

Responsorial Psalm Response Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.	Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! The Son of Man has come to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all! Alleluia!
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WEEKEND MASSES

Epping	5pm 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	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: Hee Chua, Bob Carroll, Denis Foley, Dot Doyle,

*Please pray for Noelene Gardner who passed away on 14th October.
Funerals arrangements not known at the time of printing the bulletin.*

Anniversaries: James Boland, Daniel Scarfe, Angelo Scariot.

Also for: Paul Schwager, Vicki Kennedy, Betty Murdoch, Jim Carmody, Rosario Ilagan, Mato Matijasic, Tomo & Katarina Medved & family, Vjekoslav & Juliana Medved, Karlo Puskaric, Nikola & Anastazia Matijasic.

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, Amy, 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, 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, Ausustine 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.

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 SHOWS care for the rights of all people who are supported by Diocesan systems that are clear, accessible and compliant

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

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
27/01018	5:00pm	Fr Joey Frez	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
28/10/18	8:30am	Fr Peter Dowd	7:45am	Fr Joey Frez
28/10/18	10:15am	Fr Peter Dowd	9:30am	Fr Joey Frez
28/10/18	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

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

21-10-18

Isaiah 53:10-11

Hebrews: 4:14-16

Mark 10:35-45

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we welcome Roger Delmonte to our parish family here at Epping and Carlingford. Roger is a seminarian who is discerning whether God is calling him to priesthood within the Diocese of Broken Bay.

For the next four weeks Roger will reside at Carlingford presbytery and immerse himself in numerous parish and Diocesan activities. I am sure you will keep him in your prayers and warmly welcome him to our parish.

Over the coming weeks we continue our Alpha series on Wednesday evenings with everyone welcome to also join our Tuesday afternoon gathering at the St Gerard's meeting room (see the bulletin for more details).

I also encourage you to have your say concerning our Church and the way you believe the Holy Spirit is inviting us to be Church here in Australia.

Apart from the public forums after Masses this weekend and our evening sessions you also have the option to complete a personal response and send it in either to the parish office or forward it directly online to the Diocese details available on the form or Diocesan website.

In addition to what has already been shared regarding why we are having a plenary Council, the booklet published by the Parramatta Diocese has also highlighted the following:

1. The contemporary society of Australia has changed significantly and the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse has been a significant and influential event that requires deep consideration and response.
2. "The Church is not the presence in our society it once was. We need to take a measure of that and make decisions accordingly. The culture in which we have to proclaim the Gospel is very different to what it was even 20 or 30 years ago." Archbishop Mark Coleridge.
3. The Bishops are asking for everyone to participate. We are encouraged to speak boldly and with passion, and to listen openly with a humble heart.

Bishop Vincent goes on to say:
"The Church needs prophetic voices, even voices from the margins and from outside, to keep its leaders honest, transparent and accountable. We cannot afford to let the momentum for cultural and structural change in the Church to fizzle out. It is for the sake of a healthier Church that all the baptised participate in its functioning and bring their gifts to bear on its growth." **WE NEED YOUR VOICE. HAVE YOUR SAY!**

Finally, this week we sadly farewelled Pat Hereward who is moving to Canberra to be closer to her daughter and family. Pat (and her late husband Fred) have been part of our Epping community for almost 60 years and continues to be much valued and loved by many in our parish community. Our blessings and love go with you, Pat.

Fr Peter

Could Australia teach
the world a thing or
two through this
Plenary Council?





Alpha

Alpha begins at Carlingford

Come to Alpha this **Tuesday afternoon**
23rd of October at **1.30pm**
We finish in time for school pick up.

Come to the parish meeting room at Carlingford, which is beside the carpark and join us for an early afternoon tea.

This is a special opportunity for the parents and carers at St Gerard's school.

Everyone is welcome to 'come and see', and 'come and meet', and 'come and enjoy the company'. If someone asks, the parish meeting room is across the carpark from the school. Preschool children are welcome.

For more information please contact:

Rachel Murphy (Son in Yr. 6) 0426 504 010

Email: rachelstflutetone@hotmail.com

Geoff Childs (Granddaughter in Kindy) 0428 999 324

Email: childsy2@bigpond.com

Maree at the Parish Office 9876 2853

Email: maree@eppcarl.org.au

You can let one of these know you are coming, or just come on in and join the group. At Alpha we become a community and you will connect with a whole range of people.

Fr Peter asks those who have done Alpha to invite their friends, neighbours and family members to "Come and See" what life is all about. This Alpha is open to all in the parish, and all who live in the area or out of the area. At Alpha anyone can come and everyone is welcome.

Don't forget it is still possible and be a part of the Wednesday evening Alpha in the Parish Hall at Epping commencing at 7:00pm.

Plenary Council 2020 Notice — Week 5

The Plenary Council 2020 response has begun in our parish. Your voice is needed! Together we are responding to the question: ***What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?*** The Plenary Council agenda will be developed from the stories you share and the questions you raise.

Please **Have Your Say!**

Join the conversation about your experiences of faith and the church by:



Joining one these parish gatherings:

EPPING after the 8.30am Mass & after the 10.15am Mass **this Sunday**
OR 7.30pm **Thursday 25 October**

CARLINGFORD after the 9.30am Mass **this Sunday**
OR 7.30pm **Tuesday 30 October**

All people are welcome – come along and bring a friend. If you prefer to host or join a group with friends or your family please contact Lynne Slocombe lynn.slocombe@gmail.com or write your name and details on a list at the back of the church.



Our Parish Catechists and the CWF

Did you know there are a huge number of catechists who play an important role in the faith formation of our children in public schools in our Parish? Our catechists bring joy and spiritual fulfilment to children in their Catholic scripture classes. There are 16,500 children who receive Catholic Religious Education in NSW Public Schools in our Diocese.

When you make the decision to give to the Charitable Works Fund you are helping your local community. Donations received are distributed between the **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)**, **CatholicCare Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Practitioners**, **St Lucy's School**, **St Edmund's College** and the **Ephpheta Centre**. All these charities and agencies minister to our families, friends and neighbours in the Diocese of Broken Bay. For more information on the beneficiaries please visit the Diocese of Broken Bay website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/give/charitable-works-fund>.

Give and it shall be given to you. Luke 6:38



Parish Thank You Evening

Thursday, 22nd November 2018

**7:00pm Mass at OLHC
followed by
Supper in the Parish Hall**

A Parish Thank You to All Parishioners

All Welcome!

For catering purposes please
**RSVP: Parish Office 9876 2853
or email maree@eppcarl.org.au
by Friday 2nd November 2018**

**Parking:
In the School Grounds
and surrounding streets.**

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.

Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

O God bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary
Council.

Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.

Give us the courage to tell our stories
and to speak boldly of your truth

Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age.

Amen

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary 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,
**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.

Ecumenical Covenant with the Anglican Parish Epping, Epping Uniting Church West Epping Uniting Church Epping Baptist Church

Rev. John Barr is the Ministry Team Leader at West Epping Uniting Church. He has been involved in lay leadership in the church for more than 20 years as an elder, teacher and then as a mission worker in Indonesia. For the past 25 years he has served as an ordained minister in Australia and overseas. Rev John is in his fifth year in West Epping.

**Rev John will be preaching at the 6pm Mass
on Sunday 18th November**

One of the points in our Covenant invites Ministers from our Covenant Churches to share Pulpits during the course of the year.

Struggling with Infertility?

PMS, irregular cycles, frequent miscarriages or other reproductive issues? Did you know we have Catholic GP's trained in NaPro Technology who can help correct your cycles, and optimise both male and female fertility? In treating the cause of your symptoms our doctors aim to restore a couple's fertile health, empowering them towards better health or to conceive children within the context of their own marriage with up to 80% success. To find out more go to: www.fertilitycare.com.au or Katie.fullilove@dbb.org.au 9847 0486

Reflection on this Sundays Gospel—Different Kinds of Glory

We all nurse a secret dream of glory. We daydream that in some way we will stand out and be recognized. And so we fantasize about great achievements that will set us apart from others and make us famous. The daydreams vary but, inside them, always we are at the centre—the most admired person in the room, the one scoring the winning goal, the ballerina star, the actor picking up the Academy award, the author writing the best-seller, the intellectual winning the Nobel Prize, or even just the one in the circle who tells the best story.

What we are chasing in all this is notice, appreciation, uniqueness, and adulation so that we can be duly recognized and loved. We want the light to be shining on us.

You will taste suffering, every-one will, and that suffering will make you deep. And this isn't all bad or unhealthy. We are built to stand in the spotlight. Our own reality is massively (sometimes oppressively) real to us and scientists today tell us that the universe has no single centre but that everywhere and every person is its centre. And so it is not a big secret that each of us feels ourselves at the centre and wants to be recognized as being there. We nurse a secret dream of glory and, partly, this is healthy. What's less healthy in our daydreams is how we envision that glory. In our fantasies, glory almost always consists in being famous, in standing out, in achieving a success that makes others envious, in somehow being the best-looking or the brightest or the most talented person in the room. In our fantasy, glory means having the power to actuate ourselves in ways that set us above others, even if that is for a good motive. For instance, some of our fantasies are daydreams of goodness, of being powerful enough to squash evil. Indeed, that was the messianic fantasy. Before Jesus was born, good-hearted and religious people prayed for a Messiah to come and, in their fantasy, that Messiah was generally envisaged as a worldly superstar, a person with a superior heart and superior muscles, a Messiah who would reveal the superiority of God by out-muscling the bad.

But as we see from the Gospels, real glory doesn't consist in out-muscling the bad, or anyone else. When Jesus was being crucified, he was offered precisely the challenge to prove that he was special by doing some spectacular gesture that would leave all of his detractors stunned and helpless: "If you are the Son of God, prove it, come down off the cross! Save yourself!"

But, with a subtlety that's easy to miss, the Gospels teach a very different lesson: On the cross Jesus proves that he is powerful beyond measure, not by doing some spectacular physical act that leaves everyone around him helpless to make any protest, but in a spectacular act of the heart wherein he forgives those who are mocking and killing him. Divine kingship is manifest in forgiveness, not in muscle.

That is real glory, and that is the one thing of which we really should be envious, namely, the compassion and forgiveness that Jesus manifested in the face of jealousy, hatred, and murder.

We see this illustrated in the Gospels in the incident where James and John come to Jesus and ask him to give them the seats of glory at his side. Jesus takes their request seriously and does not, on that occasion, caution them against pride. Rather he asks them: "Can you drink from the cup [of suffering] that I shall drink?" In naiveté, they answer: "We can!" Jesus replies: "The cup that I shall drink you shall drink, but as for the seats [of glory] at my right hand or left, these are not mine to give."

What Jesus is saying, in effect, is this: You will taste suffering, everyone will, and that suffering will make you deep. But, it won't necessarily make you deep in the right way. Suffering can make you deep in compassion and forgiveness, but it can also make you deep in bitterness and anger. However only compassion and forgiveness bring glory into your lives.

Jesus defines glory very differently than we do. Real glory, for him, is not the glory of winning a gold medal, of being a champion, of winning an Oscar, or of being an object of envy because of our looks or our achievements. Glory consists in being deep in compassion, forgiveness, and graciousness—and these are not often spawned by worldly success, by being better-looking, brighter, richer, or better muscled than those around us.

We all nurse the secret dream of glory. Partly this is healthy, a sign that we are emotionally well. However, this is something that needs to grow and mature inside of us. Our secret dream of glory is meant to mature so that eventually we will begin, more and more, to envision ourselves as standing out, not by talent, looks, muscles, and speed, but by the depth of our compassion and the quality of our forgiveness.

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.

Friday 9 November at Epping from 5:00pm – 9:00pm



For family fun, face painting, craft, international cuisine, quality Christmas gifts and fresh fruit and vegies. Mingle with the local community in a family friendly environment where live entertainment will run all night. Don't miss this epic annual event happening in your local community.

The markets are in the grounds of Our Lady Help of Christians' Primary School, Epping.

Pedestrian entrances are via Cambridge Street or Oxford Street.

PARISH OFFICE

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on **Wednesday, 24th October.**

This is due to staff attending a full day Workshop at the Diocese.

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	21/10/18	9:30am	Kidz Word at St Gerard's Church
		10:15am	No Kidz Word—Children's Mass at Epping
		11:15am	PMR Carlingford—Baptism Preparation Meeting
		6:00pm	PMR Carlingford—Antioch Group
Mon	22/10/18	9:00am	PH Epping Little Engines Playgroup
		9:30am	PH Carlingford Gerry's Playgroup
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SvDP meeting
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford Rosary Group
Tue.	23/10/18	12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		1:30pm	PMR Carlingford—Alpha Sessions
		7:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir Practice
Wed.	24/10/18	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:10am	St Gerard's School Reconciliation Yr. 5B
		7:00pm	PH Epping Alpha Sessions
Thur.	25/10/18	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church followed by
		10:00am	Exposition of the Eucharist
		10:15am	OLHC Reconciliation Yr. 6
		11:00am	CH C'ford Australian Church Women followed by
			light refreshments in the PMR
		7:30pm	PMR Epping Plenary Council Forum
Fri.	26/10/18	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:00am	PMR Carlingford Scripture Reflection
		10:10am	St Gerard's Reconciliation Yr. 3/4M
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		4:30pm	CH Epping Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA Group
Sat.	27/10/18	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
		5:00pm	Vigil Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's
	6:00pm	Vigil Mass at St Gerard's Church	

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 Balzulat Ph.: 9876 2853
Email: maree@eppcarl.org.au

Pastoral Care Assistant
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Children's Sacramental Coordinator:
Lynn Siau
Ph.: 0407 255 593
Email: kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

Sacramental Programme Assistant
Marcella Letteri
Ph.: 0407 255 593

Cana Youth Group
Ashleigh Belic
Ph.: 0430 120 015
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 LOCAL ECUMENICAL ADVENT LITURGY

A reminder that our next 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 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.



All Souls Day Masses

All Souls Day falls this year on Friday 2nd November. During Mass the Book of Remembrance, containing the names of all those for whom we pray in November, will be put in its place of honour in each of our churches.



Mass times:
Carlingford 9:30am
Epping 12:15pm



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<http://WeMakeMusic.com.au/>

Email:

WeMakeMusicAustralia@gmail.com

Phone/Text: 0414 821 717

Location: North Epping

Book of Remembrance

Once again this year, we will have our "Book of Remembrance" in each church—displayed in its place of honour on the sanctuary throughout the month of November, to remember our past family and friends, and it will be placed in position "All Souls' Day Mass."
As you will remember, we changed the format of the book so that all the past names are in the front of the book and will remain there. The lined pages in the book are for you to write on and these handwritten names will not be retyped, but will stay as they are from now on. This makes the book more personal and individual. You are welcome to add names of those who have passed away during the last year; the book will be available throughout October.

A WELCOME GATHERING FOR ALL 2019 KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES IN OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS AND ST GERARD MAJELLA'S SCHOOLS

An invitation is extended to All Kindergarten families for 2019

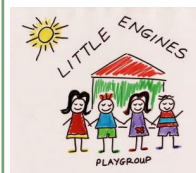
- at **Epping** on **Sunday 18th November** at the **10:15am Mass**
- at **Carlingford** on **Sunday 2nd December** at the **9:30am Mass**

The families will be called forward for a blessing at the commencement of their child's years of school education. The Principal will also 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. We look forward to seeing you then.

Fr Peter



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.

The playgroup recommence on Monday 2nd February. We hope that you are able to bring your children to these 9-10.30 sessions. For more information please contact

St. Vincent de Paul "Shop till you Drop" Bargain Bus Day is happening again this year on Saturday 27th October. The Bus is now paid for, and there are still seats available for those who still wish to come along. Some of the venues will include KB Toys, Debs Hidden Treasure and Manchester Importers, plus many more new and exciting places. The cost of the ticket will be \$60 including morning and afternoon tea and a great venue for lunch. It will be the best fun day you will have this year. Contact *Marilyn Sharp* on 9872 1436 for further details.



Can you help?

As you know, we are hosting Australia Church Women's Community Day at St Gerard's on **Thursday, 25th October** commencing at **11:00am**. ACW is an inter-church association which embraces seven Christian traditions.

Services are held on a rotation basis meaning it is held in our Parish about every 3-4 years.

Please phone Lorraine Lobsey 9872 4005 if you can help - perhaps with greeting visitors or sandwiches or a slice.

Of course your presence on the day is the best support. Although membership age is high, and our numbers low, ACW remains a faithful connection to our neighbouring churches and to ecumenism.

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.

Reflection on next Sunday's Scriptures

A reminder that our weekly time of reflection on the coming Sunday's Scriptures will take place this coming Friday 26th October at Carlingford and will commence immediately following the 9:30am Mass, in the Parish Meeting Room (concluding at 10:30am). All welcome!



Rosary for the Intentions of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



The rosary for the intentions of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be recited every Friday afternoon at 4:30pm in Our Lady Help of Christians' Church. You are most welcome to join.

Year of Youth 2018

CANA YOUTH GROUP



Next CANA Meeting Friday 19 October

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

The life of St Gerard Majella (for St Gerard's Feast day which was on Tuesday, 16th October)

The life of St Gerard Majella Gerard, the youngest of the five children of Dominic and Benedetta Galella Majella, was born on April 6, 1726, in the small town of Muro, which is a few miles distant from Naples in southern Italy. He was very sickly at birth and was immediately taken to the Cathedral church for Baptism. When Gerard was twelve, the sudden death of his father made it necessary for him to leave school and to begin to work. His mother apprenticed him to a tailor so that he could follow the trade of his father. His employer took a strange dislike to him and often showered him with blows and curses. Gerard accepted the persecution as being permitted by God for his spiritual good. Once he was seen to smile even while he was being beaten, and when asked about this, he said: "I was smiling because I saw the hand of God striking me." Such a youth would naturally turn toward the religious life. Three times, however, he was refused admittance into one religious order because of his frail health. He was still determined to become a lay brother, and the occasion of a mission conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers in Muro gave him new hope. He asked to be admitted as a candidate in their order, but again was refused because they felt that his health would not be equal to the rigours of monastery life.

So persistent was the young man, however, that Father Paul Cafaro, the superior of the missionaries, advised his mother to lock him in his room on the night they were leaving Muro, lest he try to follow them. Gerard's mother did so, but the next morning when she unlocked the door she found an empty bed, an open window from which hung a sheet, and a note on the table that read: "I have gone to become a Saint." Gerard had caught up with the missionaries just as they were leaving town. After many entreaties and refusals, Father Cafaro finally gave in and sent him on to the rector of the Redemptorist house at Iliceto with this note of recommendation: "I am sending you a useless lay brother." The "useless" lay brother was to do the work of four men, according to the testimony of those who worked with him. In his 6 short years as a Redemptorist, he advanced rapidly in sanctity. His prayer life was continual & his spirit of obedience was so perfect that several times he even appeared at distant places in response to the unspoken requests of his absent superior. His confreres came to honour him as a Saint. Much of his life as a brother was spent in traveling with and assisting the missionaries. They deemed him an invaluable companion, because he had such remarkable success in bringing sinners to the Sacraments. People followed him everywhere, and already called him "il santo"-----the Saint. True sanctity must always be tested by the cross, and it was in 1754 that Gerard had to undergo a great trial, one that may well have merited for him the special power to assist mothers and their children. One of his works of zeal was that of encouraging and assisting girls who wanted to enter the convent. Often he would even secure the necessary dowry for some poor girl who could not otherwise be admitted into a religious order. Neria Caggiano was one of the girls thus assisted by Gerard. However, she found convent life distasteful and within three weeks had returned home.

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY:

Meeting this Sunday 21st October

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!!



Donna—0498 935 580 Joanne—0416 030 927

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

To explain her action, Neria began to circulate falsehoods about the lives of the nuns, and when the good people of Muro refused to believe such stories about a convent recommended by Gerard, she determined to save her reputation by destroying the good name of her benefactor. Accordingly, in a letter to St Alphonsus, the superior of Gerard, she accused the latter of sins of impurity with the young daughter of a family at whose house Gerard often stayed on his missionary journeys. Gerard was called by St Alphonsus to answer the accusation. Instead of defending himself, however, he remained silent, following the example of his Divine Master. In the face of his silence, St. Alphonsus could do nothing but impose a severe penance on the young religious. Gerard was denied the privilege of receiving Holy Communion, and forbidden all contact with outsiders. It was not easy for Gerard to give up his labours in behalf of souls, but this was a small penance compared with being deprived of Holy Communion. He felt this so keenly that he even asked to be freed from the privilege of serving Mass for fear that the vehemence of his desire to receive would make him seize the consecrated Host from the very hands of the priest at the altar. Some time later Neria fell dangerously ill & wrote a letter to St Alphonsus confessing that her charges against Gerard had been sheer fabrication & calumny. The Saint was filled with joy by the news of the innocence of his son. But Gerard, who had not been depressed in the time of his trial, was not unduly elated in the hour of his vindication. In both cases he felt that the will of God had been fulfilled- that was sufficient for him. Always frail in health, it was evident that Gerard was not to live long. In 1755, he was seized by violent hemorrhages and dysentery and his death was expected at any moment. However, he had yet to teach a great lesson on the power of obedience. His director commanded him to get well, if it were God's will, and immediately his illness seemed to disappear and he left his bed to rejoin the community. He knew, however, that this cure was only temporary and that he had only a little over a month to live. Before long he did have to return to his bed, and he began to prepare himself for death. He was absolutely abandoned to the will of God and had this sign placed on his door: "The will of God is done here, as God wills it and as long as He wills it." Often he was heard to say this prayer: "My God, I wish to die in order to do Thy most holy will." Between midnight of October 15, early morning of the next day his innocent soul went back to God. At the death of Gerard, the Brother sacristan, in his excitement, rang the bell as if for a Feast, instead of tolling it for a death. Thousands came to view the body of "their Saint" and to try to find a last souvenir of the one who had helped them so often. After his mother's death miracles began to be reported from almost all parts of Italy, attributed to the intercession of Gerard. In 1893, Pope Leo XIII beatified him, and on December 11, 1904, Pope Pius X canonised him as a Saint.