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 Jim McKeon Tel.: 9876 2853 Email: jim@eppcarl.org.au

Parish Office Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Bogdan Skupien Assistant Priest: Fr Marek Woldan Email: Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au Email: Marek.Wolden@bbcatholic.org.au Tel: 9876 2853

YEAR B

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

22-08-21 29-08-21

Joshua 24:1-2,15-18 Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8 Ephesians 5:21-32 James 1:17-18,21-22.27 John 6:60-69 Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Dear Parishioners,

Digging deep: As I speak with people in our parish each week, I am hearing of two divergent experiences. One is busyness, especially people in healthcare and front-line services, and of parents who are struggling with the demands of their own work as well as assisting their children with home-based learning. The other is of boredom, that as lockdown continues, the initial flurry of activity to clean out cupboards and do small projects has subsided, and every day is feeling like 'Groundhog Day'. Each of these experiences is very real, each can be debilitating for mental health. A remedy for each is to dig deep into our interior life in prayer, meditation and reflection, perhaps going to places in our hearts, even fearful and dark spaces, to invite the light of God's love to penetrate. This can be a time of transformation, of refining and purification for us, if we allow ourselves to be changed, and to give ourselves over to deeper practices of prayer. As I said two weeks ago of St Mary of the Cross who endured opposition and excommunication, I say now for us in lockdown: saints are made in times like these. But it isn't easy. Fr Bogdan, our new priest Fr Marek and I stand ready to assist you as your pastors. Do reach out by phone or email. Although we cannot yet safely meet in person except for the direst need, we are readily accessible phone and video call. Please don't hesitate to reach out. Fr Jim McKeon

Air Conditioning: For many years the aging evaporative cooling system at St Gerard's has been failing and now needs urgent replacement. Fr Peter and the Parish Finance Committee began exploring options for installing full reverse cycle air-conditioning, but this was complicated by a lack of available power supply to the site. Mr Bob Crane worked extensively with engineers to develop a solution using gas powered compressors. With cost estimates rising to \$330,000 which was deemed excessive, a new design proposal was sought, this time with a cost of \$185,000 plus GST. This was agreed upon by the Parish Finance Committee and endorsed by the Bishop who oversees expenditure above \$50,000. The successful tenderer is Frigair Air Conditioning and the project will be managed by long term St Gerard's parishioner Max Bosotti. The old evaporating cooling system has now been removed, and installation work will commence as soon as it becomes possible. We are delighted to finally progress this long-needed resource for St

Gerard's, and that we have been able to find a more costeffective solution which makes better use of the parish's generously donated finances.

One-to-ones: We know that lockdown is making many people feel isolated, and even group gatherings on Teams and Zoom don't always fill the void. Our Antioch youth group has started running "One-to-Ones" to make lock-down a little bit less lonely. A drawback with online meetings is that you don't have the same opportunity to have conversations as you would in person One-to-Ones works by assigning each person a different buddy every week to catch up with. You can do it over the phone, video call or whatever suits. This allows us to continue to connect and grow closer with each other, despite the physical distance. Could your group do this as well?

Relocation: The Pastoral Council have set out some celebrations on the OLHC site to mark the temporary relocation of the office, presbytery and meeting rooms. There will be a Historical Display, Thanksgiving Evening, Celebration Mass and Garage Sale slated for November and December. Given the uncertainties of the present lockdown we will confirm dates closer to the time.

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We are also continuing with the assessment of the furniture and items from the OLHC office, presbytery and meeting rooms, some of which will be moved to St Gerard's, some of which will be moved into storage to come back to OLHC in 2024, and some for disposal where they are surplus to the parish's needs the disposal of these items.

....continued on page 2

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...continued from the cover

Statue of Our Lady: Thanks to the generosity of two parishioners a new statue of Our Lady has now been placed in the new prayer space outside St Gerard's Church. The land-scaping is now also complete, with only some seating yet to be installed. Fr Jim blessed the statue and the prayer space on the Feast of the Assumption this past weekend.



Tax Receipts for FY 2020/2021

To request a Tax Receipt for the financial year 2020/2021 please email:

parish@eppcarl.org.au <u>only</u> providing:

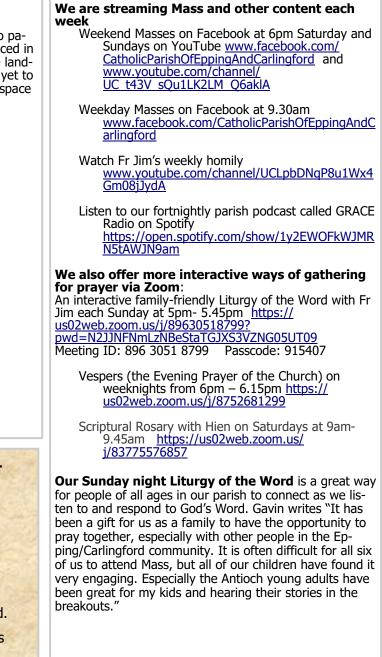
Name

Envelope No. Address

Your help in this matter is very much appreciated.

Dennis Porteous

The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford



Divine Renovation Australasia Webinar: Jesus Christ & Missionary Discipleship: 25 August, 6:30pm

Go ... and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). This was the Great Commission Jesus gave His disciples, and it is the same mission He entrusts to each of us. Yet, what does it really mean to be a disciple of Christ? Join us for this online event as Dr. Christine Wood and Kevin Bailey take us through what it means to be a missionary disciple and how we can carry out the mission of Christ in our world today.

Dr. Christine Wood is the Director of the Office of Evangelisation and Catechesis in the Archdiocese of Hobart and teaches Biblical and Systematic Theology at Catholic Distance University in the USA.

Register at: https://www.divinerenovation.org/events

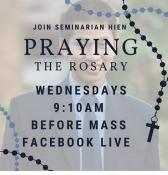
Praying the Rosary

Our Seminarian Hien will be leading the Rosary every Wednesday morning on our parish Facebook page. This will be live-streamed so you can join us in real-time to pray. We will also be live-streaming our morning Mass after the Rosary. If you click on this link - <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>CatholicParishOfEppingAndCarlingford</u> to "Like" or "Follow" the parish page, you will receive a notification when we are Live on Facebook. Hope to see you online!

Also, you are all invited to join in the Scriptural Rosary - Praying with Our Blessed Mother every Saturday at 9am on Zoom, starting from 7 Aug 2021.

Please follow this link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83775576857 Meeting ID: 837 7557 6857

Hope to see you all there!





Supporting the Parish while we are in Lockdown

The Catholic Church has a strong tradition of giving follows in the footsteps of St Paul who spoke about caring for one another; it has established and supported many worthwhile charities throughout its long history.

This culture of charity continues on, but a parish can only sustain itself and these charitable works with the help of its parishioners whose generosity makes great things possible.

We ask you to consider making a donation to the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford. To do so please use the following bank account:

Internet Banking Commonwealth Bank of Australia BSB: 062 784 Account No: 100 012 613

Use your name or envelope number as the reference and either 1st Collection or 2nd Collection.

1st Collection supports the needs of priests of the parish.

- The priests' monthly salary.
- Upkeep of the presbytery, e.g. food, utilities, cleaner, etc.
- A small percentage to cover the expenses of the Bishop especially in caring for elderly priests.

2nd Collection

- Parish running costs e.g. administration, insurance, utilities, general maintenance and upkeep of the church, presbytery and parish property.
- Parish staff salaries.
- Priests Car Expenses.

Any other questions please contact Dennis Porteous on 9876 2853 or dennis@eppcarl.org.au



Celebrations this Week—21st Week in Ordinary Time

24/8 Tuesday: St Bartholomew, apostle
27/8 Tuesday: St Monica
28/8 Thursday: St Augustine, bishop, doctor

Celebrations this Week—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

3/9 Friday: St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor

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Sacramental & Children's Ministries Information



Children's Sacramental Journey -Confirmation 2021

Time flies, as we move into Session 3 this weekend – Life in the Spirit. We help the children understand what spiritual growth means by talking about the Holy Spirit, how their love and their faith can grow. God plants seeds in their hearts so they can grow to become people who love greatly and learn to trust in God even when things are difficult. We discuss the Parable of the Mustard Seed, the Parable of the Sower, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We teach them they can grow spiritually through prayer, reading the Bible, learning from people around them and using their gifts for parish ministries to love and serve others.

Next week, we complete the final session – Confirmation. We talk about what happens during the Rite of Confirmation. We will tell the children to focus and think carefully about what is going to happen that day and their appropriate responses as they are being anointed with the Oil of Chrism. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read 'The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost' to help the children understand that the Holy Spirit was sent to us lovingly by God so that He would always be in our midst to guide us, even though we can't see Him.

The group sessions are family-centred and encourage parent-child interaction with activities to help children explore the key concepts of the sacrament in an age-appropriate and fun way. This is a challenging time for us all; we are doing our best to support the children and their families as we journey through this. Please keep us all in your prayers!

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

CatholicCare supports available now

As we enter another week of lockdown you may need some extra support. We are here to help and offer many services for people in need including emergency relief financial supports, homelessness and housing assistance, domestic violence support, counselling including financial counselling, disability and seniors supports and more. We have recently produced a <u>flyer specifically for parishes</u> here

Australía Prays Sunday 22nd August 2021

National Day of Prayer in this Time of Pandemic.

An ecumenical national day of prayer has been organised on Sunday 22 August, calling Australia to come together in prayer in light of the current COVID-19 crisis.

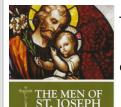
It is an initiative of a broad range of Christian communities and includes the involvement of the National Council of Churches, Australia. The theme is *Lord have mercy*, and it calls on us to be especially united in prayer, both individually and - where we are able - in our liturgies. There will also be an online gathering with church leaders, offering prayers and reflections at various times during the day.

Sunday 22 August

• A Prayer Call from 9:00am – 9:00pm on Zoom will feature Church leaders and Indigenous Christian Leaders. Participants can join for as long as they wish.

For more information and to register, visit

WELCOME TO THE MEN OF ST JOSEPH



The group is dedicated to Catholic men, who together spend time, to pray and to discuss how Catholic men live in today's world, discuss and support Catholic family issues and choices we make. You are most welcome to join us on Thursday, 26th Aug. & 2nd Sep. we will come together via Zoom at 6:30pm.

"PUT THE FAMILY IN THE HANDS OF THE FATHER "

Learning Hub

Read the Diocesan Commitment to Safeguarding. 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....click here to read on <u>https://</u> www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/safeguarding/diocesansafeguarding



The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

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Youth And Young Adults - For more information on any of our three youth groups please contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or joanna@eppcarl.org.au.



ANTIOCH (YEAR 10/16 YEARS OLD -23 YEARS OLD)

Antioch meets every Sunday nights for games, a talk, share groups and prayer. Join us on the **22nd and 29th August,**

we will be meeting online on zoom from 7-8:30pm, (with the Youth Liturgy on zoom at 5pm)

https://us02web.zoom.us/i/88930953704 Meeting ID: 889 3095 3704

Contact parent support if you have any questions: Joanne 0416 030 927 Karen 0421 506 577



Emmaus Young Adults (23-30years old)

Our young adults group meets once a fortnight on Tuesdays 7-8:30pm.

We are on zoom and our next meeting is on 24th August. .

Ihttps://us02web.zoom.us/i/86955115016 Meeting ID: 869 5511 5016



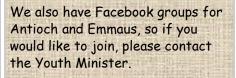


CANA (Years 6-9)

Join us on Friday nights 7:30—9:00pm on zoom! (20th and 27th August) https://us02web.zoom.us/ i/84038682054

Meeting ID: 840 3868 2054

For further information call Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or email joanna@eppcarl.org.au







Special zoom meeting 29th August (Sunday) with lots of games and a look back over the years 7-9pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88930953704 Meeting ID: 889 3095 3704

Antioch 38th Anniversary

This week our Antioch youth group celebrates its 38th anniversary. 38 years is a long time for any group, but for a youth group, it is extraordinary. Epping Carlingford Antioch is the longest running youth group in Australia. It was started by the then newly ordained Fr Vince Casey who was assistant priest at St Gerard's in 1983, and it was one of the first three parishes in Sydney to have Antioch. From there it spread to parishes around Australia. OLHC had its own Antioch group for many years, which later merged with St Gerard's when the parish became one. Part of Antioch's success is that is faith focussed, with fun and fellowship as a tool to engage people in growing in their relationship with Jesus. It is also a sustainable format which empowers young people aged 16-23 to be leaders to their peers, supported by parents who exercise a quiet background role. In recent years this leadership has also been enhanced by our parish youth minister, Joanna Mak. If you're aged 16-23 join us this Sunday night 7pm on zoom <u>https://</u> at us02web.zoom.us/i/88930953704 to celebrate and join in with a great group of young people.

Reflection—Atheism and Belief

God's ways are not our ways! There is more truth to that than we normally think.

God is ineffable. What that means is that God cannot be captured in our thoughts or pictured inside our imaginations. This truth is one of the first things that the church affirms in its understanding of God, defining as a dogma at the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 that God is so metaphysically different from anything we can know or imagine that all of our concepts and language about God are always more inadequate than adequate. God can be known, but never imagined or captured in a thought.

Why not? Why can we never form a picture of God or speak about God in adequate ways?

Because God is infinite and our minds are finite. Infinity, by definition, can never be circumscribed. That might sound abstract, but it is not. For example: try to imagine the highest number to which it is possible to count? Instantly you realize that this is an impossible task because numbers are infinite and there is always one more. It is impossible to conceive of a highest number. This is even truer in terms of any imaginative picture we try to form of God and of how we try to imagine God's existence. God is infinite and infinity cannot be captured or imagined inside of any finite thought.

This is important to understand, not in order to safeguard some theoretical point, but for our understanding of faith. We tend to identify a weak faith with a weak imagination, just as we tend to identify atheism with the incapacity to imagine the existence of God.

Imagine, for example, two different scenarios in your life: In the first instance, you have just experienced a religious high. Through prayer or some other religious or human experience, you have a strong, imaginative sense of God's reality. At that particular moment, you feel sure of God's existence and have an indubitable sense that God is real.

Your faith feels strong. You could walk on water! Then imagine different moment: you are lying in your bed, restless, agitated, feeling chaos around you, staring holes into the darkness, unable to imagine the existence of God, and unable to think of yourself as having faith. Try as you might, you cannot conjure up any feeling that God exists. You feel you are an atheist.

Does this mean that in one instance you have a strong faith and in the other you have a weak one? No. What it means is that in one instance you have a strong imagination and in the other you have a weak imagination. Faith in God is not to be confused with the capacity or incapacity to imagine God's existence. Infinity cannot be circumscribed by the imagination. God can be known, but not pictured. God can be experienced, but not imagined.

Nicholas Lash, in a deeply insightful essay on God and belief, suggests that the God that atheists reject is very often precisely an idol of our imaginations: We need do no more that notice that most of our contemporaries still find it "obvious" that atheism is not only possible, but widespread, and that, both intellectually and ethically, it has much to commend it. This might be plausible if being an atheist were a matter of not believing that there exists "a person without a body" who is eternal, free, able to do anything, knows everything" and is the proper object of human worship and obedience, the creator and sustainer of the universe." If, however, by "God" we mean the mystery, announced in Christ, breathing all things out of nothing into peace, then all things have to do with God in every move and fragment of their being, whether they notice this and suppose it to be so or not. Atheism, if it means deciding not to have anything to do with God, is thus self-contradictory and, if successful, self-destructive.

Thomas Aquinas wrote famously that God is self-evident in himself, though not self-evident to us. An Oblate confrere of mine has a less-philosophical way of expressing this. He is fond of saying: "God, as I understand Him, is not very well understood." That's true for all of us, in ways much deeper than we imagine.

When the prophet, Isaiah, glimpsed God in a vision, all he could do was stammer the words: Holy, holy, holy! Holy is the Lord God of hosts! (Is 6:2) But we misunderstand his meaning because we take "holy" in its moral sense, that is, as virtue. Isaiah however meant the word in its metaphysical sense, namely, as referring to God's transcendence, God's otherness, God's difference from us, God's ineffability. In essence, he is saying: other, completely different, utterly ineffable, is the Lord God of hosts!

Accepting that God is ineffable and that all of our thoughts and imaginative constructs about God are inadequate helps us in two ways: we stop identifying our faith with our imagination, and, more importantly, we stop creating God in our own image and likeness.

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.

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The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

Week 12 Safeguarding Message

Our Diocesan Commitment to Safeguarding is understanding by our faith in Jesus Christ who teaches the fundamental sanctity of each human person, and by our dedication to sustained education, practice and conversation about moral, legal and spiritual obligation to safeguard all those within our community.

Jamberoo Abbey—Online Retreat—A Retreat about Hope

This retreat is based on Charles Peguy's Little Girl Hope from the book: "The Portal of the Mystery of Hope". Hope is both a virtue and a mystery. It is desirable yet elusive. Many dismiss it, misunderstand it, shrug it off and turn their backs on it, extolling faith and charity instead. Whilst faith and charity are absolutely critical in these times of uncertainty and fear in society, there is now a need for hope as never before since World War II.

Retreat begins Sunday 5th September 2021. All videos and texts will be available on our website for as long as you need access. There are 6 conferences with two long uploaded each week. There are also questions for reflection. Take your time as there is no need to complete the two conferences within the one week.

The cost if the retreat is \$250. Pensioners can apply for a reduced price—see website for details.

Register online at: jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats.

USEFUL LINKS Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CatholicParishOfEppin Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/catholicparisheppca Fr Jim's YouTube: https://youtube.com/channel/UCLpbDNc Epping and Carlingford Website: https://www.bbcatholic. eppingcarlingford G.R.A.C.E podcast via internet: https://open.spotify.com/show/1y2EWOFkWJMRN	arl/ P8u1Wx4Gm08jJydA .org.au/	shutterstock.com - 95155182
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.		eive the bulletin by email, please Illetin as the subject title to:
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.	Fr Bogdan at home. In their answering machin the number given in the	IIs — 9876 2853 r office phones divert to Fr Jim and the event that they are unavailable, es will record your message or ring e message. However, if possible enquiries to office hours.

Our Lady Help Of Christians Catholic Primary School Principal: Ms Dominique O'Sullivan & Cambridge Street, Epping 2121 Ph: 9868 3322 www.olhcdbb.catholic.edu.au Email: olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School Principal: Mrs Barbara Yee 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford 2118 P: 9871 1633 www.sgcdbb.catholic.edu





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Gospel Acclamation 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life, you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

			AI	ieiuia!					
			WEEKENI	D MASSES					
Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm.								
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am								
			WEEKDA	Y MASSES					
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.			
EPPING	No Mass	12:15pm	6:00pm	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 (no Healing Mass in Jan.)								
EXPOSITION OF THE EU	CHARIST:	Epping Sat	turday 9:45-	10:15am,	Carlingfor	d , 4th Thurso	day 10:00am		
SACRAMENT OF RECONC Also, Epping Monday 6pm a	ILIATION: and Carling	Epping Sat ford Friday	turday 9:45- at 7:30pm	10:15am OR BY APP	Carlingford OINTMENT.	Saturday 5	5:00—5:30pm		
BAPTISMS AND WEDDIN	GS: BY A	PPOINTME	NT						
PARISH OFFICE: 29 Oxfore	d Street, Ep	ping NSW 21	l21 PH: 987	6 2853 En	nail: parish@	peppcarl.org.	.au		
ST GERARD MAJELLA'S P	RIMARY S	CHOOL: PH	1: 9871 163	3 Email:	sgc@dbb.cat	holic.edu.au			
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRI	STIANS' P	RIMARY SO	CHOOL: P	H: 9868 332	2 Email: o	lhc@dbb.catł	holic.edu.au		
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Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of Everlasting life. Grant that life to:

Recently deceased: Kathleen McFadden, Val Porter, Kath Rewhorn, Barry Clifford, Molly Sullivan.

Please pray for Maria Lombardo who died last week. The funeral Mass will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church on Monday at 10:30am

Anniversaries: Bernadette O'Brien, Barry O'Brien, Bernard Sullivan, Bill Kilby. **Also for:** Barry O'Brien Senior.

Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsya, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard, Stieger, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Margaret Floyd, Barbara Madafiglio, Radhi Riley, Patrick Thornton, Jan Doherty, Ana Matijasic, Benjamin Verco, Peter Kelly. John Goodwin, George Bell, Michael & Susan Tuite, Benjamin Verco, Noelene Viset, Eileen Brownlow, Leonie Hale, Elaine & Graham Yeates, Anne Kilby, Cohen Hadden, Yuqin Li, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Maureen Carlon, 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, Agnes Wong, Alex Benjamin Zaragoza, Janice Lemon, Mary Lou Petony, Donald Wong, Joyce Heidke, Eileen Nicoll.

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

