

<b>Responsorial Psalm Response</b> Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.		<b>Gospel Acclamation</b> <b>Alleluia, alleluia!</b> Be watchful, pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. <b>Alleluia!</b>					
<b><u>WEEKEND MASSES</u></b>							
<b>Epping</b>	<b>5pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm</b>						
<b>Carlingford</b>	<b>6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am</b>						
<b><u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u></b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thur</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	
<b>EPPING</b>	No Mass	12:15pm	<b>10:00am</b>	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am	
<b>CARLINGFORD</b>	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	
<b>HEALING MASS</b>	<b>Carlingford</b> —1st Thursday, <b>Epping</b> — 3rd Wednesday						
<b>EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping</b> Saturday 9:45-10:15am, <b>Carlingford</b> , 4th Thursday 10:00am							
<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping</b> Saturday 9:45-10:15am <b>Carlingford</b> Saturday 5:00—5:30pm <b>OR BY APPOINTMENT</b>							
<b>BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: BY APPOINTMENT</b>							
<b>PARISH OFFICE:</b> 29 Oxford Street, Epping NSW 2121 <b>PH:</b> 9876 2853 <b>Email:</b> parish@eppcarl.org.au							
<b>ST GERARD MAJELLA PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH:</b> 9871 1633 <b>Email:</b> sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au							
<b>OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTANS PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH:</b> 9868 3322 <b>Email:</b> olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au							
<b>Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of Everlasting life. Grant that life to:</b> <b>Recently deceased:</b> Denis Foley, Dot Doyle, Noelene Gardner, Paul Schwager, Jim Carmody, Betty Murdoch, Vicky Kennedy, Philip Ting (father of John Ting), Mary Ellis, Frankie Fernandes (brother of Irene Fernandes), Patricia Amy, <b>Anniversaries:</b> <b>Also for:</b> Evelyn & Cyril Dias, Raymond & Sandra Bayross, Caroline Madfiglio, Judy Wright, <b>Please pray for those who are sick:</b> Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsya, Residents of Wesley Rayward Nursing Home, Rose Prior, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Cooper Rundell, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Fred Saad, Ron Jenkins, Mike Van Werdt, Tammy Birch, Dorothea Ellis, Veronica Hartwich, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Pam Taig, Elaine Hunt, Arnold Day, Maureen Carlon, Fr Adrian Borst, Austustine Hong, Luba Charlton, Tony ?, George Khouri, Martin Sill, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Rob Neil, Josie Scully, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Kath McCarthy, Patricia Amy, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Frank Holmes, Joyce Fewtrell, Patricia Muschalik, Ernest Lau, Sr. Pauline Wicks rsj, Delma Soria,							

*To celebrate Ann Milling's 11 years of leadership as Principal at St Gerard's Catholic School, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be held on Wednesday, 19th December at 9.30am St Gerard's Church, Carlingford. Morning tea will follow Mass.*

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
24/11/18	5:00pm	Fr Joey Frez	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
25/11/18	8:30am	Fr Joey Frez	7:45am	Fr Peter Dowd
25/11/18	10:15am	Fr Joey Frez	9:30am	Fr Peter Dowd
25/11/18	6:00pm	Fr Joey Frez		

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## 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

**Assistant Priest: Fr Joey Frez**  
**Ph.:** 9872 3400  
**Email:** joseph@eppcarl.org.au

**Email:** parish@eppcarl.org.au

**Parish Website:** www.eppcarl.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 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 B THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18-11-18**

**Daniel 12:1-13**

**Hebrews: 10:11-14.18**

**Mark 13:24-32**



### A Welcome Gathering for all 2019 Kindergarten Families at Our Lady Help of Christians School Epping

Will take place this Sunday 18th November at the 10:15am Mass.

As part of our welcome to new kindergarten students for 2019 the families will be called forward for a blessing during the Mass to mark the commencement of their child's years of school education.

The Principal will greet the families and after Mass there will be a morning tea to give class families a chance to meet with each other over a cuppa.

Everyone is invited to the morning tea, which will be in the parish meeting room.

We look forward to seeing you then.

*Fr Peter*

### MEMORIAL WALLS: ~ A MASS FOR THOSE WHO ARE COMMEMORATED ~

We will celebrate a Memorial Mass at Epping and Carlingford, which will be offered for the repose of the souls of those commemorated on the plaques. The celebrations will take place on **Saturday 24th November.**

- ♦ at Epping at 9:15am.
- ♦ at Carlingford at the 9:30am

If you are interested in purchasing a plaque for one of the Memorial Walls, please contact the parish office in order to collect the paperwork.

### Catechist (SRE) Parish Mass and Invitation to Ministry

Come one and all to celebrate the amazing work our Catechists (SRE Teachers) do in the 9 State Schools across our Parish.

Take an opportunity to thank, support and discover what these very busy people do for us on the weekends of the **24/25th November at St Gerard's and 1st/2nd December at Our Lady Help of Christians.**

**All Parishioners are invited to the:  
Annual Parish Catechist Mass  
on 25th November at 9:30am  
in St Gerard's Church**

Special encouragement is given to the **families of all those whose children with whom the Catechists share their faith each week or fortnight.**

Please contact  
Mary O'Byrne (High Schools) on 9871 2120  
or Katherine Tam (Primary Schools) on  
[218catechists.ps@gmail.com](mailto:218catechists.ps@gmail.com)  
or via the Parish on 9876 2853  
with any enquiries or offers to assist in this  
exciting & rewarding Ministry.

becoming a  
**catechist**



## ANGEL TREE 2018



### CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASSES

All children are invited to take part in the Christmas Vigil Masses (5 pm at St Gerard's and 6 pm at OLHC on Christmas Eve in both churches.) We would like volunteers for many roles. We also need parent volunteers to assist at the practices, during the Mass and with supper.

The children participating in the Mass will be required to attend practices.  
Parent helpers will also be required to attend.

#### Carlingford:

Parent Run-through & mime learning Saturday 15th December 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Dress Rehearsal Thursday 20th December 10:15am- 11:15am

#### Epping:

Parent run-through & dress rehearsals Thursday 13th December & 20th December 4:00 - 5.00pm .

Any questions? Please email:

Lynn for Carlingford stgchildrensmass@gmail.com and  
Therese for Epping olhcchildrensmass@gmail.com

**Please detach and return no later than 2nd December Epping / Carlingford**

(Please circle which church you will be attending)

Please provide order of preference for each child for roles from Gospel mime, readings and processions. Although we try to give everyone his or her first preference, it is not always possible.

Child's Name	Age	Role

**Parents:** I am/am not able to assist with practices & during Mass.

I am/am not able to assist with packing away supper after Mass

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation of roles etc. will be notified via email



Once again through the "Angel Tree" the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford can deliver the Christ love of Christmas to children of prisoners.

Prison Fellowship invites you to help make a child's Christmas a little brighter. The children we are supporting have a parent/s serving a goal term, but the children are often the forgotten victims of their parents' crime.

Your commitment will involve purchasing a gift (up to \$30) or donating money towards the postage of the gift. We do not know how these gifts will be received, or the material circumstances of the family, but these families are suffering. The gift is from an incarcerated parent who cannot personally buy or deliver the gift to their child.

You are asked to collect an "Angel Card" from the Tree (which is located near the Ambo (Lectern) in Our Lady Help of Christians' Church this weekend. The Card has the child's name, sex, age and possibility a gift suggestion requested by the parent.

Due to jail regulations please do not wrap the presents. Place the "Angel Card" on the outside of the gift and return to the Tree on **the weekend 25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> November.**

Please continue to pray for the children, parents and carers this Christmas.

### Together as One....

*A Mass to remember, love and pray with our children who have died*

You are invited to a candlelit Eucharist for parents, siblings, grandparents or other family members, and friends who have experienced, or been touched by the death of a baby, (before or after birth), a child or young adult.

- A time to remember our young people who have died.
- A time to thank God for the gift of our children and the special place they will always hold in our lives and hearts.
- A time to show support for families who have lost their precious baby, child or young person, recently, or long ago.
- A time of care and gratitude for those who work with families experiencing the death of a young person.

**Thursday, 29th November  
at 7:30pm,  
at Our Lady Help of Christians'  
Church, Epping**

You are welcome to bring a photo, or a symbol of the young person you are remembering, such as a small item of clothing, a toy or favourite book to place in the sacred space.

All are welcome!



## 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.**



### PIETY STORE St. Gerard's Church

*come and browse*

- \*2019 Daily Missals commencing Advent
- \*Christmas Cards
- \*2019 Columban Calendars
- \*Christmas gifts for all ages



Catechists in the Diocese of Broken Bay were celebrated on Saturday 3 November at a special Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral. Fr David Ranson, Diocesan Administrator led the Mass beautifully. Nina Deacon from St Gerard's community received a Papal Blessing—20 years Service Award. For her service to the Catechist Ministry.

## 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,  
**At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', 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.

### FESTIVAL of SAINT CECILIA

Sat/Sun 24/25th November  
St. Kevin's Church, Hillview Road Eastwood.  
Continuous (free) Sunday concert from 1.30 to 5.30pm. Faure "Requiem" starts 3pm. All events in the Church. If interested just come along. Small handbills are at the Paper Table, more detail at [www.kevinwood.org](http://www.kevinwood.org)

**Miraculous Medal Association:** Celebration to honour the Feast of the Manifestation of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal will be held at St. Anthony's Church, Marsfield, on Saturday 24th November, 2018 commencing with Mass at 10.00 a.m. followed by Morning Tea.

All welcome. Members bring a plate.

### FOOTSTEP OG ST. PAUL - PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE

Journey with St. Paul as you relive the Acts of the Apostles and his letters from the New Testament following his footsteps on a 14-day pilgrimage to Greece departing on 14 of May, 2019. This pilgrimage features the saint's missionary through Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini, Hosios Loukas, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Meteora for an all-inclusive price of \$5990. This all-inclusive fare includes a 3 Night Cruise with all meals + Stay Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Return Airfares + Local Transfers+ Priests. For inquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or email [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au).

## Hamper Sunday



**When:** 17th & 18th November

**Where:** St. Gerard's Church, Carlingford

**Number of families needing a "hand up": 60**

*please can you help!!!*



## Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel—Why doesn't God make things easier?

Perhaps the most vexing faith-question of all-time is the problem of God's silence and his seeming indifference: why does God allow evil? Why do bad things happen to good people? If there is an all-powerful and all-loving God, how do you explain that millions of innocent people can suffer and die under Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, in massacres in Rwanda, Algeria, and the recent terrorist killings in the USA? Where is God in all of this?

*God can't make things easier, at least not without making us and the world into something far less than we are.*

And the presence of evil in the world poses a deeper question: why is God (seemingly) hidden? If God is so massively real, why do so many people not recognize, acknowledge, or care about his existence? Why do believers have to live, almost always it seems, on the edges of doubt? Why doesn't God make his (her) existence clear, a fact beyond doubt? Why doesn't God silence his critics?

There's no satisfying answer to that question, not theoretically, and there never will be. No definitive faith textbook can ever be written that will soothe every doubt and answer every critical objection. Why not? Because making peace with this mystery, the mystery of God's hiddenness, is a question of a relationship in love and trust and not simply a question of right theory.

Faith, like love, matures through relationship not just theory. Understanding God's hiddenness, God's way, is like a child coming to understand his or her parents. You have to relate long enough, live in patience long enough, and develop enough maturity so that, at a point, understanding arises out of a certain co-empathy. Love is the eye, Hugo of St. Victor used to say. When we are loving enough we begin to understand.

However, theory is still important. An old philosophical axiom suggests that the heart follows the head, that love itself must be guided by intellectual vision. Thus some theological theory on the question of evil and God's hiddenness can be helpful. What has classical, Christian theology taught on this?

Essentially this: evil exists because God respects freedom, both in nature and in human beings. When we are confronted with the problem of evil in the world the conclusion we might draw is not that God doesn't exist or doesn't care, but rather that God respects and values freedom in a way that we don't.

What does this mean?

God doesn't make things easier because God can't make things easier, at least not without making us and the world into something far less than we are.

When God made us he gave us as much freedom, creativity, and spunk as was possible. He didn't play it safe, but gave us as much godliness as he could without making us into gods ourselves. Simply put, in making us, God went so far as to give us a freedom that even he won't temper with. A risky business, but, it seems, as a parent, God would rather risk than control, allow creativity outside of his influence than limit ingenuity, and tolerate the misuse of freedom than relate to robots. God is perceived as silent because he allows human freedom and ingenuity to be precisely what they are meant to be, non-coerced, even by God. God is not a frightened parent who needs to control, nor a threatened creator who kept back what was best for himself. God allows evil because God respects the freedom and ingenuity of creation and, as we know from elsewhere in our faith, can ultimately redeem whatever goes wrong.

This helps explain not only the question of evil, but also why life can be so distressingly complex and why we can sometimes boil over into a quasi-divine rage. We have been made, as scripture assures us, as "little less than God." If God could have given us divinity, I believe, he would have. But the one thing God can't do is to create another God. So, in creating us, God took us as close to divinity as possible. Given the incredible array of qualities that God put in us, it shouldn't then be surprising that we are pathologically complex, that human grandiosity has a perpetual itch to set itself against God, and that, when frustrated, we are capable of becoming killers who can take life itself as if we were God.

We should never be surprised at how messy life can get or how deranged we can be. What is surprising rather is that sometimes—in the pre-sophistication of a child or the post-sophistication of a saint—we do see simple happiness, simple meaning, and simple faith.

Things could only be simpler if God had made us Swiss clocks—wonderfully tuned to pre-set rhythms, with no mess, no sin, no evil, and the beauty of perfect crystal. But then there wouldn't be any love, freedom, creativity, or meaning. No. God built us on a razor's edge, so full of godly fire that we are capable of both martyrdom and murder.

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](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*



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## PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	18/11/18	9:30am	Kidz Word at St Gerard's Church
		10:15am	No Kidz Word—Children's Mass
		11:00am	PMR Epping Welcome to New Kindy Families
		11:15am	PMR Carlingford Baptism Preparation Meeting
		6:00pm	Mass at Epping Rev John Barr reflecting on the Gospel
Mon	19/11/18	6:00pm	PMR Carlingford Antioch Meeting
		9:00am	PH Epping Little Engines Playgroup
		9:30am	PH Carlingford Gerry's Playgroup
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP Meeting
Tue.	20/11/18	7:30pm	CH Carlingford Rosary Group
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		1:30pm	PMR Carlingford Alpha Session
		7:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir practice
		9:30pm	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
Wed.	21/11/18	10:00am	<b>Healing Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians</b>
		7:00pm	PH Epping Alpha Session
		7:30pm	SVdP Meeting in the shop at Epping
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:00am	<b>Exposition and Benediction</b>
Thur.	22/11/18	10:15am	CH Epping OLHC School Reconciliation Yr. 4
		12:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		7:00pm	Parish Thank You Evening—Mass followed by light refreshments in the parish hall
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:00am	PMR Carlingford—Scripture Reflection
Fri.	23/11/18	12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		4:30pm	CH Epping Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA Group
		9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians</b>
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
Sat.	24/11/18		Both these Mass will be offered for those commemorated on the Memorial Walls
		9:45am	NO Exposition or Benediction at Epping
		5:00pm	PMR Carlingford Happy Family Chinese Group
		5:00pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church
		6:00pm	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>

PH—Parish Hall, CH—Church, PMR— Parish Meeting Room

## PARISH STAFF

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

**Asst. Parish Secretary**  
**Maree Balzalat** Ph.: 9876 2853  
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**Pastoral Care Assistant**  
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**Children's Sacramental Coordinator:**  
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Ph.: 0407 255 593  
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**Sacramental Programme Assistant**  
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Ph.: 0407 255 593

**Cana Youth Group**  
**Ashleigh Belic**  
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Email: ashleigh.belic@gmail.com

## 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 Joey 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 9876 2853 if you have received a new credit card and/or a new expiry date.

## 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.

## OUR ADVENT ECUMENICAL SERVICE



A reminder that our gathering with our fellow local Churches with whom we share a covenant relationship will take place on **Tuesday, 27th November** at **7:45pm** in St Alban's Church, 3 Pembroke Street, Epping with The Rev. Andrew Hall, Senior Pastor at the Epping Baptist Church. Please be there for this final ecumenical gathering for the year as we prepare together to celebrate the Lord's birth

## Parish Thank You Evening

**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 7:00pm Mass**  
**at**  
**Our Lady Help of Christians' Church followed by**  
**finger food in the Parish Hall**

**A Parish Thank You to All Parishioners**  
**All Welcome!**





### Antioch Parent Support

Once again I ask for parishioners to seriously consider assisting in the parent role essential to the continuation of Antioch in our parish. If, as many of you have said on numerous occasions, the parish needs to be serious about youth being a priority and support the growth in faith of our young people, then it is up to you, the parishioners to provide the ministry required.

Anyone interested in finding our more information please contact Fr Peter via the parish office on 9876 2853



### A Welcome Gathering for all 2019 Kindergarten Families at St Gerard Majella's School

Will take place at St Gerard's Carlingford on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at the **9:30am Mass**

As part of our welcome to new kindergarten students for 2019 the families will be called forward for a blessing during the Mass to mark the commencement of their child's years of school education.

Everyone is invited to the morning tea which will take place in the parish meeting room.

Could I please ask, **if you are coming along to the morning tea, could you bring a plate to share with fellow parishioners.**

We look forward to seeing you then.

Fr Peter

### EPPING HEALING MASS

Our monthly Healing Mass at Epping will take place on **Wednesday, 21st November** at **10:00am** in the Church. Morning tea will be served at the conclusion of Mass in the meeting room. Catering: Carmel Avis, Marie Herd and team.

All are welcome to our monthly Healing Masses (on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at Carlingford and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Epping) as a time to pray for God's healing strength either for ourselves or those we know. Each third month (Mar, Jun, Sep and Dec) we also celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick (Anointing) within these Masses.

### Can You Help?

We are looking for three volunteers to be part of the Altar Society at Epping. This would involve dusting around the sacristy, and sanctuary, arranging flowers. The work would need to be carried out on a Friday afternoon or after 10:30am on a Saturday morning. If you are able to help please contact the parish office on 9876 2853.

Join the  
Altar  
Society

### CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL

We are deeply grateful to our Parish community for supporting our Charitable Works Fund. The donations you generously share with us are helping our families, our friends and our neighbours in the Diocese of Broken Bay.

**Shortfall after the second week is \$4,464**

Envelopes can be found at the back of the churches. Please give generously as any shortfall from this appeal will have to be made up from normal parish funds – please support the appeal so that we can avoid this happening. Our Parish quota for this Appeal is \$17,064.

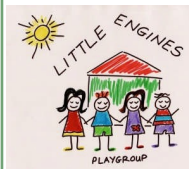
### Advent -The Sacrament of Reconciliation:



There will be a celebration of the Second Rite of Reconciliation for both our communities at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church at Epping on Wednesday 19th December at 7:30pm.

Please make this a priority as a number of priests will be available.

### Playgroups—Little Engines



The Parish Playgroup – Little Engines - is made up of parents from the parish and school who bring their pre-school children, toddlers and babies together on a Monday morning for free play in our school hall during the school term. Attendance cost for the playgroup per week is a \$2 donation per family.

We hope that you are able to bring your children to these 9-10.30 sessions.

### Gerry's Playgroup

St Gerard's hosts a "Playgroup" for families in our community.

It is an informal session where parents, grandparents, carers, babies and children aged 0 to school age come together in a relaxed and friendly environment.

- Playgroup gives children an opportunity to have fun, make new friends and develop new skills through informal play.
- Playgroup provides parents and carers with an opportunity to meet other parents and carers, make friends and share ideas and experiences.
- St Gerard's playgroup is a great way to get to know other families in our school community.

The playgroup meets every Monday morning during the school term in the parish hall. Parking is available via Roselea Way in the car park behind the school. Access to the parish hall is via the gate at the back of the school.



## Year of Youth 2018

### CANA YOUTH GROUP

**Next CANA Meeting Friday 23 November**

If you're in Yrs. 7-9  
Come along for a night jam-packed with  
**FUN & FAITH! EVERY FRIDAY** night  
of school term **7:30pm—9:00pm**  
in the parish hall @ Carlingford.

It's a great place to catch up with friends and meet some new ones! Please remember that a small donation when you come to the meeting would really help out with the cost of the night! Thanks :)

Any questions call Ashleigh 0430 120 015



### Alpha



Another Alpha Session

Another amazing awakening

Amazing for it is such a surprise and such a grace for each of us who were there. Our Wednesday evening was about God's healing in our lives. As usual we caught up on the news around the table for another Buffet Dinner Party. One guest had left an office function, a banquet in the city to be at Alpha.

*I wanted to be here with friends for I have a commitment to Alpha.*

We learnt from the video and felt encouraged. As one person said,

*Our friendship has a spiritual base. We share what is really important. That brings us much closer together. We are past being acquaintances. We mean so much more to each other. You can't help caring for each other, even loving the others in the group.*

The time for sharing and time for prayer was a wonderful blessing for each other. We asked for healing and prayed for each other to be healed as Jesus had told us to do in the Gospels.

*When we were sick, my mother used to say, 'Go to church and pray to get well'. Here we are praying for each other to be healed. We became aware of what hurts in our body, in our mind and in our heart and asked Jesus to heal us.*

Any miracles? Well yes there were many! If you saw the groups in prayer and their care for each other, then saw their peace and their trust that God does heal us of our dis-ease, then you would know that God is caring for you. Jesus wants to heal your pain. Our God wants to strengthen you for living life to the full.

*We invite you to our next Alpha next year.*  
On **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**, we will celebrate the wonderful memories and the experiences that are transforming us at Alpha.

*We invite you to come and join us in the parish hall in the school at Epping.*

*We begin with our evening meal at 7. "Come and See".*

*All those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to Jesus; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. Lk 4:30. Then Jesus gave them power and authority... to cure diseases. They went through the villages bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere. Lk 9:2, 6*

### OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY:

### Meeting this Sunday 18th November

Why not Come along to the Antioch meeting to hear a great talk, join in discussion time, get into some awesome music, take time out for prayer and meet heaps of great young people from our parish!

**The meeting starts at 6pm,**  
**in the Parish meeting room @ Carlingford**  
**So head on down and bring a friend.**

**ALL VERY WELCOME!!**

Joanne—0416 030 927



*"It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians." ~Acts 11:26*

### The Greatest love Praise and worship night



**When:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December

**Where:** Our Lady Help of Christians Epping Church  
29 Oxford Street Epping NSW 2121 Australia

**Time:** 6:45pm-9pm

Come and Join us for joyful and prayerful worship music and listen to a guest speaker. Dinner will be provided before the event and light refreshments will also be provided after.

**Safeguarding Message** The protection of children and vulnerable adults within our Diocese will be achieved as every member of our community strives to be a person who **COMMUNICATES** openly and honestly so that there is a clear articulation and demonstration of expectations, standards, structures and processes for Safeguarding throughout our Diocesan community.

### COMBINED CHURCHES EVENT - CAROLS IN THE PARK - SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2019 AT BORONIA PARK, EPPING

Come along to "Carols in the Park," and join with the people of Epping and Carlingford for an evening of fun and festivity, as we celebrate the heart of Christmas together as a community.

**From 5pm** there will be an array of stalls from charities to food vendors. Come early to see how you can support local efforts, grab a bite and save yourself a good seat!

**From 7:15pm** Carols Programme.

**From 9pm** Fireworks! What else needs to be said.

