

**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.

**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](mailto:ppsecretary@eppcarl.org.au)

**Weekday, Ordinary Time 2**

**21 Jan** Memoria , St Agnes  
**24 Jan** Memoria , St Francis de Sales  
**25 Jan** Feast, The Conversion of St Paul

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 39:2-4,7-10**

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
The word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.  
He enabled those who accepted him to become  
the children of God  
**Alleluia!**

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

**Recently deceased:** Fr Martin Lam (brother of Bernadine Jamieson), Bob Harmer, Marie Breen Cousen, Geoffrey Ranson, Rod Michie, Peter Balint, Soon Sik Choi, Margaret Collins,

**Anniversaries:** Mary Anne Mulligan, Peter Laird, Bruce Laird, Roger & Jean-Claude Nina, Domenico Agostino,

**Also for:** Young Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Seo, Maria Hur

**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, Dorothea Ellis, 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, Peter Baker, Bev Aliprandi, Barbara Madafiglio, 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,

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

**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**

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

**Parish Website: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford)**



**Assistant Priest: Fr Bogdan Skupien**  
Ph.: 9876 2853  
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<b>YEAR A</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>01-01-20</b>
<b>Isiah 49:3.5-6</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 1:1-3</b>	<b>John 1:29-34</b>

Dear sisters and brothers,

Our Vicar General, Fr David Ranson recently wrote;

"Our new year has started in the most dramatic of circumstances. We have been confronted with the enormity of the scale of bushfire which has brought loss of life, the destruction of property and landscape, and the demise of wildlife. It has been a heartbreaking time for many in Australia, and an anxious one for us all.

All of us have been deeply affected by this crisis. We have now lived with the impact of fire and smoke for many months. There has been fire burning in the north western territory of our own Diocese for many weeks. All of us have known of people recently cut off on the NSW South Coast and beyond or who have had their lives changed forever because of the events that have unfolded. We feel vulnerable before the power of nature, our powerlessness before drought and fire, our thirst for rain—all of which leads to a profound concern about our climate.

Many of us are now wondering how we might assist those who have been as tragically affected. It is important, indeed, that along with so many who are now contributing to help those people and communities who have been especially affected by this crisis that, as a Diocese, we too join this effort."

In response to the needs of our nation at this time, on the weekend of Australia Day 25/26 January at all Masses, we will be holding a 'leaving collection' with all monies raised going to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal. The St Vincent de Paul Society is part of an integrated, whole of community response and is working with other leading agencies to accompany people whose lives have been devastated by the fires.

**Secondly**, before Christmas last year we supported CWA Baradine appeal for assistance for farmers and communities impacted by the drought. At the time I mentioned we would have a second appeal in January. Unlike the bushfire appeal, what is being requested here is non-perishable items which are listed in the notice in today's bulletin. The request has been made that your donation be brought to either church on the weekends of the **25/26 January** and the **1/2 February**.

Along with our prayers, your generosity to both appeals to assist struggling Australians at this time is greatly appreciated!

Finally, can I also draw your attention to weekday Masses at St Gerard's this week being held in the parish meeting room and not the church due to some maintenance work on the drainage system in front of the church.

Fr Peter

**PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRE AND DROUGHT:**

Eternal God,  
In wisdom and love you created our earth  
to sustain us and give us life.

We turn to you now in faith, hope and love,  
asking you to look with favour  
on our fire-ravaged and drought-stricken land,  
on our starving and displaced animals,  
on our failing crops and burning  
farms, towns and forests.

Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers  
and to all who are affected by drought;  
be with those who support them.  
Strengthen and comfort the victims of the fires,  
those who have lost family, friends, property and stock.  
Protect our volunteer firefighters and all members  
of essential services.

In your loving providence,  
send abundant rain to quench the fires  
and to restore our parched earth.

Father of all compassion,  
hear our prayer through  
Jesus Christ your Son,  
in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and  
through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord the giver of life:  
Renew your faithful people;  
Renew the face of the earth.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross,  
Mary, help of Christians –  
Pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop –  
Pray for us.



**Children's Sacramental Journey First Reconciliation 2020**

Enrolment for First Reconciliation will open this Monday 20 January and will close on Sunday 2 February. Forms are available at the back of both churches and available for download on the parish website [www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford)

Alternatively, please feel free to contact us and we will forward you the enrolment pack via email when enrolment commences. All families whose child/children celebrated Confirmation at our parish in 2019, kindly note that an enrolment pack will be forwarded to you on Monday 20 January.

In our Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have been baptised and confirmed are invited to prepare for the celebration of this Sacrament. Our Sacramental Programme is advertised through the parish website, bulletins, announcements at Mass, both parish school newsletters, catechists and word-of-mouth. If you do know of anyone whose children are eligible to enrol, please feel free to spread the word for us.

We always like to hear from you! If you have any queries or would like more information regarding your child's sacramental journey within our parish, please feel free to drop me a line.

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

**EVERYONE HAS QUESTIONS**

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith. To ask questions, and share their point of view in an open, friendly environment.



**EXPLORE LIFE, FAITH & MEANING**

**What is Alpha?**

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment. Alpha is not so much a course, but an EXPERIENCE! Gathering once a week over a twelve week period, each Alpha experience brings together people from every walk of life. The format of Alpha is always the same. We begin each Alpha gathering by sharing a meal, then we watch a video, have a break for coffee and finally a small group discussion. Over 29 million people across the globe have done Alpha.

**Who is Alpha for?**

Alpha is for everyone and anyone. The symbol for Alpha is the Question Mark? The beauty of Alpha is that there are no questions that are taboo, too silly or too simple. You 'can ask that!' You don't have to be or have done anything to come to Alpha. Just 'Come and See'. So if you are new to the area, new to Australia, new to the parish, just come. We come together with one another as we are, free to be ourselves.

**Want to learn more about Alpha? Upcoming Alpha experience in 2020**

Evening Alpha starts 3rd March. This Alpha runs on from 7.00-9.00pm in a Parish Hall Epping, and is a great choice for those coming from work.

**HELP FOR THE DROUGHT AFFECTED FARMERS AND FAMILIES**

On the weekends of January 25 and February 1 your help would again be appreciated for our drought affected farmers and families. The drought has not eased, there is no water, and some areas have also been impacted by the fires as well. Fund raising for the fires has been vital but also seems to be bypassing our struggling farmers and their starving animals. Your help and prayers are urgently needed.

The CWA Baradine would be grateful for your assistance in helping to restock the "Drought Aid Pantry" which supports the communities of Baradine and beyond. Nothing that is donated is wasted. At the end of last year the CWA had been able to support 157 families with 4310 pantry visits by those families. Rainfall for the year was 282.6mm. All goods will be delivered to Melissa Turner, the Coordinator of Coasties Drought Aid, who will arrange transportation to Baradine.

As before, the communities would be grateful for non-perishable items, including tinned food suitable for salads, tinned fruit, long life milk, juice, Milo, tea, coffee, rice, pasta, sauces, cereals, biscuits, cake mixes, flour, sugar, toiletries and personal items for both men, women and children. Pet food, Aerogard, insect spray, sun screens, moisturisers, toilet rolls, paper towels, tissues, hand sanitisers, in fact, any items used in your own homes would be appreciated. Please, no chocolate due to the heat. Also, any new books, toys or gifts that can be used for Birthday gifts, etc. for the families throughout the year would also bring joy.

A large marked box will be at the entry of both churches for any donations. If possible, please leave items in bags or similar for ease of collection.

**Vinnies Bushfire Appeal**

A Special Collection will be held next weekend (25/26 January) to raise funds for the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal. Donations can be made in cash on the day or online at [www.bushfireappeal.com.au](http://www.bushfireappeal.com.au) Donations raised will go to people directly impacted by the bushfires. For more information please see our website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/give/bushfires/resources>

**Altar Serving Training**

Anyone interested in training to be an altar server at either of our two churches whether junior (up to 16 years old) or senior are asked to attend training sessions on:

**When:** Saturday 25th January and 1st February  
**Time:** 3:30pm  
**Venue:** Our Lady Help of Christians' Church Epping

Please register with Maree at the parish office on 9876 2853 or via email

**Keep the date free this week for morning tea!**

Tea and coffee and a trip down memory lane. Old time music; no homework! No Q & A session. Just an old fashioned get together. If this sounds like you, join us in the parish meeting room at 10.30am on **Thursday 23rd January**. For further information please contact Carole Wilson 9869 1036 or Marie Saul 9871 2770.



**The Antioch Community is having its Annual Outreach Weekend from**

**Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd Feb.2020**

The Antioch weekend is run for youth by youth and is filled with

**TALKS, DISCUSSIONS, MUSIC, FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN!**

It's a great chance to find out more about yourself, meet heaps of great young people from the parish, and grow closer to Jesus!

Venue: Parish Site at St Gerard's, 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

**Registration Forms are available at the back of the church**

**Catechist (SRE) News:**

Happy New Year and many thanks to all who have been involved in or supported the Catechist Ministry (Special Religious Education) in the State Schools during 2019!

Welcome to **Mery Auwyang, Vaness Pham, Catherine McCarry & Abigail Yu** who have recently offered to assist in the Primary Catechist Ministry.

Despite these welcome additions, **Teachers, helpers/assistants** are urgently required in the following Primary Schools:

**Murray Farm** (Tuesdays) Classes between 9:00 & 10.50am;  
**Roselea** (Wednesdays) Classes between 11:30 & 1pm;  
**Epping Heights** (Friday) 9:10 - 9:40am

and in the following High Schools:  
**Cheltenham** (Thursdays **fortnightly**) Classes between 10:00 & 10.50am (1 Teacher & 3 assistants required **now**)  
**James Ruse** (Wednesdays weekly) 2:15 – 3:00pm

**First Term Meetings:**

High School Catechists: Tuesday 28 January 7:30pm Mary's house.  
Primary Catechists: Thursday 30 January 10:15am St Gerard's PMR.

**Position Vacant**

**Volunteer Catechist Resource Manager:** Involves a yearly stock take with the Coordinators, management of the 2 Excel Resource Lists & processing new stock. This is not an onerous task but would allow the H/S Coordinator to concentrate more on the Catechists & Teaching.  
**Enquiries to Mary – see below.**

**Remember for our Church to grow all of us need to share our greatest Treasure – Our faith in God - so contact Mary or Katherine today!**

Mary O'Byrne (High Schools) on 9871 2120 or [mary@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:mary@eppcarl.org.au)  
or Katherine Tam (Primary Schools) on [katherine@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:katherine@eppcarl.org.au)  
Or the Parish Office on 9876 2853



*Dear Fran & Mike,  
May God bless you with love and happiness as we give thanks for the journey of your married life. Happy Anniversary to both of you!*

*The Parish Family*

**Parish Diary for this Week**

Date	Time	Event
20/11	9:30	Communion Service at St Gerard's
21/1	12:15	Mass at OLHC Church
22/1	9:15	Communion Service at OLHC Church
	9:30	Mass at St Gerard's Church
23/1	9:30	Mass at St Gerard's Church
	12:15	Mass at OLHC Church
24/1	9:30	Mass at St Gerard's Church
	12:15	Mass at OLHC Church
25/1	9:15	Mass at OLHC Church
	9:45	Exposition & Reconciliation
	10:20	Benediction
	5:00	Vigil Mass at OLHC Church
	5:00	Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church
	6:00	Vigil Mass at St Gerard's Church

As Fr Bogdan will be on leave this week, there will be Communion Services on this Monday at St Gerard's Carlingford at 9:30am and at OLHC Epping at 9:15 on Wednesday.

**PLEASE NOTE:** That due to drainage work in front of the church at St Gerard's this coming week, **ALL** weekday Masses/Communion Services Monday to Friday will be celebrated in the meeting room **NOT** in the church.

**POSITION VACANT—VOLUNTEERS FOR VARIOUS MINISTRIES**

For various reasons a number of people have needed to step down from supporting our Kidz Word Liturgy. Kidz Word provides an opportunity for our young children to experience the first part of Mass in words and activities which are adapted to a child's level of understanding and experience. The children then return to the church and re-join their families and the larger worshipping community as the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. Anyone interested in finding out more about this ministry are asked to leave their name and contact details on the list located on the tables near the entrances to the church, or contact Lynn Siau via the parish office on 9876 2853 or email [lynn@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:lynn@eppcarl.org.au).

Secondly, hospitality is a key ingredient to building up any parish community. All of us are called to offer welcome to those we worship with, but some do this in a particular way as 'greeters' at the church door and assisting with providing morning tea after the 9:30 and 10:15am Masses. Once again any assistance here will be much appreciated and all necessary training will be provided.

Finally of course all our ministries including music, catechists, money counters, bulletin collating, altar society are always in need of new people so please consider how best you might be able to serve your parish family during 2020.