

Responsorial Psalm Response

Ps 121:1-2.4-5.6-9 R cf.v.1

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation**Alleluia, Alleluia!**Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grow us your salvation
Alleluia!**WEEKEND MASSES****Epping** 5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm**Carlingford** 6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am**WEEKDAY MASSES**

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
EPPING	No Mass	12:15pm	9:15am	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	11:00am	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:** Roy Dias, Helmut Piffe, Bernadette Fonseka, John Verhagen, Sandra (Sandy) Bradley, Daphne North, Mary Carroll, Tony de Luca, Luisa Guareschi,Please pray for **Monica Courtenay** who died last week.

Her Funeral Mass will be held on Friday 6th December at 10.30am at OLHC Church

Please pray for **Mariangela Ferragina** who also died last week

Her funeral was held last Friday at St Gerard's Church.

Anniversaries: Philip & Rolande L'olive, Anthony Fernandes.**Also for:** Nicola & Lucia Gallo, Stella & Nicola Gallo, Filippo Trizio, Lorenzo & Chiara Chiddo,, Mary Anne, Anthony & Hugh Mulligan, Patrick & Teresa Fraser, Joe & Peggy Sally, Ashley Peretta, Young Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Seo, Soo Woog Jin, 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 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, Sr Pauline Wicks rsj.**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.

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.

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
07/12/19	5:00pm	Fr Michael Hardie	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
08/12/19	8:30am	TBC	7:45am	Fr Peter Dowd
08/12/19	10:15am	TBC	9:30am	Fr Peter Dowd
08/12/19	6:00pm	TBC		



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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**Parish Office: 02 9876 2853****Assistant Priest: 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 A**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT****1-12-19****Isaiah 2:1-5****Romans 13:11-14****Matthew 24:37-44**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since this is my last weekend in our parish, Fr. Peter has asked me to write something as I say goodbye to all of you. Word cannot express my emotions and gratitude for the almost 2 years I was with all of you in the parish.

My stay in our parish has been one of the joyous moments in my life. Knowing you, exploring Sydney, tasting the variety of food and sweets, and being close to my family are the great blessings that came from my move from the USA to here. I would like to express my gratitude to Archbishop Comensoli and Fr. David Ranson for accepting me to our diocese.

Thank you also to Fr Peter Dowd for mentoring me.

Although I was already a parish priest in the USA, I learned a lot about administration and pastoral ministry from him. His patience, hard work, and dedication are very inspiring, and I hope I will also develop these traits as I grow in my ministry. Fr. Peter has been very good to me especially with my transition and adjustment to Australia. Since he will no longer be my boss, I consider him now not just a brother priest but a friend.

Maree and Dennis have always been kind and supportive to me. They are such a hardworking staff that as a priest you feel embarrassed if you do not work as hard as they do. Thank you also to our principals in our schools, Dom and Barbara, who gave me the opportunity to minister to our students and their families. I really enjoyed visiting the classes, saying mass and hearing confessions to our students. My gratitude also to our PPC members and Martin Tuelan who have shown me how to conduct PPC meetings, set goals and organize things for the parish. Of ,course, I will not forget all the other ministries like our choir, healing mass, altar servers, nursing home visits, Alpha with Denis and Maureen McNamara, prison, Chinese group, dad's club, Kidz word, different prayer and reflection groups, all have shown me the perfect example of selfless service and dedication to ministry.

Special thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who are always at church every day for Mass. Thank you for inspiring me with your faithfulness and commitment and you have become like a family to me because I see you every day.

I will miss Sister Pauline whom I have good spiritual conversations with and who inspired me with her books. Lynn Siau and her team, thank you for involving me in the preparation of our kids' First Holy Communion. First Reconciliation and Confirmation.

I would also like to make a special mention to our Antioch Youth group, they are close to my heart because I frequently attended their meetings so I got to know them personally. Your zeal and thirst for God, for the truth, and for our Catholic faith give that youthful vitality to our parish. I was once like you asking questions about life and searching for God. I pray that as you go through life you will find what you are looking for and the fulfillment of all your desires. If I have missed someone or any group, my apology but thank you for your inspiration.

How can I summarize my stay in our parish? Let me use a quote that goes like this: "Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints in your hearts. And we are changed forever."

As I leave all of you, one thing is for sure. My stay here changed me and I will always carry the memories and lessons that you have given me in my heart wherever I go. Thanks for everything...I will miss you all...and thank God for his graciousness of putting me here in Epping Carlingford Parish which has made me love Australia and all its people. God Bless!

Fr Joey



*Mamimiss ka
namin!*

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 December 2019

We the people of the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ



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 & dress rehearsal for Gospel mime
Saturday 21st December 10am - 11am
Readers: **Saturday 21st December 11am-11:30am**

Epping:
Parent run-through & dress rehearsals
Thursday 12th Dec. & 19th Dec. 4:00pm - 5.00pm .

Any questions? Please email:
Lynn for Carlingford stgchildrenmass@gmail.com
Therese for Epping olhcchildrenmass@gmail.com

--Please detach and return no later than 6th 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



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL

The second CWF Appeal for this Financial Year continues this weekend.

Shortfall after the fourth week \$7,037

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.

A WELCOME TO 2020 KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES AT ST GERARD'S

An invitation is extended to All Kindergarten families for 2020 at:

St Gerard's this Sunday 1st December at 9:30am Mass

On each occasion the families will be called forward for a blessing on the commencement of their child's years of school education. The Principal will also greet the families and after Mass. At the conclusion of Mass morning tea will be served in the Parish Meeting Room after Mass.

Fr Peter



A big thank you to the people of Epping and Carlingford for their delivery this morning, many, many thanks to all who donated. To Fr Peter Dowd and Fr Joey Frez and all their parishioners, we send our love and gratitude to you all on behalf of our farming families.

National Drought Prayer

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 drought-stricken land,
on our starving animals,
on our failing crops.

Strengthen, sustain and give
new heart to our farmers
and to all who are affected
by drought:
be with those who support them.

In your loving providence,
send abundant rain and
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.

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.

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

Pre-Marriage Course

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Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel—Moral Intelligence

Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. (Gospel)

There are different ways of being intelligent, of being awake. Not everyone is bright in the same way.

Some people are gifted mathematically and philosophically. That's the intelligence of an Albert Einstein, an Alfred North Whitehead, a Bill Gates. Some others are gifted with emotional intelligence. You see this, for instance, in the great novelists, the Iris Murdochs, the Anne Byatts, the John Steinbecks, and the Alice Munroes, who possess an emotional grasp of things that the greatest psychologists in the world can only envy.

Then there is something that might be called practical intelligence. I saw this in some of my high school friends, young men who couldn't pass enough courses to graduate, but who are wonderfully gifted with life-skills and are the ones the rest of us lean on whenever we need to sort out our plumbing, our automobile woes, our leaking roofs, and the thousand other things that mathematics, philosophy, and literature don't equip us to handle.

Isn't there an intrinsic connection between going through a certain kind of suffering and reaching a certain kind of depth? There is too a certain aesthetic intelligence, that unique brightness of the artist which sometimes combines with the emotional or even the mathematical (especially in the case of music) but is often an intelligence all to itself. Finally, there is still another kind of intelligence, moral intelligence. What is this? Sometimes we call it depth or wisdom or character. Whatever its name, moral intelligence is a sensitivity to the deeper contours within life. It is a certain grasp of those things which hold life together at its root and which must be respected so that life doesn't go sour, unravel, disintegrate, and turn against us. Moral intelligence intuits the imperatives innate within the DNA of life itself. It grasps the things we have to do, and not just the things we like to do. It lays bare the hard-wiring inside the mystery of life and love.

Where does it come from? Like other forms of intelligence, it is perhaps mainly a natural endowment, a temperament, a grace given by God as a gift to the world. But, I suspect, in most cases it is also the product of something else, namely, a certain kind of suffering and humiliation. What do I mean by that?

If we look at our lives and ask ourselves: What has made us deep? What has helped us to understand the deeper things in life? If we are honest, we will have to admit that what made us deep were not our successes or achievements. These brought us glory, but not depth or character.

What brought us depth and character are the very things we are often ashamed to talk about, namely, our inferiorities—getting picked last on the school team, being bullied on the playground, some physical inadequacy, our mother's weight problem, our dad's alcoholism, an abuse inflicted upon us that we were powerless to stop, a slow-wittedness that perpetually left us out of the inner circle, our failure to achieve what we'd like to in life, a pain about our sexual orientation, an addiction we can't master, and many, many other small and big wounds and bruises that helped shape our souls.

James Hillman, maverick intellectual, speaks eloquently on this. Depth, he suggests, never comes out of our successes, but only out of our inferiorities and failures. And this, he says, gives us character: Our scars are like huge stones in a riverbed; they may do nothing but stay still and hold their ground, but the river has to take them into account and alter its flow because of them and it's precisely this which gives a river (and a face) some character.

This truth lies at the very heart of Jesus' life and message. When the disciples can't fathom or accept the crucifixion, he asks them: "Wasn't it necessary?" Isn't there a necessary connection between the humiliation of Good Friday and the glory of Easter Sunday? Isn't there an intrinsic connection between going through a certain kind of suffering and reaching a certain kind of depth?

Indeed, Jesus' struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane, his asking God three times to spare him from the pain and humiliation of being crucified, was precisely his own reluctance to accept that a certain kind of depth can only be arrived at by journeying through a certain kind of humiliation. And, in his case, he wasn't just going to be picked on by the playground bully, he was going to be hung naked before the whole world. But that was the only route to Easter Sunday and he had the moral intelligence to see it.

And what the crucifixion produced is moral wisdom. That's why the cross of Christ, as Rene Girard puts it, is the single most revolutionary moral event that has ever happened on this planet. What the cross of Christ does, as the gospels tell us, is rip away the veil that separates us from seeing inside the holy of holies.

And our own crosses and humiliations can do that for us too. They can rip away a blindness and wake us up morally.

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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.

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	01/12/19	9:30am	Children's Mass at St Gerard's also a Welcome to New Kindergarten Children 2020 with a blessing in Mass followed by morning tea in the PMR.
		10:15am	Kidz Word at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
			Catechists Recruiting drive at all Masses at Epping
		6:00pm	PMR Carlingford Antioch meeting
Mon	02/12/19	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP meeting
		7:30pm	St Gerard's Church—Monday Rosary Group
Tue.	03/12/19	12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		5:30pm	St Gerard's Church Adult Choir practice
		7:30pm	SVdP meeting at the Epping shop
Wed.	04/12/19	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		11:00am	Mass at Rayward Nursing Home
		7:00pm	PMR Epping PPC meeting followed by Xmas dinner
Thur.	05/12/19	11:00am	Healing & Anointing Mass in the PMR followed by a light Christmas lunch.
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		7:30pm	St Gerard's School Advent Celebration in the Church
		7:30pm	Interdenominational Dinner - Mary O'Byrne
Fri.	06/12/19	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:10am	PMR Carlingford Scripture Reflection
		11:30am	PMR Carlingford—Elizabeth Austin
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		4:30pm	OLHC Church Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA meeting
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford Dads' Club
Sat.	07/12/19	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
		5:00pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church
		6:00pm	Mass at St Gerard's

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

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.

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.

The Truth Justice and Healing Council

www.thecouncil.org.au
Ph.: 6234 0900

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

Please Support Mary Mac's Place at Christmas Time

Mary Mac's Place in Woy Woy is managed by CatholicCare, the social care agency of the Catholic Church in our Diocese.

Supporting anyone who is homeless, lonely or needing a helping hand, it costs over \$150,000 per year to run. Mary Mac's provide more than 24,000 meals a year at a cost of \$6 per meal. They also provide a place to shower and to wash clothes, and access to outreach services such as Homeless Connector and Legal Aid. Most important they offer companionship and a friendly face to the vulnerable in our community.

Catholic Care's Shout a Mate a Plate fundraiser went live in August and thanks to generous supporters they have been able to cover the cost of almost 2,200 meals to date. Their goal is to raise enough funds to provide 5,000 meals.

Can you spare \$6 per month? Or a one-off donation to help the less fortunate at Christmas time? Every plate helps and all donations are tax deductible. Mary Mac's Place relies 100% on the efforts of volunteers and donors—they do not receive any government funding. Please help!
www.shoutamateaplate.org.au

Children's Liturgy of the Word – We NEED you!

Children's Liturgy (Kidz Word) is an age-appropriate Liturgy of the Word offered at the 9:30am Sunday Mass at Carlingford and the 10:15am Mass at Epping during school terms. The presiding Priest calls forward the authorised adult leaders and children just after the Collect (Opening Prayer). The children are invited to go on a little "pilgrimage" with the leaders to the parish meeting room to celebrate the Gospel.

During Kidz Word, the leaders lead the children through prayers, songs/mimes and readings. The children reflect on the same Scripture readings as the rest of the assembly. They are taught a simplified message of the readings and are encouraged to share that message with their family and friends after Mass.



Adult or youth volunteers are needed to lead Kidz Word each week, as well as to assist with the supervision of the children. This is a great opportunity for adults and middle/high school/uni youth to help these eager youngsters celebrate God's Word. A Working with Children's Check will be required, which we can assist you with. Training will also be provided before you begin and you can be assured you are always part of a team!

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If you would like to help bring this meaningful ministry to life so God's Word can reach the hearts of our young children, please contact the parish office on 9876 2853 or email me at lynn@eppcarl.org.au We look forward to hearing from you!

Lynn Siau
Sacramental Programmes & Children's Ministries
0407 255 593
lynn@eppcarl.org.au



CARLINGFORD HEALING & ANOINTING MASS

Our Christmas Healing & Anointing Mass will take place **this Thursday, 5th December at 11:00am** (please note the change in time and there is no 9:30am Mass that day). Please note the Mass will take place in Meeting Room, and a light Christmas lunch will be served at the conclusion of Mass.

All are welcome to our monthly Healing Masses (on the 1st Thursday of the month at Carlingford and the 3rd 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.

Dads' Club The monthly gathering of the parish Dads' Club (for all dads in both the Epping and Carlingford communities of the parish) takes place this **Friday 6th December** at 7:30pm. For details contact Tim Paxton 9945 0151. On Friday 6th we're off to the races.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

There will be devotions in honour of Our Lady, on the 1st Saturday of the month preceding the 9:15am Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church. This includes the rosary and prayers. You are most welcome!

Alpha begins Tuesday 3 March 2020



Our first task ~ please pray for all who will be blessed by Alpha for Alpha relies on the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire. Nothing happens without the Holy Spirit and everything happens with the Holy Spirit. Fr Peter asks us to pray to the Holy Spirit for us to be missionary, to go out to others and invite them to Alpha. We also pray for the Holy Spirit to move the hearts of people to come.

The Holy Spirit works through a team of people committed to their guests. These hosts and helpers and the hospitality Task Force are being called to join the team that makes Alpha available at Epping. Alpha begins on Tuesday 3 March in 2020.

Come Holy Spirit, fill us with your love, use us to witness to your love and show us who to invite to experience your love.

ADVENT I

Advent means "someone special is coming".

The first coming of Jesus was his birth. The covenants promised His coming and the prophets foresaw what He would do. The vision of **Isaiah**, in the first reading, hopes for someone special to transform humanity.

He will have authority over the nations. *He will be the judge between peoples. They will make peace, for they will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.* Isaiah 2:5

Our response in the Psalm is **Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.** *Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls.*

As you were getting ready for Mass, did your family brighten up and sing ~ **Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.** Getting ready to meet the promised one is something to celebrate.

Paul tells us "**The time**" has come. *Wake up. The night is almost over. It will be daylight soon. Live decently as people do in the daytime.* He then tells them. *Give up what is done under the cover of darkness.*

In the Gospel, Jesus told his disciples of his second coming, so **Stay awake, stand ready because the Son of Man is coming.**

Put Adventure into Advent

Do something unusual, exciting. Be **daring to be ready for his coming at Christmas!** One option is to begin today. Read the first chapter of Luke's Gospel. Start today 1st December and you will finish Christmas eve. Join the 'virtual' group who stay in touch as they journey together with Luke to prepare to welcome Christ at the Christ Masses. Text '24' to 0435 031 848 (Leon)

In the first prayer at Mass, we prayed to God *Our Heavenly Father* ~ **Give us the resolve, to run forward to meet "the Christ"** ~ We pray **we will welcome Jesus this Christmas with righteous deeds.** That means, we will have done good things that kept us on the right side of people and kept on doing what is right according to God's loving plan for us.

Denis McNamara Supporting Missionary Disciples

Youth Page

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

Antioch youth are having a Christmas party and we want to invite you!

Anyone between year 10 up to 22 year old is welcome to join. And bring a friend along!

Date: From 6pm, 15th December (Sunday)
Location: St Gerard's Parish Meeting Room
543 North Rocks Rd, Carlingford
Theme: Christmas! And bring a secret Santa present.

RSVP: Joanna on 0404 710 588 by the 8th December
So we can cater for food.



Cana youth group are celebrating the end of the year with 2 unmissable events (For year 6-9 kids)

Cana water fight

When: Friday, December 6th from 7:30pm at St Gerard's Parish Hall (543 North Rocks Rd, Carlingford)
Bring a change of clothes and a towel.

Cana Christmas party

When: Friday, 13th December from 7-9pm at St Gerard's Parish Hall.
Bring snacks and a secret Santa gift (dinner is provided)
If you have any questions, please contact
Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588.

The Initiation process for Adults: When people enquire about the Church

Q Who are the inquirers?

A The Church uses the term *inquirers* to refer to those who are just beginning to explore the Christian faith in the context of a faith community.

God has led them to this exploration by many different paths and is already at work in their lives.

All Christians have a responsibility towards those who are beginning to explore the life of faith – a responsibility to welcome them warmly and encourage them.

Inquirers are looking for evidence of the Spirit and authentic witness to the Gospel of Christ.



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ACYF

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is only a week away till our pilgrims head over to Perth! Fun Fact: The last ACYF was held in 2017 in Sydney and 20,000 pilgrims from around Australia gathered in Homebush in Qudos Arena. The closing Mass was held in the Domain, led by Archbishop Anthony Fisher and was the largest gathering of Catholic pilgrims in Australia since the Sydney World Youth Day in 2008. Here are what some of our pilgrims are thinking.

Phillip (aged 18)

This will be my second ACYF experience, after the Sydney one in 2017. The event, specifically the final Mass, was one of the most euphoric moments in my life. I was able to sing in the CaSPA choir, along with a number of talented young people, and it was a real joy (fitting in the theme "Joyful Generation"). So it's clear to see why I'm really excited to be going to Perth - with meeting new people, exploring my faith, listening to music and seeing all the scenic sites. Honestly, there's so much to look forward to and I want to thank the Parish and all the people for supporting us. Because this is really important, not only for the travel, but for the simple fact that we are called to spread the good news, and by engaging in these opportunities to build up the Church - and all the people, community and values that make and continue to make it great.

Joshua (aged 16)

I am super excited and humbled to be visiting Perth for the first time, especially for ACYF to celebrate Jesus with hundreds of like minded youth. The talks that will be given at the event are what interest me the most as I find it enriching and interesting to listen and respond to others who give their perspective on their own faith. I expect to come away from ACYF with a deeper understanding of my own faith by understanding and learning from others.

Please keep us in your prayers as we will be praying for you.

ANGEL TREE 2019



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 were asked to collect an "Angel Card" from the Tree in St Gerard Majella church last weekend. The Card had the child's name, sex, age and possibly 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 next weekend **8/9th December**. Please continue to pray for the children, parents and carers this Christmas.

Margaret Wiseman