

The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford Diocese of Broken Bay

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

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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 celebration of the Eucharist together will provide both nourishment and challenge on your Christian journey.

YEAR B

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17-01-21

1 Sam 3:3-10.19

1 Cor 6:13-15.17-20

Jn 1:35-42

Dear Parishioners,

Starting in the parish: Thank you for the warm welcome I have received from so many parishioners in my first week in the parish. I had the privilege of concelebrating one Mass with Fr Bogdan at St Gerard's and one with Fr Peter at OLHC to see how the community celebrate and worship here. It was wonderful to hear Fr Peter's words of farewell, and to see the well deserved standing ovation given to him on Sunday night. During the week I have begun to meet with some members of the parish staff and some key leaders to help me understand the workings of the parish. Please bear with me as I become accustomed to the rhythm of this community's prayer, worship, learning and fellowship. I look forward to all that God will do in our lives this year. – Fr Jim

Mark's Gospel: This year is "Year B" in the liturgical cycle and we read from Mark's gospel for most of the year. As this is the shortest of the three synoptic gospels it is also supplemented by some passages from the fourth gospel, such as this weekend when we read of Jesus' invitation to "Come and see" what life with him is like. You may like to read through Mark's gospel from start to finish and re-discover the drama of Jesus' story. Mark has less teaching and more action, with a lot happening in just a few lines. It takes only two hours to read the whole gospel – try it in a single sitting!

Life with Covid: The Chief Health Officer has stated that even with the commencement of Covid vaccinations we must expect social distancing rules and restrictions to be in force for some time. Additionally, the requirement to collect contact tracing information (names and phone numbers) will continue. This presents a number of challenges for parish life. Do we set up a booking system for weekend Masses, or just those who arrive first? Do we sing parts of the Mass to enhance the liturgy, or have less singing so that the congregation can more fully engage by speaking these parts? Do we have our parish ministries gather in smaller groups, move online, or postpone till later? Each of these questions will require prayer, thought and discernment in the weeks ahead.

Reconciliation at Carlingford: The present confessional room too small to comply with the Covid requirement of 4sqm per person which we so diligently observe in the rest of the church. For the time being, Fr Jim and Fr Bogdan will instead offer the sacrament of reconciliation in the children's room. You will still have the choice of sitting face to face or kneeling behind a screen.

QR Code scanning: The NSW Govt prefers that people use the Service NSW application to scan a QR code than any other third party application so we will be introducing this. All restaurants and cafes now use the Service NSW app so it is well worth installing this app on your phone.

Fr Jim

AUSTRALIA DAY

falls on Tuesday 26th January.

**Mass will be at 9:15am
at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Epping**

There will be no Mass at St Gerard's.

Please come along and celebrate our national day with the Eucharist, praying that we may grow as a nation of peace and justice.



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

Recently deceased: Adeline Theodore, Neville "Nev" Wilkin, Wong Fong Yee, Mamerto Amparo, Aline Eyles, Most Rev Geoffrey James Robinson DD, Caterina Di Losa Randazzo, Peter Deane, Margaret Mary Bonnet,

Anniversaries: Domenilo Agostino, Peter Baker,
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 Balsys, 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, Alice Eng, Peck Quah, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Margaret Floyd, Barbara Madafiglio, John Lyons, Bev Gibbeson, Alison Deane, Radhi Riley, Patrick Thornton, Jan Doherty, Maureen McKeough, Pauline Wicks rsj, Ana Matijasic, Benjamin Verco, Peter Kelly, John Goodwin, Michael & Susie Tuite, George Bell, 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.

Our next special feast day: Candlemas



The next feast day we will celebrate in a special way is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) :

on **Tuesday 2nd February:**

everyone is invited to bring along a candle to be blessed (please note that no candles will be provided – please bring along your own candle so that once blessed it can be part of your home prayer space).

Candlemas, coming 40 days after Christmas, celebrates the child Jesus being presented in the Temple and being recognised by Simeon as 'the light of all peoples'. The blessing of candles before Mass begins and the procession into the church has been part of this feast since medieval times.

Mass (and the blessing of candles) will be celebrated as follows:

a **daytime** Mass on **Tuesday 2nd February** at **12:15pm at Epping**
No Mass at Carlingford.

Emmaus Young Adults Group

Emmaus, our young adults group will resume this **Tuesday, 19th January**. They will be meeting at **St Gerard's 7-8:30pm**.

Any young adult between 23-30 years old are welcome to join! Free snacks provided!

Our Parish Antioch Community Meeting this Sunday, 17th January

The meeting starts at 6pm in the parish meeting room at Carlingford

For more information call
Joanne 0416 030 927
Karen (parent support) 0421 506 577

Men of St. Joseph



Welcome all who want to join the group of "Men of St Joseph". We meet weekly to discuss, share our faith and support one another.

Our first meeting takes place on the **28th January 2021 at parish meeting room at Carlingford commencing at 7.00 pm.**

Fr Bogdan

"This weekend, we farewell Rachel Foster who will be moving to Orange to work as a primary school teacher. Rachel has been heavily involved in the parish for many years including being a Junior Altar server. She has been part of the Antioch youth group since 2012 and has played the piano for Mass for 9 years. In 2020, Rachel received her 5 year award for catechist teaching; teaching both primary and high school. Rachel has also been involved in Emmaus, the young adults group that started last year. We wish Rachel all the best in her new career and she is looking forward to joining St Mary's Church in Orange. God Bless!"



Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2.4.7-10 R. v. 8.9

Response: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

FACE MASKS THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those that have been wearing masks to mass,

If you have forgotten your mask there is a supply available. Check with the Greeter or with the Sacristan in the Sacristy.

Facemasks are mandatory in places of worship. Thank you for your help in this matter.



Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
23/01/19	5:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien	6:00pm	Fr Jim McKeon
24/01/19	8:30am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	7:45am	Fr Jim McKeon
24/01/19	10:15am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	9:30am	Fr Jim McKeon
24/01/19	6:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien		