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 Jim McKeon

Tel.: 9876 2853

Email: jim@eppcarl.org.au

Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au



Assistant Priest: Fr Bogdan Skupien

Tel.: 9876 2853

Email: Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Office:9876 2853

Welcome to our Parish of Epping and Carlingford consisting of our two worshipping communities of St Gerard Majella's Church at Carlingford and Our Lady Help of Christians' Church 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 celebration of the Eucharist together will provide both nourishment and challenge on your Christian journey.

YEAR B

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER [DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY]
1 Jn 5:1-6

11-04-21

Jn 20:19-31

Dear Parishioners,

Acts 4:32-35

Happy Easter! We continue to proclaim the good news that Christ has risen throughout the Easter season, all the way to Pentecost. Thank you again to the many people who contributed to the ministries of our Easter liturgies. There has been terrific feedback about the quality of the music, environment, hospitality, and all ministries. Thanks also to the people who delivered invitations and did the working bees.

Reconciliation: We have been offering the sacrament of Penance on Monday nights and Friday nights throughout Lent, and there has been such a positive response with many people coming forward, we will continue this after Easter. We'll take a two-week break and recommence Monday nights at OLHC at 6pm from April 19th and Friday nights at 7.30pm at St Gerard's from Friday 30th.

Booking for Mass: Despite some challenges, our booking system for Easter Masses served us well, both streamlining the welcoming process (with much thanks to our welcomers), and allowing people to see in advance which Masses were already full, and to choose another Mass with availability (in the end, every liturgy except 7.45am Sunday was fully booked). Thank you for bearing with this process.

We don't yet know how long we will have a 2sqm per person limit. Demand for places outstripped availability at OLHC even the weekend before Easter. Let's continue with booking for Masses for the next few weeks to ascertain the attendance trends at all Masses so that we can then evalu-

ate which, if any Masses require a booking system, and at which, if any, we can be confident of having enough places for all.



Anzac Day is Sunday, April 25th. The Church has readings and prayers for the celebration of Anzac Day, however, the Sunday Mass takes precedence. We will instead pray the Mass of Anzac Day on Saturday, April 24th at 9.15am. If there is a returned serviceperson who would like to read the Ode at this Mass or someone who would like to play the Last Post, please contact the parish office.

Annual leave: Fr Jim will be on annual leave from Mon 11th – Sunday 17th. Thank you to Fr Bogdan who is covering additional Masses, and to Hien Vu who will offer some Communion Services on weekdays.

Fr Jim McKeon

Are you enrolling your child in a Catholic School? Throughout the year people contact the parish seeking a parish priest's reference for enrolment into a Catholic School. In 2021, Fr Jim invites parents seeking a reference to attend a Parent Connect Gathering which will develop the partnership of parish, family and school in the project of sharing Catholic faith with both primary school and high school students.

We will host gatherings each month throughout 2021 with the next ones being Saturday, May 1st 11am - 12pm at the meeting room at St Gerard's (behind the church), 543 North Rocks Rd, Carlingford. We invite one or both parents to come, but without children where possible. Bring your school reference form with you if you have it. Contact jim@eppcarl.org.au to RSVP or for more information



Don't know or not sure Jesus is risen! Try Alpha.

The same **Jesus of Nazareth** in the Gospels **is alive**, today.

What Jesus did in his life in Galilee and Jerusalem, he continues to do now and to do everywhere on earth.

When we believe that **Jesus is alive today**, we begin a friendship with Jesus. We connect to him. Jesus comes into our life. Actually, the initiative is coming from Jesus. He is the one desiring our friendship. He invites us to trust. It is up to us to respond. Jesus stands at the door and knocks. He waits for us to open the door. That door can only be opened from the inside. Jesus is inviting you to open that door.

Alpha is one way to respond to His invitation. Please join us to *open the door*.

Jesus is also asking you to invite others.

Ask anyone who says, "I don't know if Jesus Christ rose from the dead!" A survey done for Easter said that 28.3 per cent said in all honesty and humility that *they do not know*!

Others thought it possible that Jesus could rise from the dead. (19.7%)

Another group **thought it unlikely** (12.8%). Only 15.8 % are certain Jesus did not rise from the dead.

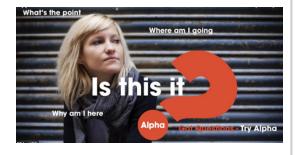
Ask all the people you know who say, 'I don't know'. Invite them to examine the evidence. Ask those who 'thought it possible that Jesus Christ rose from the dead'. They will hear from those who have experienced Jesus in their lives. Please ask those 'who are certain Jesus did not rise from the dead!' We want to learn from them and understand what led them to their conclusion.

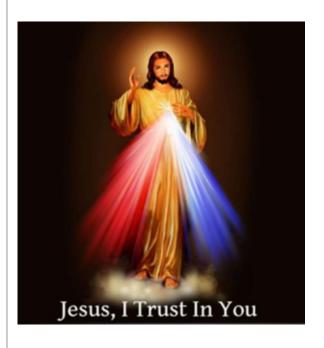
Come and see for yourself. We look at the evidence. We listen to those who have been healed and helped by Jesus in our world today. We explore life's big questions.

Come for dinner at **7 pm on Tuesday 13 April**. Join us in the hall at St Gerard's school, **543 North Rocks Road**, Carlingford. Let Maree know you and your guests are coming. Call the office on **9876 2853**

Go to the parish website to reserve a spot and Sign Up for Alpha!

Denis McNamara Supporting people to become disciples





"Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God.
All the works of My hands are crowned with mercy."

YOU ARE WELCOME TO CELEBRATE
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AT
ST. GERARD MAJELLA'S, CARLINGFORD
SUNDAY, 11.04.2021 AT 3.00 PM

Day **Date** Time **Event** 11/04/20 7:45am Mass at St Gerard's Sun. 8:30am | Mass at OLHC 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's 10:15am | Mass at OLHC 3:00pm | St Gerard's Church—Divine Mercy Devotions 6:00pm | Mass at OLHC 6:00pm No Antioch meeting tonight 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's Mon. 12/03/21 7:30pm St Gerard's Church Rosary Group Tue. 13/03/21 | 12:15pm | Mass at OLHC 7:00pm PH Carlingford—Alpha commencing with a meal, then watch the video 14/03/21 9:15am Mass at OLHC Wed. 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's 7:00pm PMR C'ford PPC meeting Thur. 15/04/21 9:30am | Mass at St Gerard's 11:00am Mass at the Poplars 12:15am | Mass at OLHC 7:30pm PMR C'ford Men of St Joseph Fri. 16/04/21 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's 10:00am PMR C'ford Scripture Reflection 12:15pm | Mass at OLHC 7:00pm | Cana on school break Sat. 17/04/21 9:15am | Mass at OLHC 9:45am Exposition & Reconciliation

10:15am Benediction

5:00pm Vigil Mass at OLHC

5:00pm Reconciliation at St Gerard's 6:00pm Vigil Mass at St Gerard's

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

WELCOME TO THE MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

The group is dedicated to Catholic men, who together spend time, to pray and to discuss how Catholic men live in today's world, discuss and support Catholic family issues and choices we make.

You are most welcome to join us on Thursday, 22th April at 7.30 pm, Carlingford

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**









Tune in to our Easter Special where we have a chat with Nathan & Luca and hear more about this important time of year from Father Jim!





www.anchor.fm/grace2020



Parish Information



Easter Sunday Family Masses 2021

We had such a glorious celebration on Easter Sunday blessed with glorious sunny weather! The family Masses held at both Epping and Carlingford were filled with warmth, joy and a lot of cuteness as Therese, our Family Mass Coordinator at Epping, puts it, "Oh the children were simply delicious!"

Fr Jim impressed the children with a question: Why are Easter eggs hollow? He was certainly impressed when one child answered: because Jesus rose and the tomb was empty. Wow, well done! The child got a larger-than-an-egg-sized hollow Easter egg for that great answer and for teaching us something new!

We were able to gather after Mass for morning tea for the first time in over a year and therefore seized the opportunity for an Easter egg hunt. Oh the laughter, squeals, delight and some crying from the little ones for missing out on finding chocolate eggs and bunnies... all so very special. After all, what is a large family gathering without some chaos, and a large family it was indeed that morning: our church family!



A bonus find for Samuel pictured here who got his hands on the largest bunny during the hunt.

Co-ordinating the various leaders and their teams was a pleasure: Therese and her wonderful helpers at Epping, Lorraine and Lilibeth (morning tea), Catherine (Gospel mime), Nicole and Nilu (Processions), Jack (egg hunt). A HUGE thank-you to them; I could not have asked for a better team as they were all so cheerful and upbeat! Special mention also to the musicians and those who work silently and tirelessly in the sacristy to make all this go off without a hitch... well... in your eyes anyway we hope!

Here are a few more photos:





Happy Easter to you! May our risen Lord fill your hearts with hope and may you experience the sort of joy that only He can give.

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

Youth And Young Adults

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY



There will be no meeting this Sunday, 11th April as we will be visiting Engadine



Joanne 0416 030 927, Karen 0421 506 577 (parent supporters) "It was at Antioch the believers were first called Christians"



Our young adults group will meet on Tuesday 20th April, in the parish meeting room from 7:00-8:30pm.

If you would like to come, please contact the Youth Minister Joanna on 0404 710 588 if you have any questions.

CANA: OUR 7-9 yrs. YOUTH GROUP

CANA IS CURRENTLY ON A BREAK FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

WE WILL RESUME ON THE 23RD APRIL



John 2:11 'The first of these miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana.'

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us."

JOHN 1:14

FOR AGES 12+

This Saturday, 10th April

9am-lpm

Meet other youth and play sports. Free snacks provided

> Location: St Gerard's, parking via 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford, 2118

Contact Joanna the Youth Minister for enquiries and RSVP via mobile 0404 710 588 or email joanna@eppcarl.org.au

BUY A BIBLE

Purchase a Bible after Mass on the 24-25 April.

Catholic Bible: \$15 Children's Bible: \$25

BIBLE READING GOSPEL OF JOHN

Join us as we read 12 chapters from the Gospel of John.

2 May | 10.30-11.30am

St. Gerard's Church Carlingford

BIBLE IN A YEAR

Join us on the journey via Facebook or WhatsApp as we read 'The Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz.

Starts 10 May 2021



facebook



🕒 WhatsApp



Organised by the Bible Reading Group CATHOLIC PARISH OF EPPING AND CARLINGFORD

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Reflection - Prayer Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed (Jn 20:29)

Jan Walgrave once commented that our present culture constitutes a virtual conspiracy against the interior life. He wasn't suggesting that somewhere there is a deliberate force that is consciously scheming to keep us from interiority and prayer, but rather that an accidental flowing—together of forces and circumstances in history are making it difficult for us to live the examined life.

What are these forces?

They're simply the daily headaches and heartaches that afflict us.

First, the headaches: <u>Thomas Merton</u> was once asked what he considered to be the major spiritual disease in the Western world. His answer:

Efficiency. The major spiritual disease in the Western world is efficiency because from the government offices down to the nursery we have to keep the plant running and, afterwards, we've no energy left for anything else.

He's right.

The first problem we have with prayer is that we're too–busy and too–preoccupied to make time for it. There's never, it seems, a good time for prayer.

Prayer isn't easy because we don't understand it, don't know how to do it, and don't understand how the experience should feel.

Always we're too—busy, too—stressed, too—tired, or too—preoccupied to sit or kneel down to pray. We rise early, groan as our alarm-clocks startle us from sleep, rush through breakfast, ready things for the day, fight crowds and traffic enroute to work, settle into a task that's demanding and draining, gulp-down a quick lunch, end the work-day tired, commute back home, ready another meal, tend to the needs of loved ones, share a meal with others who are just as tired and restless as we are, then, often enough, have still another meeting or event to attend in the evening.

The day simply takes us, consumes us, drains us, and leaves us, in its wake, sitting on the couch before a TV set, tired, dissipated, still needing to prepare some things for tomorrow, and wanting a mindless distraction rather than the discipline of prayer. It's hard to pray in our over–busy lives.

But we're not just too busy to pray, we're also too restless. There's a congenital disquiet inside us. Moreover this natural restlessness is fanned to a high flame by the culture: five hundred TV channels are within our reach, the internet brings the whole world into our private rooms, there are new movies that we haven't seen, new songs we haven't heard, colorful magazines whose covers beckon, sporting events that seem to be on everyone's mind, and every kind of special event from the Olympics, to the Academy awards, to World cups, to celebrity gossip programs, all distracting us. Beyond that, everyone around us seems to be travelling to interesting places, doing interesting things, meeting interesting people. We alone, it seems, are missing out on life, stuck, outside the circle, with nothing interesting to do.

It's hard to pray when we are restless and, mostly, we are. Henri Nouwen puts this well: "I want to pray," he says, "but I also don't want to miss out on anything: television, movies, socializing with friends, drinking—in the world."

Our deepest greed is not for money, but for experience. We don't want to miss out on life. Thus, to pray is truly a discipline because when we sit or kneel in prayer so many of our natural cravings feel starved and begin to protest. Restlessness is a great impediment to prayer.

Finally, beyond the headaches and restlessness, there is the ambiguity of prayer itself. Simply put, prayer isn't easy because we don't understand it, don't know how to do it, and don't understand how the experience should feel. Talking to God, hearing God's voice, and centering ourselves in God is not as easy as we sometimes make it out to be. God's reality, while massively real and the ground of the whole universe, is not physical and tangible like the things of this world. The world seems more real; family and friends can be hugged, touched and talked to, and physical sensation of all kinds doesn't leave us doubting its reality. But relating to God demands something else and it's easy to find ourselves bored, doubting, distracted, and anxious to get on to something else when we try to pray.

What we experience in prayer is just as real as the physical world, but we need to be at a certain depth of prayer to know this—and that's the paradox: because prayer can seem unreal we often stop doing it, but it will only seem real if we persevere in it long enough and do it deeply enough. We often give up too soon. Prayer isn't easy.

By definition, prayer is a non-pragmatic, non-utilitarian activity. It's hard to sit still and (seemingly) do nothing when so many necessary tasks demand our attention and when so much inside us aches for activity and involvement. It's hard to pray when we suffer from the kind of headaches and heartaches that cannot be eased by taking an aspirin. Walgrave is right, there's a certain conspiracy against the interior life today. But prayer beckons us beyond, asking us to lift even this up to God.

Ron Rolheiser

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Currently, Father Rolheiser is serving as President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio Texas. He can be contacted through his web site, www.ronrolheiser.com.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you. we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, Have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen

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.

After Hours Sick Calls—9876 2853

Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Jim 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.

Get your free copy of **Australian Catholics.** This quality quarterly magazine is published by Jesuit Communications and covers in depth a cross-section of issues in a well-balanced and thoughtful way. It is often used as a resource in our schools. Provided free by our local St Vincent de Paul Society.



Our Lady Help Of Christians Catholic Primary School

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

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School Principal: Mrs Barbara Yee 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford 2118 P: 9871 1633 www.sgcdbb.catholic.edu



The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. for us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

E-Bulletin

If you would like to receive the bulletin by email, please send an email with e-bulletin as the subject title to: mree@eppcarl.org.au



Responsorial Psalm Response

Ps: 117:2-4.13-15.22-24

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

			WEEKENI	<u> MASSES</u>					
Epping 5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm									
Carlingford	ngford 6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am								
WEEKDAY MASSES									
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.			
EPPING	No Mass	12:15pm	9:15am	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am			
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass			
HEALING MASS	Carlingford—1st Thursday, Epping — 3rd Wednesday (no Healing Mass in Jan.)								
EXPOSITION OF THE E	UCHARIST:	Epping Sat	turday 9:45-	10:15am,	Carlingfor	d, 4th Thurso	day 10:00am		
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Saturday 9:45-10:15am Carlingford Saturday 5:00—5:30pm OR BY APPOINTMENT									
BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: 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 CH	RISTANS PR	IMARY SCH	HOOL: PH	9868 3322	Email: olh	c@dbb.catho	lic.edu.au		

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

Recently deceased: Srimathimary Fatima Ovans, Patricia (Paddy) Gleeson, Marie Lawson, Thomas Magee, Neville

Anniversaries: Patrick Murphy, Fernalina Alarcon,

Also for:

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, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Margaret Floyd, Barbara Madafiglio, John Lyons, Bev Gibbeson, Radhi Riley, Patrick Thornton, Jan Doherty, Maureen McKeough, Ana Matijasic, Benjamin Verco, Peter Kelly. John Goodwin, George Bell, Patrick Thornton, Michael & Susan Tuite, Benjamin Verco, Noelene Viset, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Arnold Day, 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, Alex Benjamin Zaragoza, Amarech Zewolde, Janice Lemon, Mary Lou Pentony, Donald Wong, Joyce Heidke.

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

USEFUL LINKS

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CatholicParishOfEppingAndCarlingford

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/catholicparisheppcarl/

Fr Jim's Youtube: https://youtube.com/channel/UCLpbDNqP8u1Wx4Gm08jJydA **Epping and Carlingford Website**: https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford

G.R.A.C.E podcast via internet:

https://open.spotify.com/show/1y2EWOFkWJMRN5tAWJN9am

Date	Mass Time	Epping	Mass Time	Carlingford	
17/04/21	5:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien	6:00pm	Very Rev David Orr OSB	
18/04/21	8:30am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	7:45am	Fr Geoff Bugden	
18/04/21	10:15am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	9:30am	Fr Geoff Bugden	
18/04/21	6:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien			

The Parish Office phones are temporally out of service.

To contact the office please call the following mobile number 0455 213 795.

