

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: Doo Hwan Ji, Lizeth Albornoz Gonzales, Joan Rideout, Lizabeth Gonzales, Margaret Beagle, Joe Younis, Ray & Irene Ruiz, Laurence O'Rourke.

*We pray for Michael Wondracz who died on 3rd April.
The Funeral Mass was held last Wednesday at St Gerard's.*

**Anniversaries:
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, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Alice Eng, Peck Quah, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Narelda & Alan Ryan, Kit Smith, Margaret Floyd, Bev Aliprandi, Barbara Madafiglio, John Lyons, Joe Younis, Howard, Carey, 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 Muschallk, 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
Please note change in Second Collection BSB No

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.

Subscribe to our
YouTube Channel

How to Subscribe to our Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_t43V_sQu1LK2LM_Q6aIA

Open the **YouTube** app or go to m.youtube.com.

Sign in to **YouTube**.

If you're on the Home tab: Below the video whose **channel** you want to **subscribe** to, tap the **channel** icon. Tap **Subscribe**.

If you're watching a video whose **channel** you want to **subscribe** to: Below the video, tap **Subscribe**.



Keep in touch with us on Facebook by "liking" our page so you can be kept updated with our latest news and be involved with some Facebook activities as a parish community: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicParishOfEppingAndCarlingford/>



We have just hopped on to Instagram! Follow us and together let's be inspired and reach out to others: <https://www.instagram.com/catholicparisheppcarl/>

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,
Ph.: 9876 2853
Email: peter@eppcarl.org.au



Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au



Assistant Priest: Fr Bogdan Skupien
Ph.: 9876 2853
Email: Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Office: 02 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	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	12-04-20
Acts 10:34.37-43	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-9

Dear parishioners,

Christ is risen!! On behalf of Fr Bogdan, our seminarian Martino and myself, I would like to extend a very blessed and I hope, even in the midst of this Covid-19 crisis, a peaceful Easter to you all! Today we celebrate the very heart of what it means to be 'Christian'.....that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, truly conquered death in His Resurrection from the dead and as a result, we too are 'risen' in Him!

I'm sure though that the question for many at this time in the history of our world is "what does 'Resurrection' look and feel like?" From a faith perspective, where do we see the traces of Resurrection during this pandemic? Where is God in all this? Of course, these are questions that many have asked during every major epidemic in our history and it is clear that Jesus never made it possible for us to escape from the common fate of humanity. In Jesus Christ, God has subjected Himself to the consequences of the universe He has created. When Jesus died in terrible agony on the cross, he showed himself to be at one with suffering humanity. He also showed that suffering can be transformed into life; that evil can be overcome by love. This is both the message and challenge for us this Easter!

Of course, this meaning of Easter will be experienced in different ways within different people. For some this time of deprivation could allow us to rediscover family life such as taking time to pray together or sharing a meal which is not rushed or interrupted by the 'other' demands which so often distract us or focus us away from those who we love and are most important.

If nothing else the power of Easter 2020 may be that for the first time in quite a while we are forced to slow down and really listen to the many 'voices' in our lives and what they are inviting us to in terms, as I said in last week's bulletin, of our relationships with ourselves, God and one another.

As one writer put it "social distancing does not mean spiritual distancing". I pray that is true for all of us as we celebrate the Easter Feast.

One final note concerns the news of the acquittal of Cardinal Pell following the quashing of his convictions and his release from prison. As predicted this news has been greeted in various ways with strong emotions on both sides. Many of you I'm sure will be relieved to hear this news. We are to be grateful that we live in a society where such a rigorous legal process is possible when it comes to such cases. At the same time our resolve as a Church must always be a commitment to support **all** those who suffer especially those who have suffered horrific abuse at the hands of certain Church personnel. All those impacted need to be held in our prayerful hearts especially at this Easter time while we continue to commit ourselves to the ongoing inner transformation which is required within our Church if we are to be truly the bearer of the "Good News" of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for all Gods people.

Finally, a reminder that our Holy Week celebrations, including the celebration of the Easter Vigil, are available online and can be accessed via the link on the parish website or Facebook. Where possible we have attempted to upload them to YouTube so that they are available as close as possible to the times they would normally begin in our parish Churches. My sincere thanks to **ALL** who assisted in the preparation and celebration of our Holy Week liturgies 'online'!!...your generous service, time and gifts were appreciated more than you know!

Fr Peter

Parish Website

Please use our parish website to access information regarding COVID-19. Parish website:

www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford

In order to view Masses please go to YouTube and use https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_t43V_sQu1LK2LM_Q6aIA

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.

Plenary Council First Assembly postponed

In response to the dramatic changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the bishops of Australia have made the "difficult, but necessary" decision to postpone the first assembly of the Plenary Council.

Changes in the ways people live, work and communicate due to the pandemic led the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council to consult with the advisory and planning teams, as well as the wider Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

The decision was made to postpone the assembly scheduled for October this year.

Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said in a time of such upheaval, including severe restrictions on travel and group meetings, the postponement was unavoidable.

"Even though it is possible Australia may have moved through the worst of this health crisis by October, our capacity to adequately continue the process of discernment and formation – for everyone in the Church and in particular for the delegates – is severely compromised," he said.

Archbishop Costelloe said the Church's focus at the moment, and for the foreseeable future, is ensuring people continue to be cared for pastorally, spiritually and emotionally during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bishops will consider proposals for an alternative timeline for the Council's two assemblies at their biannual meeting in May.

"The bishops remain committed to the Plenary Council journey and affirm that two assemblies will take place. This allows for the maturation of the discussions and discernment of the first assembly to develop with clarity and lead into the second gathering," Archbishop Costelloe said.

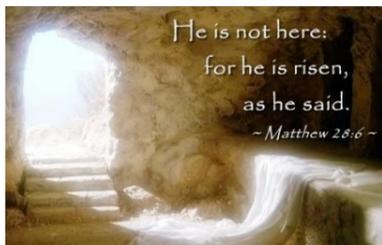
"The timing, the order and the location of the two assemblies will need to be re-examined, but it is hoped that having one assembly in Adelaide and the other in Sydney might still be possible."

Plenary Council facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins said work has already begun to consider how the changed timeline provides opportunities to embed the practices of dialogue, listening and communal discernment.

"There is obvious disappointment in the postponement of the first assembly, especially so soon after the excitement of announcing the Plenary Council delegates," she said.

"But once the pandemic has eased, people will have a thirst to look to the future – and the Plenary Council is about the future of the Church."

Announcements and up-to-date information will be made available through the Plenary Council website, the PlenaryPost electronic newsletter and social media channels.



Easter Offering Envelopes

Easter Offering Envelopes are available from the parish office. This annual appeal is a vital supplement to the First Collection which provides the salary and living expenses and health care provision for the priests of our diocese in active ministry and the accommodation, care and living expenses for priests who are retired. Please give as generously as you can as this fund is sorely strained and struggling to meet its commitments. The envelopes can be returned to the parish office during the Easter Season.

...continued from last week

Coronavirus and the Eucharist Fr Thomas O'Loughlin writes This crisis calls on us to care for one another and thank God at home

The virus has struck

So if we cannot gather because of COVID-19, can we still offer thanks to the Father through Christ?

Let's re-learn some basics.

1. *Jesus is present with us*

Many Catholics treat church buildings as if they were pagan temples, as if God is only "in there". But God's presence is everywhere and the risen Christ is not limited by space.

This presence of the risen Jesus among the community was captured in this saying preserved in Matthew's gospel: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Mt 18:20).

Even in the smallest gathering of just two people, staying two meters apart so as not to spread the virus, the Risen Lord is among them. They might be two people in a house, or two people linked by phone or Skype.

This was expressed in another ancient Christian saying that is preserved in the *Didache* (a first century new disciples' guide): "Whatever the things of the Lord are spoken about, there the Lord is present" (4:1).

....continued next week

PARISH STAFF

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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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

Antioch are meeting online (via zoom), 6pm Sundays from your own home! There will be talks, sharing, socialising and faith centred! To join, please message our parent support, Joanne (joanne_sin@hotmail.com) or youth minister, Joanna Mak (joanna@eppcarl.org.au or 0404710 588). Other initiatives our Antioch group are doing are -weekly Monday night 8:30pm rosary group using Facebook video call -daily bible reading group. If you would like to join these groups, please contact us! Also, follow us on our Facebook page, Epping & Carlingford Antioch Community!

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. To contact us call 1800 225 474

Project Compassion

Thank you for supporting Project Compassion 2020 COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

DO YOU HAVE PC BOXES AND CASH TO HAND IN?

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to your parish at this time.

Did you know that you can donate online at "lent. Caritas.org.au" and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830 Sydney NSW 2001. Alternatively, if you require assistance with your PC Box or cash, please call out friendly team on 1800 024 413.



Our Lady Help Of Christians Catholic Primary School

Principal: Ms Dominique O'Sullivan

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Christ is Risen!

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