

The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

Diocese of Broken Bay

Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
31 Oxford Street, Epping and

St Gerard Majella Church
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Dowd,
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Email: peter@epccarl.org.au

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Assistant Priest: Fr Bogdan Skupien
Ph.: 9876 2853
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Parish Office: 9876 2853

Welcome to our Parish of Epping and Carlingford consisting of our two worshipping communities of St Gerard Majella's at Carlingford and Our Lady Help of Christians at Epping. If you are new to the area or visiting today we are glad that you are with us, and we hope that our celebrations of the Eucharist together will provide both nourishment and challenge on your Christian journey.

YEAR A	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER [MOTHER'S DAY]	10-05-20
Acts 6:1-7	1 Peter 2:4-9	John 14:1



A BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY!

*May God's gentleness and peace
be in your heart.*

*May God's strength be with you
in times of trouble.*

*May you grow each day
in wisdom and grace.*

*And may Mary, our Mother
who knows joy and sorrow
always walk beside you.*

Fr Peter, Fr Bogdan

Dear sisters and brothers

Firstly, a huge "Blessed and Happy Mother's Day" to all our mums and 'mother-like' persons who grace our life with God's motherly care on this Mother's Day weekend! Even with all that is happening around us at this time, I hope you all know how precious and appreciated you are and the special place you have in our hearts and prayers. In a special way, we also remember those mothers who have died and those families who for the first time are experiencing Mother's Day without the physical presence of their mother or grandmother. May God's strength and comfort be with you all!

Last Wednesday myself and our team working on the Development of our Epping parish site participated in the **Sydney Central City Planning Panel** to determine our DA. This is a State based panel comprising three State government panellists and two members of Council, two Councillors from Parramatta Council. Planning Panels have replaced the former JRPPs. The concept of these panels is to make determinations and to take into account state-based needs re infrastructure. Usually, the panel will make a determination within 7 days of hearing the application. At the time of writing this letter no such decision has been made but should we receive word before the weekend I will announce it at our Sunday Mass on Demand. Please keep this decision and those making it in your prayers. My sincere thanks to those who have worked diligently to assist us to arrive at this point! A copy of my presentation to the panel can be found in today's bulletin.

Fr Peter



Parish Mission Statement

We are a diverse Catholic community centred in the Eucharist. We gather for worship to serve and reach out to others as we grow in relationship with God and each other.



Charitable Works Fund Appeal

The **CatholicCare Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Practitioner Program** is one of the five charities supported by the Diocese of Broken Bay CWF. In the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic, our Pastoral Care Practitioners continue to provide invaluable faith based support to patients, their families and staff at our hospitals, however are not currently physically present in the wards.

Peter Brown, Pastoral Care Team Leader with support from the Pastoral Care Practitioners based across the seven hospitals in our Diocese provided the following reflections

(As at 30 April, 2020) only our Priests have been allowed to attend the hospitals to administer the Sacraments to Catholic patients in emergencies/end of life situations. We sincerely thank those Priests who have answered the call. They have demonstrated that pastoral care is considered an "essential service" as part of a holistic approach to supporting patients who are critically ill. We know that our role as lay Pastoral Care Practitioners is complementary to our Priests' Sacramental role, which is why we have encouraged hospital patients to connect with us by mobile phone and internet, and provided links to online resources for their spiritual nourishment, especially during Holy Week and over the Easter long weekend. Through the use of technology we have had increased contact with each other as a team and drawn great support from our shared experiences and learnings.

As a result of our reduced face to face time with patients, we have had greater opportunity to connect, via telephone, with many of our hospital colleagues who have courageously remained on the frontline, including clinical staff on the wards, social workers, reception staff and the Coordinators of our Chaplaincy Departments.

We have also been able to meet with other CatholicCare staff over Zoom that we would otherwise never meet. This has increased our networking and ability to call on our wonderful CatholicCare colleagues, who specialise in other key areas of community care when the need arises for patient and parishioner support and referral. During this crisis we have had time to pray for all our hospital patients and colleagues and to reflect upon how much we love and miss what we do. We hope to be back in our hospitals as soon as possible to reconnect with them in the context of a new "normal" for our world.

In order to receive Catholic Pastoral Care in hospital, it is important to let Admissions staff know that the patient is a Catholic. At present, only Priests are available to administer the Sacraments in an emergency/end of life situation. If necessary, this request should be made immediately to clinical staff. Meanwhile, for other pastoral support, patients, families of patients, and hospital staff are encouraged to contact our team of CatholicCare Pastoral Care Practitioners either directly on the mobile phone numbers below, or contact their hospital's Chaplaincy Department:

Gosford Hospital: Peter Brown - 0418616602 (Mon - Fri 9-5)

Wyong Hospital: Br. John Verhoeven - 0427255804 (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 10-3)

Royal North Shore Hospital: Louise Smith - 0427662513 Mon 9-4, Tues, Wed 9-3:30

Northern Beaches and Mona Vale Hospitals: Denis O'Brien - 0439009932 (Mon 9-4, Tues 9-3, Wed 9-4)

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Sydney Adventist Hospitals: Anna Pawlak-Simpson- 0417135159 (Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 9-2)

We offer our prayers to all those who are sick or caring for the sick and to our dedicated Priests and Pastoral Care Practitioners.

Donations can be made online at www.givenow.com.au/cwf and will support our Parish quota. CWF Envelopes are also available from the parish office at Epping and outside the Church at Carlingford.

Circle of Friends

If you are all self-isolating or staying at home and need some help, we want you to know you are not alone and where possible we would like to help. Whether it's a regular call to check in on how you are going, picking up made up scripts from the chemist, helping with shopping or praying with you, we have parishioners who have already stepped up to offer their time and service for you. The idea is that we use this time especially to create what one of our parishioners referred to as a "Circle of Friends" within the parish.

Some of the ways we can offer you support are:

- A friendly phone call to check-in.
- Urgent supplies for example, picking up medical prescriptions.
- Errands such as posting mail, picking up parcels.
- Prayer support—to chat, to listen and to pray with you.
- Computer support, for example how to connect to video chats or online Masses, how to buy items online.

If you would like some support or know someone else in need please let us know by calling the parish on 9876 2853 or send an email to maree@eppcarl.org.au. Of course, all requests will be treated with the strictest confidence. Also if anyone is able to offer their services with providing any of the above areas could you also please make contact with the parish as noted above.

We have been hearing some great stories about how people are coming together praying in new and different ways either on their own or with their families.

Brian writes...

Thought you would like to know about two groups of parishioners who are now meeting regularly on-line. Both groups consist of parishioners who have long standing and deep friendships ... each usually meeting at least once a week until banned now from doing so so, missing each other, they were willing to experiment with video-meetings via Zoom. Many participants were a little anxious, claiming they knew nothing about computers. But, once established, real excitement as all the faces began to pop up on the screen in the first meeting. To get each group started involved direct contact by phone to each person explaining what Zoom could offer. Some had used video-conferencing with their families, often with some family member helping them. Many were computer novices. Starting required a commitment on my part to be with them via phone, one-to-one and, for a few, a trial run before the first meeting often with a family member in attendance. Very quickly though all were operational and able to reconnect should they drop out. Dropping out was more of an issue for those using 4G rather than the NBN. Sometimes there were problems with the NBN and continuity became difficult but, overall, the participants have agreed the exercise has been a success. All also agreed that each meeting should have a purpose. Chat runs out quickly and is not that easy when only one can speak at a time. One group is working its way through Richard Rohr's "The Universal Christ" with much debate as they go. The other who had their second meeting last Tuesday had an on-line Antique Roadshow and plan a book discussion for the future.

Brian

We would like to hear your stories also to share anonymously with the wider parish! Please send a brief description to me at my email address peter@eppcarl.org.au

How can we help you?

Director, Office for Evangelisation

- Full time, 38 hours per week
- Pennant Hills based

Applications close: Sunday, 24 May 2020.

The successful applicant must be eligible to work in Australia; hold a current unrestricted drivers licence; and will be required to undertake a pre-employment National Police History Check.



From Lynn's desk

Children's Liturgy – Kidz Word

On the 17th May, Kidz Word will be showing a short, self-made "home movie" 😊 Instead of an adult leading Kidz Word live, our parish community children will be doing the readings for the 6th Sunday of Easter in this "movie"!

Would you like your child to be involved in making this movie? It is really easy. All you need to do is send me a clip of your child doing the assigned reading or prayer. Please email me at lynn@eppcarl.org.au if your child would like to be in this "movie".

Just quietly between us... I heard a rumour that Fr Peter is rather keen to have a role too! 😊 Will he be an altar boy? Well, you have to wait till 17th May at 10am to find out!

Does this look like something you would like your children to experience? Please do join us in our **safe private group** for Kidz Word live this Sunday at 10am here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/255948268913440/> Kindly note that children will require the presence of a responsible adult when you access online parish activities.

As always, if you would like more details or if you require assistance in signing up for any of our parish online initiatives (YouTube channel, Facebook, Kidz Word, Bible Reading, Alpha, RCIA, Zoom meetings and Instagram) please [feel free to contact me. I am more than happy to assist.](#)

Lynn Siau
Sacramental Programme and Children's Ministries
0407 255 593
lynn@eppcarl.org.au

Easter Water

If any parishioners would like to receive a small plastic

Bottle of Easter Water, please email Lynn Siau

Mass Online

Epping Carlingford Parish - Sunday Mass on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_t43V_sQu1LK2LM_Q6akIA

Or go to the parish website home page and click on the first tile marked "Mass on Demand."



OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

No Antioch meeting this Sunday due to Mother's Day.

We wish all mums a very Happy Mother's Day!

Antioch will meet on zoom next Sunday on 17th May!

Also Antioch Australia are praying the rosary together every night during May at 10pm Sydney time!

Contact Joanna on joanna@eppcarl.org.au if you would like the login details for zoom!

CANA: OUR Yr. 7-9 YOUTH GROUP

Our Cana (year 7-9) youth group meetings is currently postponed.

If you want to stay in touch, please email or message Joanna (email: joanna@eppcarl.org.au or mobile: 0404 710 588) to receive weekly Cana newsletters and updates.

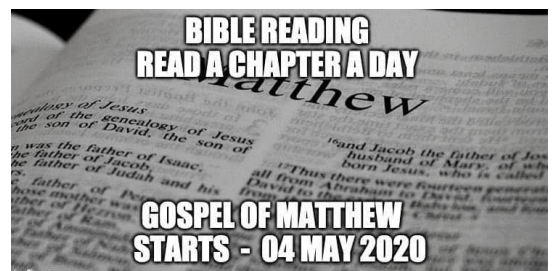
Parish Bible Reading Group

Our Bible Reading group started this week! We are reading one chapter of Matthew each day.

Please join us either on our Facebook page via this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1148887152176778/> or join our Whatsapp group by texting 'Matthew28' to Joanna on 0404 710 588.

We are also running weekly zoom meetings on Fridays from 7:30-8:30pm for further reflections, discussions and shared prayer, hosted with Fr Bogdan. All are welcome and invite your friends and family! We have our first zoom meeting on the 8th May. The link is here and you click on it

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88465320381>. If you are unsure how to set up zoom, please contact Lynn on lynn@eppcarl.org.au or Joanna on joanna@eppcarl.org.au.



Address to the Sydney Central City Planning Panel on 6th May 2020

"Thank you for this opportunity to briefly state the purpose of why we the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford wish to proceed with the development of our Parish site at Epping.

Four years ago now our parish which includes the site of OHLC Epping celebrated our official 100 years as part of the Epping community. Our proposed DA is a sign of our intention to continue to commit ourselves for the next 100 years to our mission as a faith community and well as to contribute to the life of this wonderful area here at Epping.

Over the past six years we have sought to involve wide parish (including our parish school) and community consultation through various public forums and parish meetings as well as reaching out to and meeting with the Epping Civic Trust prior to the lodgement of our original DA. These gatherings have provided opportunities to understand better the various concerns and points of view of everyone concerned which resulted for example in the decision to move the school offsite during the construction period and to explore possibilities for a greater sharing of our parish hall with the wider community.

Essentially within our proposed development we seek to create a "community" within our wider Epping community representing peoples of all age groups especially through:

- (a) our renewed school which along with up to date educational learning areas will also provide More available space or its playground facilities; and
- (b) the provision of suitable accommodation for seniors as well as those requiring more acute care.

Long ago we dismissed the idea of simply taking the easier and perhaps more profitable road financially of building residential apartments similar to what has already occurred in other parts of the Epping area. Partnership with a developer was the only viable way we could achieve our desired outcomes for the future of the parish.

Central to our vision is ensuring the ongoing viability of care of our heritage church in OXFORD Street conscious that many other local heritage items no longer exist. Many locals of faith and no faith often take time to sit and quietly reflect at various times of the day within our church. As our plans show we made a conscious decision to enhance our property frontage on Oxford Street through imposing height limits on the northern and southern sides of the church ensuring no development would be higher than the peak of the roof of the church building. Opening the church frontage and engaging with the wider community is also to be achieved through the provision of a green space on the southern edge of the property and a piazza style area leading from the footpath into a communal space. From the beginning of our deliberations we envisaged this hall, while firstly for the use of our own church and parish school, would also be made available for the use of the wider community. Also the provision of onsite underground car parking will relieve demands on offsite street parking and ensure availability for funerals, weddings etc. as well as our normal Sunday church parking as well as providing a safe drop off and pick up for children and parents at our local school.

In summary, against this background provided, we look forward to pursuing further our service and partnership within the local community here at Epping!

Fr Peter

Mother's Day Prayer

We pray for mothers, in thanks for their love and care so freely given.

We remember all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, all who have fulfilled motherly roles in our lives.

May they be blessed with joy and fulfilment.

We pray for those who on this Mother's Day are unhappy, sick, sad, lonely or anxious.

We place them in your care that they may know the comfort, reconciliation and peace which your love brings.

We pray for all the faithful departed, especially mothers, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom.

We make this prayer through our Lord, Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you.

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen

PARISH STAFF

Parish Secretary:

Dennis Porteous Ph.: 9876 2853
Email: dennis@eppcarl.org.au

Asst. Parish Secretary:

Maree Balzulat Ph.: 9876 2853
Email: maree@eppcarl.org.au

Pastoral Care Assistant:

Maree Balzulat Ph.: 9876 2853
Email: maree@eppcarl.org.au

Parish Support Worker (PSW) Sacramental Programmes and Children's Ministries

Lynn Siau
Ph.: 0407 255 593
Email: lynn@eppcarl.org.au

Sacramental Programme Assistant:

Lisha Abraham
Ph.: 0407 255 593
Email: kids.Sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

Pastoral Support Worker (PSW) Youth:

Joanna Mak
Ph.: 0404 710 588
Email: joanna@eppcarl.org.au

Missionary Discipleship Coordinator:

Denis McNamara
Ph.: 0410 041 944
Email: denis.mcnamara@eppcarl.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council

If you have any questions, comments or feedback for the Parish Pastoral Council then please send an email to ppsecretary@eppcarl.org.au

After Hours Sick Calls— 9876 2853

Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Peter and Fr Bogdan at home. In the event that they are unavailable, their answering machines will record your message or ring the number given in the message. However, if possible please restrict routine enquiries to office hours.

Admitted to Hospital A reminder that if you are admitted to hospital, please try to ensure that you write down your religion as Catholic on the admission form, so that you can receive Catholic services during your stay.

Have You Told Us? If you have recently changed your address, phone number or email. For parishioners who give by credit card, does your credit card expire in the near future? Please give the parish office a call on 9876 2853 if you have received a new credit card and/or a new expiry date.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS Our parish is strongly committed to ecumenism and a formal Covenant has been signed with the Anglican Parish of Epping, Epping Uniting Church, West, Epping Uniting Church and Epping Baptist Church.

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

Principal: Mrs Barbara Yee
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford
2118
P: 9871 1633
www.sgddb.catholic.edu
E: sgc@ddb.catholic.edu.au



Our Lady Help Of Christians Catholic Primary School

Principal: Ms Dominique O'Sullivan
8 Cambridge Street, Epping 2121 Ph: 9868 3322
www.olhcddb.catholic.edu.au
Email: olhc@ddb.catholic.edu.au



We are here to help

We want to reassure you that we are here to help. Our Home Care, Residential Aged Care and Retirement Living services are operating today and every day to ensure you keep receiving quality care and support. For more information on our services please watch our Aged Care Services Explained video [here](#) to make the right choice of how we can help.



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bettyockerlander@mcgrath.com.au
0408 505 080

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PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MASSES ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: BY APPOINTMENT

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS: BY APPOINTMENT

PARISH OFFICE: 29 Oxford Street, Epping NSW 2121 **PH:** 9876 2853 **Email:** parish@eppcarl.org.au

ST GERARD MAJELLA PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH: 9871 1633 **Email:** sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTANS PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH: 9868 3322 **Email:** olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of Everlasting life. Grant that life to:

Recently deceased: Joe Younis, Ray & Irene Ruiz, Laurence O'Rourke (brother of John Rourke), Michael Wondracz, Michael O'Keeffe, Leonardus Tommy Hendra, Colin Patten, Marj Hanlon, Maria Neves, Bev Aliprandi, Colin Patten, Maria Pereira..

Anniversaries: Paul Kelly

Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsya, Residents of Wesley Rayward Nursing Home, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Alice Eng, Peck Quah, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Narelda & Alan Ryan, Kit Smith, Margaret Floyd, Barbara Madafiglio, John Lyons, Howard, Carey, Bev Gibbeson, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Arnold Day, Marcia Power, Maureen Carlon, Fr Adrian Borst, Augustine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Patricia Muschalik, Delma Soria, Sr Abanasia Lee, Maria Belisario, Stella Edwards, Fara Vargas, Theo Stevens, Monica Weeden, Thomas Woodward, Wai Chun Wong, Heather Stoodley, Agnes Wong, Irene Winardi.

Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the family.

Supporting our Parish Financially

A number of people have enquired as to how they can continue their financial support for the parish during this difficult time. We realise that this may not be possible in the light of growing unemployment and reductions in superannuation returns at the moment and **there is absolutely no pressure on anyone to contribute!**

The First Collection

Supports the needs of the priests of the parish, the retired priests of the diocese and the Bishop.

The Second Collection

Money from the Second Collection supports the running costs of the parish including the payment of staff.

If you are able to contribute, the Church account details are shown below:

Epping and Carlingford Parish Accounts for Internet Banking with the Commonwealth Bank

First Collection BSB 062 784 A/C No 858 8002

Second Collection BSB 062 784 A/C No 858 8001

In order to record planned giving in the parish office, we would suggest the reference be planned giving number where applicable and surname.

Thank you to all those who have made financial contributions. Your support is very much appreciated.

Receiving a Copy of the Weekly Bulletin

If any parishioner does not have access to a computer and would still like to receive a copy of the weekly bulletin, please contact the parish office on 9876 2853 or Email: maree@eppcarl.org.au



This is our parish YouTube channel. You can subscribe to this channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_t43V_sQu1LK2LM_Q6akIA This has our weekend Mass that is live at 5pm on Saturdays plus other celebrations as well as video clips from Fr Peter.



You can "like" our parish Facebook page here at <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicParishOfEppingAndCarlingford/> This is where you can be kept updated with our latest news and be involved with some Facebook activities as a parish community such as Kidz Word, Bible Reading or live streamed prayers.



We have just hopped on to Instagram! To follow us, please click on this link here <https://www.instagram.com/catholicparisheppcarl/>