

<b>Responsorial Psalm Response</b> Ps 39:2-4.18 Lord, come to my aid!	<b>Gospel Acclamation</b> <b>Alleluia, Alleluia!</b> My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. <b>Alleluia!</b>
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**WEEKEND MASSES FOR COMMUNION SERVICES WHILE FR PETER IS AWAY SEE PAGE 3**

<b>Epping</b>	<b>5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm</b>
<b>Carlingford</b>	<b>6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am</b>

<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</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

**HEALING MASS** **Carlingford**—1st Thursday, **Epping** — 3rd Wednesday

**EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST:** **Epping** Saturday 9:45-10:15am, **Carlingford**, 4th Thursday 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 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:** Michael Kelly, Tong Yin, Helen Evans, Sharon Kelly, Ping Kew Chung, Mary Seward Sophie Hollis,

**Anniversary:** Geza Margotsy, Vjekoslav & Juliana Medved, Roger & Jean-Claude Nina,

**Also for:** Mato Matijasic, Tomo & Kata Medved & family, Karla Puskaric, Mary Anne, Anthony & Hugh Msligan,

**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, Rose Prior, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Ron Jenkins, Dorothea Ellis, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Alice Eng, Peck Quah, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Betty Connors, Narelda & Alan Ryan, Kit Smith, Margaret Floyd, Peter Baker. 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, Ernest Lau, Delma Soria, Sr Abanasia Lee, Maria Belisario, Stella Edwards, Fara Vargas, Theo Stevens, Monica Weeden, Thomas Woodward, Brigitta Williams, Wai Chun Wong, Elizabeth Barton.

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

**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.

**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.

**The Truth Justice and Healing Council**  
www.thecouncil.org.au  
Ph.: 6234 0900

<b>Date</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Epping</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Carlingford</b>
24/08/19	5:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd	6:00pm	Fr Joey Frez
25/08/19	8:30am	Fr Peter Dowd	7:45am	Fr Joey Frez
25/08/19	10:15am	Fr Peter Dowd	9:30am	Fr Joey Frez
25/08/19	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd		

## 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

**Parish Office: 02 9876 2853**

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

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

**Parish Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford**

**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 C TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18-08-19

**Jeremiah 38:4-6.8-10**

**Hebrews 12:1-4**

**Luke 12:49-53**

Dear sisters and brothers,

I hope you have been enjoying my exciting excursions into parish ministries. My next stop is the Dads' Club in Carlingford



A Dads' Club Meeting

On the First Friday of the month at 7:30 pm, Dads whose children are in St Gerard's Primary School and even those whose kids are already in high school meet up at the Parish meeting room. Tim Paxton is the current president of the group and according to Tim the club was started in 2009 and was set up with the intention of being a place for a social catch up amongst school dads and to build community. It was especially targeted to Dads as they often found it harder to connect to school than many of the Mums.

The gathering is always a fun night...just to relax, enjoy and converse with one another. They project onto a big screen the NRL Friday Night Football, also have a darts competition, a raffle for a meat tray kindly donated by Webster's Meats, and a fruit & veg tray kindly donated by Rossi's, they provide drinks for a donation, and any surplus funds are donated to charities such as Oxfam, Beyond Blue, Glen McGrath Foundation and the Melanoma March. They also have a yearly excursion to the Canterbury Night Horse Races, a Dads' Club Cricket match, and this year they will be attending the Parramatta v Manly NRL match at Bankwest Stadium on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. In August, they had their Annual Lebanese BBQ, which was so delicious.

Dads' Club also looks after the lawn mowing at the St Gerard's Church and maintains a roster of Dads who volunteer for the St Vincent's de Paul Bread Run every Thursday night. They are also very much involved with many events across the school including the working bee day, Mother's Day Liturgy and Breakfast and the Year 6 Farewell. In 2017, twelve of the fittest (or craziest) Dads' Club Members undertook the 100km Oxfam Trail walk!

Mark Smith is a founding member and he values the group because of the support and the sense of community that he gets from the group. He says that the group has given him a way of staying in touch, catching up with a range of Dads, and sharing the challenges and fun of being a Dad. It has helped him feel connected to the school and parish community. Mark values the sharing of stories with Dads over the years which has given him insights into life and practical faith that have been very real to his experiences as a Dad

David Stanger has been a member for 10 years. And here is what he has to say: "When I joined Dads Club, I had no idea that it would turn out to be such a great community event with many like-minded dads. I saw it initially as a duty to be undertaken for the sake of my child starting Kindy. I quickly realised what a wonderful group of people the dads were, and really enjoyed the gatherings and I was always looking forward to the next one."



Dads' Club Jersey Night 2017

### 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.

### Safeguarding Message August 2019

Next month (September) is Safeguarding month in the Diocese of Broken Bay.

This year the Diocese of Broken Bay is celebrating the theme. *A safe community is one in which all experience a sense of belonging.*

All clergy, parishioners and the wider community are invited to the Diocese Liturgy which signifies the start of SAFEGUARDING MONTH

*Continued from cover*

Dads' Club is a great way of regularly catching up with other dads and sharing stories and a laugh. There has always been tremendous support, not only for each other, but the community in general. This is my last year as a dad with a child at St Gerard's, but I see myself as a regular at Dads' Club for a long time yet. I feel that I have made life-long friends through Dads' Club, and the St. Gerard's school and church communities. Dads' Club has given me the opportunity to give something back to the church and school communities and the satisfaction that helping others provides. I was a participant in the Vinnies Bread Run for many years and now also volunteer with the Liverpool Vinnies Van."

John Williams is a new member 2 years. And he says that the opportunities for fellowship and the camaraderie that has developed across Dads' Club and everyone who attends are special and, if it wasn't for having the regular opportunity to get together, many Dads wouldn't be able to be part of the school and Parish community.

The purpose of Dads' Club is to provide a regular relaxed environment for fathers to meet, socialise and network and a great opportunity for fellowship.

The most important thing is its consistent availability. Dads know in advance when the nights are held and it is available to everyone in the Parish. Interestingly, many Dads whose children have left St Gerard's (and have even finished high school!) still attend regularly. A Dad's Club email and Facebook page keeps members up to date with happenings

According to Tim, "It's been an honour to be President because I've coordinated a great group of dads, made lifelong friends, many acquaintances and increased my professional network. It has been one of the best things to happen in my life. It has taught me the value of fathers in their family roles and the significant support Dads can provide to our community."

If you are interested to attend their meeting, please contact Tim Paxton through the parish office.



Dads' Club Oxfam Trial Walkers

Fr Joey

### Catechist (SRE) News

Our 3rd Term of sharing the Good News with over 600 children in 6 Primary Schools is rapidly drawing to a close, so we are preparing for our Combined Schools Mass at St Gerard's church on **Sunday 27th October at 9:30am.**

It would be fantastic to have as many as possible of the children who attend SRE classes participate in this annual celebration with their families, so please place this event in your calendars!!

Many thanks to Joanna Mak for visiting SRE classes at all three High Schools for which our Parish is responsible and inviting the students to attend CANA—the Parish Youth Group for years 7-9.

Also many thanks to Fr Joey, Donagh D'Silva and Max Lucas for presiding over and organising the Mass Celebrations at James Ruse and Carlingford High Schools.

Welcome to **Reena Baby, Jack Foster, Betty Hillier** and **Mila Gregorio** who have recently joined the Primary or High School Catechist Ministry.

Congratulations to **Anna Commissione, Sianny Gandasmita, Miranda Lam, Hugo Park** and **Alice So** who have recently completed their Ministry Induction Course and have graduated to Green Cards (i.e. Full Authorisation).

Despite these welcome additions, students in many Primary Schools need people to volunteer as catechists and helpers to tell them about God and Jesus' Ministry:

**Murray Farm** (Tuesday) 9:00-9:30am  
9:40-10:10am  
10:20-10:50am

**Epping West** (Tuesday) 11:30-12:00pm  
12:00-12:30pm  
12:30-1:00pm

**Epping Public** (Tuesday) 9:20-9:50am  
9:50-10:20am

**Roselea** (Wednesday) 11:30-12:00pm  
12:00-12:30pm  
12:30-1:00pm

**Epping North** (Thursday) 9:00-9:40am  
9:40-10:10am

**Epping Heights** (Friday) 9:10-9:40am

Helpers are needed at all the schools with urgent assistance at Epping West (2), Epping Heights (1) and Roselea (1).

### 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

### After the Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

### 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.



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## Reflection on Sunday's Gospel

No doubt Luke knows that his readers would be startled by today's reading: 'Do you suppose I bring peace. No, I tell you, but rather division'. But he sees these statements of Jesus as important for the Church community of his time, that was facing great difficulties: not only from persecution on the part of outsiders, but also from internal disputes and divisions that sometimes ended up in the civil court, disputes that divided the Christian community itself and even the families that belonged to it. Such a situation calls for stern measures.

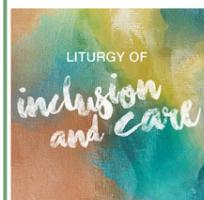
The whole story of the Scriptures leaves us in no doubt that evil, or 'sin', is real. God's designs for the human family have been continually frustrated by selfishness and destructiveness – sometimes motivated by the evil in human hearts; sometimes more an expression of ignorance and foolishness, but destructive nonetheless. Jesus did not come to provoke dissent; but the decision to live by the ways of God, that was essential to the message he preached, inevitably led to disagreements. If selfishness and destructiveness are to have their way unchallenged, the peace Christ came to bring - as a foretaste of the final 'kingdom'- will never become a reality.

It is important - in a moment of history marked by an increase of violence that is often motivated by religious differences – to understand the paradox involved in these startling words of Jesus. Luke has already made it clear that Jesus came to bring peace – rebuking the brothers who called down vengeance on the unfriendly Samaritans (9:55); proclaiming the demands of his New Commandment: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' and you will be true children of the Father who 'is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked' (6:27-35). The very words Luke quotes invite us to understand the paradoxical truth of what he is saying. The 'fire' he brings can symbolise destruction or purification. When we recall Luke's account of the message preached by John the Baptist, that the one who came after him would 'baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire' (3:16), and we link this with reference to the ordeal that awaits him in Jerusalem as a 'baptism', we can conclude that his is a purifying fire. His standing up to the forces of violence and destructiveness in opposition to him are to be a healing and reconciliation for a world unable to overcome its divisions and antagonisms. The true disciples of Jesus have understood the paradox: 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself' (2 Cor 5:19); 'For he is the peace between us' (Eph 2:14); 'a peace the world cannot give, that is my gift to you' (Jn 14:27).

When we know the challenge to having to oppose the forces of destructiveness, we have the example of the Saviour's courage, as he pressed on to Jerusalem, and 'endured the cross, for the sake of the joy which was still in the future.

John Thornhill sm

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### Liturgy of Inclusion and Care

Tuesday 3rd September at

Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara  
Commencing at 7pm.



### Online Safety Masterclasses

Thursday 5 September

Caroline Chisholm Centre  
Bldg 2, 423 Pennant Hills Road  
Pennant Hills.

6:00pm—8:00pm

## Plenary Council 2020

The final report for the Listening and Dialogue stage of the Plenary Council was released on Sunday 28 July. *Listen to what the Spirit is Saying* is available to download on the Plenary Council website. [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports)

As we now enter the crucial phase of Listening & Discernment may we be open to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit who will lead us to the fulness of Truth (cf. Jn 16:13)

Resources to support engagement with the National Themes for Discernment will be made available in the coming weeks.



### Celebrations this Week Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

**Tuesday:** Memoria, St Bernard, abbot, doctor.

**Wednesday:** Memoria, St Pius X, pope.

**Thursday:** Memoria, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Saturday:** Feast, St Bartholomew, apostle



## PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	18/08/19	9:30am	NO Kids Word—Children's Mass
		10:15am	Kidz Word—Mass with Children
		3:00pm	PH Epping Confirmation Session 2
		7:00pm	PMR Epping Antioch meeting
Mon	19/08/19	9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:15am	OLHC School Class Mass Yr. 6
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP meeting
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford Rosary Group
Tue.	20/08/19	12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		7:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir Practice
Wed.	21/08/19	9:30pm	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:00am	<b>Healing Mass at OLHC Church</b>
		10:15am	St Gerard's School Class Mass Yr. 3/4W
		6:00pm	SVDP Meeting in the Epping shop
Thur.	22/08/19	9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:00am	<b>Exposition and Benediction at St Gerard's</b>
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Mass</b>
		3:30pm	PMR Carlingford Confirmation Session 2
Fri.	23/08/19	9:30pm	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:10am	PMR Carlingford Scripture Reflection
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		1:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir practice
		4:30pm	CH Epping Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA Youth Group meeting
Sat.	24/08/19	9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
		3:00pm	PH Carlingford Confirmation Session 3
		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:**  
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**Missionary Discipleship Coordinator:**  
**Denis McNamara**  
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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](mailto:ppsecretary@eppcarl.org.au)

## The Effects of Baptism

**Q How does your Baptism change you?**

**A** Baptism changes everything.

It is as momentous as death and birth, because in Baptism we die with Christ and are born again as God's beloved children.



We are incorporated into the Body of Christ, uniting us with other Christian believers and pointing us towards a life of Christian witness, lived in community.

Baptism washes away all sin, original and personal, and frees us to live according to the new commandment of love: to love and serve God and neighbour in this life and to prepare for eternal life.

Baptism marks a decisive shift in our lives. In the Rite of Baptism, we explicitly reject Satan and the power of evil, and we turn towards God, professing our faith in the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and promising to walk by the light of Christ.

Baptism changes everything.

Corinna Laughlin. © 2017 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Art by Martin Erspamer osb.

## Talk Around the Parish Table (TAPT)

At our next TAPT dinner, we will discuss "What creates a vibrant Parish which helps our lives. Is it friendship, fellowship and support, or a Good Shepherd or priest leader, or prayer groups, or other ministries, or other".

We would like to invite you to come along and talk about your experience.

**Date:** Saturday, 31st August after the 5:00pm Mass,

**Venue:** Parish Meeting Room (under the church).

**RSVP:** Trish Harrison 0490 912 747 for catering purposes.

We would like to invite you to bring a plate of food to share.

Thank you to those brave souls who have shared in the past.

Trish Harrison



## Confirmation 2019

This week, we move into Session 2 – Called by Name. The groups discuss God's Love for us and what that has to do with our names. The children learn God loves them, they are unique and precious in the eyes of God. We look at some well-known biblical names that had been called to do God's work, and so teach the children that God also calls us all by name, in the hope that we too will fulfil important works of service for God. In the Gospel of Luke, we read The Call of Mary – The Annunciation, the perfect example for us all to ponder: What is God calling me to do?

Upon completion of the four preparation sessions, Candidates will go on to celebrate Confirmation in our parish on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they travel through this journey at our parish.



On another note, at our Confirmation liturgies on the 14<sup>th</sup> September, we would like to invite children in Year 3 and above to join in singing with the choir during the celebration! If you are interested in signing your child up for this special occasion, please send us an email, indicating which church you would like to sing at.

Confirmation will be celebrated at 10am in St Gerard's Church and 12pm in Our Lady Help of Christian's Church.

If you have any queries or would like more information regarding your child's sacramental journey within our parish, please feel free to contact us.

Lynn Siau  
Sacramental Programmes & Children's Ministries  
0407 255 593  
[lynn@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:lynn@eppcarl.org.au)

## St Vincent de Paul "Shop till you Drop"

Bargain Bus Day is happening again this year.

**Date:** 26 October 2019

**Tickets:** Only 45 tickets are available—wise to get in early.

**Cost:** \$60 includes morning and afternoon tea and a great venue for lunch.

**Shopping venues:** KB Toys, Bonds and Manchester Importers, plus many more new and exciting places.

For further details please contact *Marilyn Sharp* on 9872 1436 for further details.

## Class Mass

Yr. 6 Class Mass this Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 10:15am at Our Lady Help of Christians School. All class families are welcome!

## Class Mass

Yr. 3/4W Class Mass this Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 10:15am at St Gerard Majella School. All class families are welcome!

## CWF CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL

The first CWF Appeal for this Financial Year continues this weekend in both our Churches.

### SHORTFALL AFTER 1st WEEK—\$9,797

Envelopes can be found in the pews. 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 \$18,577.

Donations \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your kindness, your thoughtfulness and your generosity.

### 25 day challenge begins this Saturday 17th August

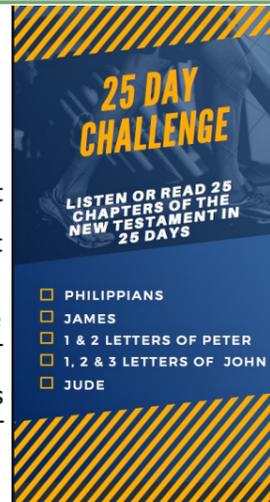
Those who take up the challenge will read the four chapters of James letter to the Philippians from 17<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> August. Then we go on to read the five chapters James letter from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August.

You will see how relevant these letters are for us today by reading the background context for these two letters. Please join us by simply sending the text message 25 to 0435 031 848. You will receive the information and the link to WhatsApp where you will receive information and can put your thoughts on the chapter each day. Reading, reflecting and writing about God's message, gives a great start to your day.

*Denis McNamara—Supporting Missionary Disciples*

**Epping Healing Mass** Our Healing Mass will take place on **Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August at 10:00am** in the Church. Morning tea will be served at the conclusion of Mass in the meeting room. Catering: Genevieve 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



### OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY Meeting this Sunday 18 August

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 people!**



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

All young people from Yr. 10 to age 22 are **very welcome!**

For more information  
**Joanne—0416 030 927**

"It was at Antioch that the believers were first called"



### CANA: OUR yrs. 6-9 YOUTH GROUP



CANA is on this Friday 23 August from 7:30—9:00 pm in St Gerard's Parish Hall.

CANA is a relaxed social and Christian gathering for young people between Year 6-9, with a combination of **games, food, a talk** each week and **prayer**.

Come along and try it, bring a friend along and make some new friends.

If you have any questions, please contact the Youth Minister, **Joanna Mak**  
[joanna@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:joanna@eppcarl.org.au) or 0423 717 550

### CYBB Pilgrimage to ACYF Perth 2019

As you may be aware the 4th Australian Catholic Youth Festival is scheduled to take place in December this year in the Archdiocese of Perth.

If you are interested, register with CYBB now our official website. (The easiest way to find us is to Google search CYBB ACYF) or contact us at [youth@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:youth@bbcatholic.org.au)

Cost around \$1,750—\$1,850 depending on the number of days.

### Where there are two "visions" there is di-vision

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come **to bring fire to the earth**, and how I wish it were blazing already!" Then Jesus goes on to say *I am here to bring division*.

Jesus brought to us the vision that God has for our world and we long for that "vision" to come about. We pray "Thy Kingdom come". In contrast, how different is the vision that does not understand our destiny of life after death or does not comprehend we are on earth **to love God, love one another as Jesus loved us, and to love our neighbour!**

Following Jesus is to follow his vision for humanity. This vision puts us in conflict with the power of evil in our world. Jesus also brings fire to the earth and some have said this is **the fire of the Holy Spirit to transform** our lives and our world. Whatever we make of what Jesus is saying, the message is clear ~ following Jesus requires a choice and a commitment.

To help you understand the vision of Jesus and to grow in your commitment, the parish is offering two opportunities in Spring.

The first is to learn about the vision Jesus offers in **"Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible"**.

The second is **sharing our faith as part of a small group**. These circles of faith are like Lenten groups or Alpha groups. We build and develop community and faith relationships with God and one another.

**May we catch fire**, for Jesus came to bring fire to the earth.

Denis McNamara

*Supporting Missionary Disciples*

### Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Paul has written a very beautiful letter to the Church that he was perhaps the most fond of; the Christians in the city of Philippi. It's been called the Epistle of Joy because the letter overflows with Paul's descriptions of the joy that is to be found in giving oneself to Jesus. It's a letter that gives the needed inspiration when things get tough.

The city of Philippi was strategically located in north-eastern Greece (Macedonia at the time), and consisted of many peoples, but mostly descendants of Roman veterans from the great battle of Actium in 31 BC that determined the future of the Roman world (where Caesar's heir defeated Marc Antony and Cleopatra).

### Paul and the Philippians

The letter was written around 60 AD while Paul was under house arrest in Rome. It's a good letter to follow the Book of Acts, and if you can, reread Acts Book 16:9-40 before you read Philippians. It describes how Paul came to the city (about 52 AD) and his initial experiences. You'll read of Paul receiving a vision of a man begging him to come to Macedonia, and in response he went to Philippi. There, he met a wealthy woman from Asia Minor who sold purple cloth (an extremely valuable item); he was imprisoned for performing an exorcism on a Greek slave girl that deprived her owners of an income; and he brought the Roman gaoler and his family to Christ, and went on to establish a Christian community that showed Paul great support over the years.

One of the important things to note about his early experiences in Philippi is the dramatic expansion of Christ's teaching beyond the Jewish people. Paul's conversion of the wealthy Asia woman and the Roman gaoler (a middle class type of job), and his interaction with the Greek slave girl show that both men and women of different nationalities and levels in society across the Roman world were coming into contact with Holy Spirit. His letter is a superb example of the love between Christians brought through their fellowship in Christ. Paul's letter to the Philippians is a great example of the fruit that his labours bore and of the tremendous powers of the Holy Spirit at work in the communities the Apostles founded.

See parish website for more information on the 25 Day Challenge and The Epistle of James.