

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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, 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Next Week : PALM SUNDAY

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

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Tuesday 20th March ~ Edith's Group

Parish Collections Week- Ending 11/03/2018
1st Collection \$1,562.80 goes to Fr. Jarek & Fr Wojtek as well as the upkeep of their Order of St Paul the First Hermit.
2nd Collection: Envelopes and/or Credit Card payments: \$2,611.85 and \$1,011.70 Loose Money.
Thank you for your generous support & May God Bless you all!

LENT
Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper exclusive (29th March). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LENTEN PENANCE
1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following.
(a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a Church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary.
(b) (b) self denial – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.
During Lent **penance** should be not only inward and individual, but also outward and social SC110

PASCHAL PRECEPT
Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday unless for a good reason, it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.


STATIONS OF THE CROSS
St Benedict’s Church: Every Friday at 7pm
Friday 16 March the Stations will be led by the Youth
Theme: Vocations
St Therese’s Church: Every Friday after the 7am Mass; & 7pm (Italian)

LENTEN GROUPS ~ EVERY THURSDAY
After the 9:15am Mass & 7.30pm in the Parish House, Smithfield
PROJECT COMPASSION
Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help young women like Ditosa to grow up with an education, confidence and hope, providing them with a just future.


Rehearsals in preparation for Holy Week
Tuesdays 20th March & 27 March at 7pm for Acolytes and Servers &
Thursday 22 March at 7pm for Readers

CHOCOLATE PASCHAL LAMBS ~ NOW SELLING \$10 each
By purchasing the Paschal Lambs, you are helping the Michaelite Priests bring the message of Christ to the people of Papua New Guinea, as well as supporting our Parish in our fundraising.
Easter Raffle - \$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5
Prizes: Food Hampers


Reconciliation
Wednesday 21 March from 6.30pm – 8.30pm
(during Mass and Devotions).
Also on Fridays during Stations of the Cross from 7pm




Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
On Palm Sunday the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. During this liturgy the Celebrant will be blessing palms and olive branches.
10.30am Children’s Mass – Start at front of Parish House.



Holy Thursday –
10am Mass at Cathedral (Blessing of Oils)
Mass of the Last Supper 7pm ~ St Benedict’s
After the Holy Thursday Liturgy there will be a procession to the Montefano hall for Adoration till 10pm.



Good Friday
10am: Stations of the Cross (Children)
3pm: Liturgy of Good Friday at Smithfield.
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament till midnight in the Montefano Hall.




Divine Mercy Novena will commence after the Liturgy in Montefano Hall

Holy Saturday
Vigil Smithfield – 6pm~ St Benedict’s



Sunday Masses: 8am (Italian); 10.30am & 6pm at St Benedict’s, Smithfield;
7.30am & 9am at St Therese’s Church Fairfield West



Divine Mercy Sunday 8th April – NO EVENING MASS
Masses:
St Benedict’s Church: 6pm Vigil (Saturday)
8am Italian, 10.30am & 3pm (**NO EVENING MASS**)
St Therese’s Church: 7.30am & 9pm



ALTAR SERVERS MEETING
Tuesday 27 March 4.30 – 5.15pm St Benedict’s Church

Confirmation 2018

- Confirmation will be celebrated in our Parish on Sunday 17th June at 2 pm & 4 pm.
- Parent Information Meeting: Wednesday 2nd May at 7:30 pm in the Montefano Hall.

For all enquiries call Helena in the Sacrament Office – Tue or Fri on 9725 4317 or email sacraments@stgertrude.org.au.

YOUTH GROUP ~ MUSIC REHEARSALS
Monday 9th April at 7.30pm Group 1
(Second Monday of the Month)
Monday 26th March at 7.30pm Group 2
(last Monday of the Month)

Working Bee Thank you
A sincere ‘thank you’ to all the volunteers who worked so tirelessly on the Working Bees both at St Therese’s and St Benedict’s!
Much Appreciated!

Smithfield YOUTH MASS
Next Mass: Sunday 18 March at 6pm
Youth Program on 3rd Sunday of the month .
7pm - 8pm in the Montefano Hall.
All Youth Welcome!
YOUTH PROGRAM: 18 March 2018

Annual Family Day at Penrose Park
(Our Second Year)
Saturday 7 April at Penrose Park
Starting with Mass at 11am followed by games (pack your own picnic lunch)
Concludes with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm.

Movie Night! – Tickets have SOLD OUT
'PAUL Apostle of Christ' (RATED M)
6:30pm on Thursday 12 April at Stockland's Hoyts Cinema
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Pilgrimage to Penrose Park on Sunday 13 May.
Please contact the parish office to book the bus Cost \$22.

Safeguarding Training in May
If you are a volunteer: reader, cleaner, groundsman, counter etc) and have not yet completed Safeguarding Training or your Working with Children Check, please contact the parish office.

Volunteer Photo ID Cards.
Photo ID’s will be taken after Masses on 17/18 March; and between 10am – 4pm on Tuesday 13 March & Friday 16 March

2018 St Gertrude's Parish Planning Calendar will be displayed in the Notice Board at St Benedict’s with all the events currently programmed for the year.

The Maltese Cultural Association of NSW
Invites you to share in
The Way of the Cross - It-Triq Imqaddsa
Tuesday **20 March at 7.00pm** at OLQP Church
Accompanied by The MCA Choir.
Light refreshments in Gorg Preca Centre following the Service. Contact Marisa Previtera 0414 863 123

FEDERAZIONE CATTOLICA ITALIANA
La cerimonia dei Membri Verra’ Celebrata
Domenica 18 Marzo durante La Santa Messa Italiana.
Tutti siete Benvenuti.
***TOMBOLA** Primo e Terzo Venerdi’. Il 2 e 16 di Marzo Con Caffè’,Dolci e Panini per Pranzo, Nella sala di Santa Teresa Fairfield West dale 10.00 am -- 1.00 pm.
***RIUNIONE IMPORTANTE dei Membri Matedi’ 13 Marzo**
Nella sala di St.Teresa
For more info. call, Antonio Coiera 0409 908424
Gina Morosin 0417 203908 / Maria Zappia 0402 031411
CRISTO REGNI **

Now Enrolling for 2019 & 2020
St Gertrude’s Catholic Primary School 2019 Enrolments
The enrolment process for students starting school or wishing to enrol for 2019 has commenced. Any parent wishing to enrol their child for Kindergarten can collect an enrolment package from the school office.
Children enrolling must be turning 5 before 31 July 2019.

MARY MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE ~ OPEN EVENING
Wednesday 21 March 2018 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm
T 9725 4322 W www.mmcwakeley.catholic.edu.au

HOUSE CLEANING
Parishioner from St Benedict's offering reliable and top quality full house cleaning and general garden work at reasonable rates.
Please call Jeanne Hanson 0413610757


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