 2025  
Contact us today.  
info@stgsmithfield.catholic.edu.au  
<https://stgsmithfield.syd.catholic.edu.au>

# 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 Strohmayr 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

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, Year B

17 March 2024



**Welcome into our Parish**  
Eren Michael TRAN  
Baptised this weekend

**We pray for the sick of this Parish**  
Fr. Anthony David, OSPPE, Fr. Bob Bossini,  
Fr Marek Dutkiewicz, OSPPE,  
Josica Marotta, Dot Danecek, Michael Hyzy,  
Aldo Girardi, Alyssa Ferreri,  
Ray Wilson, Gino Mifsud, Adam Westwood,  
Kartia Grace Russell, Ivy Fernandes,  
Emile & Mary Kody, Joanne Portolesi,  
George Jaksic & 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**  
Br. Charles Kevin Barry, FSP, Frank Ebejer,  
Mary Vella, Rosa Papandrea, Maurice Wright,  
George Dacoronia, Felice Palma Todaro,  
Giuseppe Luppino, Giuseppe Tozzi,  
Renato Pesavento.

**And for those whose Anniversary occur at this time**  
Maria CHIAVAROLI, Cornelia BOSWERGER,  
Salvatore RIPEPI, Sharron KASSOUTAS,  
Salvatore MAUGERI.

### PARISH INFORMATION

**Parish Office:**  
22 Neville 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)  
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](mailto:catechist@stgertrude.org.au)

**Sacraments:**  
*Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation*  
Contact: Jodie Micallef  
Mob: 0412-804-465 (to leave a message)  
[sacraments@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stgertrude.org.au)

**Liturgy:** 9725 4317 Anna Kleibert  
[liturgy@stgertrude.org.au](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** [pssso@stgertrude.org.au](mailto:pssso@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](http://www.stgsmithfield.syd.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.facebook.com/stgertrudessmithfield](https://www.facebook.com/stgertrudessmithfield)  
[www.instagram.com/stgsmithfield/](https://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](mailto:info@mmwakeley.catholic.edu.au)  
[mmwakeley.syd.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:info@pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au](http://www.pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au)

### THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER

**For the new martyrs**  
We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

### 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: 23rd March  
St Benedict: Group A: Frances  
St. Therese: Group D: Syriacs

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

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, Year B

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(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.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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 St. 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,  
it remains only a single grain;

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.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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.

### STATUE OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

The Parish has recently purchased a statue of St. Michael the Archangel for the church and the Immaculate Conception for the front garden.

If any of our Parishioners would like to donate towards the statues please speak with the piety stall or contact the Parish Office.

### PALMS AND OLIVE BRANCHES FOR PALM SUNDAY

If you have any palms or olive branches in your gardens that can be used for blessing and distribution on Palm Sunday, please bring these during the next two weeks to St. Benedict's Shrine and leave them in the foyer in the baskets provided. Thank you for your continued support.

### PARISH MOVIE NIGHT - THANK YOU !

On behalf of the Parish I would like to thank our Fundraising Committee for their organisation of the Parish Movie Night last Monday. Thank you also to all our Parishioners who attended the event.

### SHOUT OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to join a roster to assist with the maintenance of the lawns & garden at St. Benedict's Shrine.  
Please contact Rob on 0403 320 986 or the parish office to express your interest or if you have any questions.

**Next Week:** PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD, YEAR B  
**Scripture:** *Is 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11.*  
**Gospel:** *Mk 14: - 15:47.*

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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**

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS & MASS EACH FRIDAY OF LENT

**St. Therese's Church:**  
7:00 am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross  
**St. Benedict's Shrine:**  
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

As St. Patrick's Day falls on Sunday this year, the Church celebrates the day on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> March. As this is a Solemnity in Australia, we are not obliged by our Lenten fasting. Mass times as per Parish timetable.

### ST. JOSEPH'S DAY TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

The Solemnity of St. Joseph is celebrated on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

As a Solemnity we are not obliged by our Lenten fasting.

#### Mass times:

St Therese's Church 7:00 am  
St. Benedict's Shrine 9.30 am – whole school Mass  
7:00 pm

### CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH

Confession in preparation for Easter will be held on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7:00 pm at St. Benedict's Shrine.**

Please note that there are no confessions during the Easter Triduum.

### NYORA GARDENS NURSING HOME MASS THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH

After a long absence due to Covid restrictions, we will once again be commencing our monthly Mass at Nyora Gardens on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10:30 am.

### PALM SUNDAY WORKING BEE SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

A working bee has been organised for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March beginning 10am. This is to help prepare our churches for the celebration of Palm Sunday. If you are available to help please meet at St. Benedict's Shrine.

### COMMUNION TO THE SICK FOR EASTER TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

The priests will be visiting our housebound Parishioners on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. If you know of anyone who would like a visit, please contact the Parish office to leave their details.

### 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.**

## Sacramental News!

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion lessons will take place on the following dates from 8:45am to 10:15am in the Parish Montefano Hall.

- Lesson 1 – Sunday 5th May
- **No lesson – Sunday 12 May**
- Lesson 2 – Sunday 19th May
- Lesson 3 – Sunday 26th May
- Lesson 4 – Sunday 2nd June
- Lesson 5– Sunday 9th June



### SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will take place on **Tuesday, 11 June** at 6.30pm in St Benedict's Shrine.



### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION ENROLMENTS

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Confirmation will open on **Sunday, 5th May.**

Further details will be available on this date.

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

God bless  
Jodie



# Divine Mercy Raffle

Drawn Sunday 7th of April after 3pm Mass  
\$2 each ticket or 3 for \$5 tickets



**FIRST PRIZE:**  
Divine Mercy Tapestry  
(59cm wide, 100cm tall)  
\$50 VISA Voucher

**SECOND PRIZE:**  
Divine Mercy Statue  
(19cm Tall)  
\$100 VISA Voucher

**THIRD PRIZE:**  
"Understanding Divine Mercy"  
Book  
\$50 VISA Voucher

All proceeds go to maintenance of St Benedict's Shrine



### PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The Planned Giving envelopes are available to be collected from the Parish Office.