

Responsorial Psalm Response

Ps 102:1-4.8.10.12-13 R. v. 8

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Whoever keeps the word of Christ grows perfect in love of God.

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	9:30am	10:00am	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: Peter Baker (Son-in-law of Margaret & Gordon Floyd), Erna Fischer, Fr Denis Callahan, Dorothea Ellis, Dorothy Hullet (one of the founding members of St Gerard's), John Harold Bowring, Pam Paynter (Neville Wilkin's sister), Maria N T Dong, Carol Rodricks,

Anniversaries:

Also for: Ron Jenkins, Youhng Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Seo, Maria Hur, Doo Kwan Jin,

Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsys, Residents of Wesley Rayward Nursing Home, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, 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, Bev Aliprandi, Barbara Madafoglio, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Arnold Day, Maureen Carlon, Fr Adrian Borst, Augustine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Patricia Muschalik, Delma Soria, Sr Abanasia Lee, Maria Belisario, Stella, Edwards, Fara Vargas, Theo Stevens, Monica Weeden, Thomas Woodward, Wai Chun Wong, Heather Stoodley, Agnes Wong, Elizabeth Barton.

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

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.

After Hours Sick Calls— 9876 2853

Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Peter and Fr Bogdan 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.

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
29/02/20	5:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
01/03/20	8:30am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	7:45am	Fr Peter Dowd
01/03/20	10:15am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	9:30am	Fr Peter Dowd
01/03/20	6:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien		

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Our parish is strongly committed to ecumenism and a formal Covenant has been signed with the Anglican Parish of Epping, Epping Uniting Church, West Epping Uniting Church and Epping Baptist Church.

The 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 Bogdan Skupien****Ph.:** 9876 2853**Email:** Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au**Email:** parish@eppcarl.org.au**Parish Website:** www.bbcatholic.org.au/epppingcarlingford

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**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME****23-2-20****Leviticus 19:1-2.17-18****1 Corinthians 3:16-23****Matthew 5:38-48**

Dear brothers and sisters,

This weekend provides one of the highlights of our parish year as approximately thirty young people are participating in our parish Antioch weekend at Carlingford.

My special thanks to our Antioch Parent Support group and the wider parish for the various ways you are contributing to the weekend via donations of food, time, accommodation and most importantly your prayers!

Secondly, last weekend I drew your attention to our Parish Mission Statement which provides our focus as we move into 2020 and in particular the season of Lent which commences with Ash Wednesday this week:

"We gather for worship to serve and reach out to others as we grow in relationship with God and others". Put another way, we

- **Worship** together and share the Eucharist every Sunday.
- **Connect** with other parishioners both socially and pastorally.
- **Serve** in parish ministries which is an expression of your time, talent and capacity.
- **Give** as a command giver in accordance with your means.
- **Grow** as a disciple through faith development or some form of spiritual programme.

As we seek to spiritually "renovate" our parish and support everyone as **missionary disciples**, in recent years we have begun the **Alpha** series which commences again this week. This programme is open to everyone but especially to our new parishioners and anyone who may be interested in exploring the basics of our faith like Who is Jesus? What is life about? etc. as well as providing an opportunity for meeting and making connections with other parishioners. Each evening begins with a meal, offers insightful input on some aspect of faith and provides an opportunity for discussion.

It is not too late to sign up, so please register your name on the list near the entrances to the churches.

Finally, Lent commences with Ash Wednesday this Wednesday 25th and includes not only the above but also the opportunity to join on Tuesday evenings with our other local Christian churches in prayer as we prepare together for the feast of Easter. Please see this week's bulletin for more details.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and form us in the ways of the Gospel now and throughout 2020!

Fr Peter

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

Wednesday 26th February, is Ash Wednesday. Please be part of our Ash Wednesday celebration of Mass as we enter into the time of Lent:

Carlingford 9:30am Mass
We will be joined by the school

Carlingford 7:30pm evening Mass

Epping 9:15am Mass
We will be joined by the school

Epping 7:00pm evening Mass



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.



Alpha

What are your **questions**?

Who could I go with? Who could I invite? Will I fit in? What if I don't know anyone?

What is your **excuse**?

How could I find the time to go? If I was not at home or at work, what would happen?

What is **preventing you** from going?

How could I go when I feel stressed about going or I'm too busy? Is this really necessary? I'm OK about my life, most of the time!

I ask you. Take a deep breath and say **God if you are real in my life, reveal to me how I can go to Alpha?**

Come one night and see for yourself. Alpha is a safe place. You are most welcome this Tuesday evening at 7.

Come, join us for a meal.

See the movie, ~ "Is there more to life?"

Ask your questions and hear from those who have done Alpha.

Denis McNamara *for the Alpha team*

Lent is Special for us!

Ash Wednesday we remember we came from the earth and we return to the earth. In between, *how can we make them the most of it while above ground on the earth?* Lent is about making the most of our lives.

How can a Lenten Group help? You will learn from Jesus how he faced his death and showed us how to face what life asks of us. You will see Jesus in the events of the Gospels. You will hear from those who were witnesses to His resurrection.

Yes, you will be with a group who believe what Jesus said **When two or three of you gather in my name, there am I with them.** Mt 18:20

Join a Lenten group in a **parish meeting room** at Epping on a Thursday evening at 7.30 or at Carlingford on a Monday morning or the regular Friday morning scripture group. Both meet at 10.10 am.

Join a Lenten group in homes. Check the list at the entrance to the church. There are gatherings at Epping on a Thursday morning and evening, at Carlingford on a Thursday evening.

Form a Lenten Group. You can invite a few friends or neighbours and have a group where and when it is convenient for you. Let me know, so you can receive the DVD or USB with talks and music to go with the Lenten book

Do Lent in your home. If you cannot go to a group, Fr Peter offers you the gift of the Lenten book ~ **Be Opened** – *A journey to new life with reflections on the Sunday Gospels.* Pray as a family in your home. Copies are available at the entrance to the churches.

Do Lent on your phone. Also, you can do the Lenten program alone or while commuting. Download the APP with all you need. **Search Lent 2020 Be Opened**

Thank you to the Lenten Team who have helped prepare and promote Lenten Groups. I am grateful for your commitment in supporting Lenten Groups, so others can be blessed this Lent.

Denis McNamara

Supporting Disciples



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

OPEN MORNING
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2020

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9am – 11am

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olhcdbb.catholic.edu.au

St Gerard's
Open Day



Wednesday 11 March

9.15am – 11am

in the Hall



PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRE AND DROUGHT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Truth Justice and Healing Council
www.thecouncil.
org.au

Marriage Enrichment Weekend :

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THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, **(all bow)**
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

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Reflection on Sunday's Gospel—Love of Enemy as the Test of Orthodoxy

In a (2001) issue of America magazine, John Donahue makes this comment: "Virtually no Christian group has adopted Jesus' teaching on love of enemy as the critical test of orthodoxy. Yet Jesus issues four ringing commands: love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you."

That remark deserves to be highlighted, especially at a time when Christian circles are so painfully polarized and so many individuals and groups, from both the left and the right, are trying to impose on others their own view of what constitutes a true Christian.

For example, within conservative circles there is the perennial itch to draw very hard and clear lines in regards to what constitutes a genuine following of Christ. Some people are defined as real Christians and others are deemed to be in heresy, in error, or lacking in some essential of the faith. Some are seen as "in" and others are seen as "out". But who's "in" and who's "out" is generally judged along these lines; intellectual adherence to a very clearly defined set of creedal statements (about Jesus and the church); acceptance of a number of moral precepts to do with church-going, prayer, and private morality; and, in the neo-conservatism of many of today's young, a re-emphasis on canon law and rubrics as a test of one's catholicity.

Liberal circles, despite their protests, are generally no less dogmatic. For them, the critical test of what defines who's "in" and who's "out" generally has to do with social justice. Those who try to live the gospel demand for justice are understood as true followers of Jesus. The rest are seen as caught up in a distracting piety. How they apply this as the litmus-test for Christian orthodoxy might look different from what the conservatives do, since liberals aren't much into accusing others of heresy, but in terms of attitude, there is little to choose between the left and the right. Both are highly selective and exclusive as to whom they define as actually living the gospel. There is more commonality between liberals and conservatives than first meets the eye.

Sadly, what is too common to both circles is anger, accusation, a giving back in kind, and a not-so-subtle hatred of those who hold a different view. What one sees too little of (both in terms of actual practice as well as in terms of any kind of theoretical enshrinement of it as the guiding principle for Christian orthodoxy) is love of enemy, forgiveness, and compassion. One might also mention that very little humour emanates from either circle. What conservatives and liberals share today is certain grandiosity which makes them both believe that their causes are so cosmic and serious that all humour and playfulness are ex officio excluded. Thank God, both still drink wine; at least we haven't abandoned Jesus on this!

All of this can be said without in any way denigrating the critical importance of the issues that liberals and conservatives put so much energy into defending. The right is right in defending the importance of proper dogma and private morality, just as the left is correct in singling out justice as a central piece in Jesus' message. These things aren't politically correct—they are correct. Jesus, as we know, makes both private morality and social justice non-negotiable. Neither may be down-played. Likewise, as history has painfully taught us, bad dogma invariably makes for bad religion and intellectual heresies all too often become viral heresies that infect real life in bad ways. There is need for some clear and defining lines.

But in the end, the acid-test for Christian orthodoxy is something else, something more demanding, and something that lies closer to the heart of what is most unique and novel within Jesus, namely, his call to love our enemies, to not give back in kind, to wish good and do good to those who are unkind to us.

That is also the message that comes through in Jesus' death and resurrection. What is revealed in Jesus' death and resurrection? A number of things: God can be trusted, God delivers on hope, what's dead can be redeemed, dead bodies can come back from the grave (even physically), and God's patience and love are infinite and outlast all else.

All of that, the vindication of ancient hope, is revealed in Jesus' dying and rising. But the resurrection also has a startling new message. Because God can be absolutely trusted to love and redeem us, we need to love and forgive our enemies. We may not give back in kind, but must love those who hate us, bless those who curse us, and do good to those who do bad to us.

To love one's enemy is the acid-test of who's a Christian and who isn't. Everything else is an old tape, simply replaying itself over and over.

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.



National Catholic Safeguarding Standards: Leadership, monitoring & improvement
Standard 1 – Committed leadership, governance and culture
Key Elements of Standard 1:

- A commitment to Safeguarding
- Promoting a Safeguarding Culture
- Safeguarding Policies Code of Conduct

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
			Annual Catechist Commissioning at all Masses
Sun.	23/02/20		Antioch Outreach Weekend
		9:30am	NO Kidz Word at St Gerard's Church
		10:15am	Kidz Word at OLHC Church
		3:00pm	PH Epping—First Reconciliation Session 1
		7:00pm	NO Antioch meeting as the Antioch Weekend is on
Mon	24/02/20	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP meeting
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford Rosary Group
Tue.	25/02/20	12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
			followed by the burning of the palms
		7:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir Practice
Wed.	26/02/20	9:15am	School Mass Ash Wednesday at OLHC
		9:30am	School Mass Ash Wednesday at St Gerard's
		7:00pm	PMR Epping Lenten Group
		7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Mass at OLHC Church
		7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Mass at St Gerard's Church
Thur.	27/02/20	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		3:30pm	PMR Carlingford First Reconciliation Session 2
		7:30pm	Staff Room RCIA Meeting
Fri.	28/02/20	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:10am	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford Cana Youth Group
Sat.	29/02/20	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:20am	Benediction
		3:00pm	PH Carlingford First Reconciliation Session 2
		5:00pm	Vigil Mass at OLHC Church
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church
		6:00pm	Vigil Mass at St Gerard's Church

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

LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES

A reminder that we will again have a weekly Ecumenical Service each **Tuesday evening of Lent at 7:45pm. Everyone is welcome!**

The dates and venues are as follows:

Date	Church	Preacher
03/3	Epping Uniting Church	Rev. Peter Dowd
10/3	OLHC Church	Rev. Paul Weaver
17/3	St Alban's Anglican Church	Rev. Howard Bennett
24/3	Epping Baptist Church	Rev. Tammy Hollands
31/3	West Epping Uniting Church	Rev. Greg Woolnough

PARISH STAFF

Parish Secretary:
Dennis Porteous Ph.: 9876 2853
Email: dennis@eppcarl.org.au

Asst. Parish Secretary:
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Sacramental Programme Assistant:
Lisha Abraham
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Missionary Discipleship Coordinator:
Denis McNamara
Ph.: 0410 041 944
Email: denis.mcnamara@eppcarl.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council
If you have any questions, comments or feedback for the Parish Pastoral Council then please send an email to ppsecretary@eppcarl.org.au

Friday 6 March is World Day of Prayer

A day when Christian men and women from more than 150 countries around the world come together to pray for reconciliation, ecumenism and a closer understanding. It is a beautiful service of harmony between churches. This year the program has been prepared by the people in **Zimbabwe with the focus - "Rise! Take your mat and walk!"**.

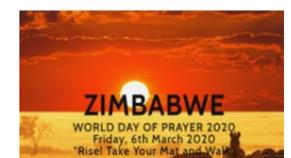
You are invited to please come and join with our neighbouring churches at:

**St Albans Anglican Church ,
Pembroke Street, Epping
at 10.30 am
on Friday 6 March**

The speaker will be Mr Derych Schreuder who was born in South Africa.

There will a cuppa after the service but we ask you bring your own sandwich for lunch please.

Please let me know if you would like a lift – Lorraine 9872 4005





Children's Sacramental Journey First Reconciliation 2020

Preparation sessions for First Reconciliation has begun this week. Candidates are required to attend a session once a week with their parent over 4 weeks for preparation of this sacrament. The four sessions are on:

1. God's Love
2. Choices
3. Forgiveness
4. My First Reconciliation

This week, the groups discuss what God's love is. Where do we experience God's love? How do we return that love? This session teaches the children that God is always there, ever loving, ever gentle and unchanging, even when we have turned away. The children also learn that effort is required on their part, for God always forgives a contrite heart that leans on Him for strength to do better next time.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read The Loving Father (also known as The Prodigal Son) where the father in the story represents God's unconditional love: what a beautiful gift and source of strength this is in our lives!

We also touch on the Ten Commandments with an exciting account from the bible on how it came about and that the Commandments represent something very great: how to love God and others.

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.

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

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

Be brave and invite someone to Alpha.

Be missionary in sharing your faith. Offer them the Business card with the links to the website. They can find out about Alpha and where to go.

How else will they hear?

If not now, when will you invite someone to Alpha?

If you are not going to invite, who is going to?

So pick up a few business cards at the entrance to the church to take with you.

Denis McNamara
Supporting Missionary Disciples to be Missionary!



Ceremony of Burning Palms for Ash Wednesday

A single celebration of the burning of palms for our two communities will take place on **Tuesday 25th February**. The ceremony will take place **after the 12:15 pm Mass at Epping**. Apologies for the wrong date in last week's bulletin.

We invite parishioners from both our communities to bring their old palms.

Thank You

to the 2 Men from the Dad's group who mowed and tidied up around St Gerard's church and presbytery on Friday 14th February. Well Done!!

COMBINED LITURGICAL MUSIC GROUP MEETINGS

The next meeting for the Liturgical Music Groups will be held on **Thursday 5th March** in the PMR Carlingford commencing at 7:30pm. Fr Peter has asked for two members of each music group to attend the meeting please.



SERRA VOCATIONS MASS AND DINNER MEETING

Father Vincent Nguyen, Assistant Priest at the Cathedral Parish will be celebrating Mass for Serra at Sacred Heart Church, 2 Richard Porter Way Pymble on **Thursday 27th February 2020**.

The evening commences with Mass at **6.30PM** followed by a light meal and a short meeting.

Following the meeting we will be viewing a Lenten video presentation by Bishop Robert Barron titled "Mercy at the Cathedral".

Everyone is welcome. Please "come and see".

Please remember to pray every day for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, the consecrated life, ecclesial women, all seminarians and novices and for the perseverance of existing vocations.

Please telephone: Terry Scanlan on **0438 887 295** or email terry_scanlan@bigpond.com if you would like to attend.

Fighting for Life Conference

A 2-day conference Hosted by Parousia Media, in partnership with the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, addressing pro-life issues with keynote presenters Trent Horn, Bishop Richard Umbers and Raymond de Souza.

Date: Friday 6 March & Saturday 7 March 2020

Time: 9.00am to 4.00pm (both days)

Venue: The Epping Club, 45-47 Rawson Street, Epping (upstairs in the Grand Ballroom)

Cost: Free entry, donations appreciated.

Registrations are essential at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/fighting-for-life-conference-6th-7th-march-2020-epping-nsw-tickets-94066723101>

Youth Page

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

Next Sunday 1st March, there will be a BBQ at St Gerard's, commencing at 5pm for a 5:30pm start. If you are Yr.10 to 22years of age, We would love to see you.



For more information call
Joanne 0416 030 927



Pray For Cheltenham Girls' and Epping Boys' High Schools

A group of people from local churches meets together for one hour, once a term, to pray for Cheltenham Girls' and Epping Boys' High Schools. We would love more people to join us in supporting the students and staff of these schools by praying for them. Please join us on Thursday 27th February from 8-9pm at 9 Gloucester Road Epping. We will finish promptly. Enquiries: Katrina Collins 0400 488 459 / ckjsqe@gmail.com

Reflection on the readings

Who is God? And How are we meant to live like our God?

After the Healing Mass, one 'senior citizen' said "My faith in God keeps me going... keeps me hopeful. There is always plenty to smile about. God is good and we can be good for each other and ... I'm going home to a **God of love**".

Can you believe it? God is giving us very clear directions on how to live our lives, so we live with "freedom" by following his commands. We live according to our purpose and our lives are on target to hit the "bull's eye".

These two go together ~ *Who is God? And How are we meant to live like our God?*

In the first reading we hear what God said to Moses: ***I your God am holy***. How are we to live? You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. ***You must love your neighbour as yourself.*** (Lev 19:18)

Who is God? We say this response in the Psalm ~ *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

How are we to live? Paul told the Corinthians "The temple of God is sacred; and you (the community) are that temple. (1 Cor 3:16) The Alleluia is very encouraging, ***Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God.*** (1 Jn 2:5)

Then Matthew in his Gospel tell us what Jesus says to us, his followers. *I say to you, love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.* (Who is our God?) ***Your heavenly Father is perfect.*** (How are we to live?) ***You must be perfect just as your heavenly Father is.***

This week you can learn much more about "Who God is." You can discover "How we are meant to live." You are invited to "meet your neighbours and get to know them". You will grow in your faith in God *who is love* and grow as a disciple. You can live your life by loving yourself and loving your neighbour. You will come to realise God is loving you. Come and join us and realise ***we are God's temple*** and ***the Holy Spirit is living among us.***

Come to Alpha

and discover there is more to life! Or
Join a Lenten Group or do Lent in your home
and discover who is Jesus

Denis McNamara
Disciples

Supporting parishioners to become

CANA: OUR Yr. 7-9 YOUTH GROUP

If you're in Years 7-9 come along for a night Jam-packed with FUN & FAITH EVERY FRIDAY night of the School Term. 7:30 pm—9:00 pm In the Carlingford parish hall.

It's a great place to catch up with old friends
And meet some new ones.

Please remember that a small donation when you come along to the meeting would really help out with the costs of the night. Thanks ☺

All enquiries to Joanna 0404 710 588



Spiritual Childhood, Sainthood: St Therese of Lisieux and her Parents

Did you know that the relics of one of the great Carmelite saints, St Therese of Lisieux (also known as The Little Flower) and her parents, Saints Louis and Zelie, will be coming to Corpus Christi Parish, St Ives on Thursday 5 March?

Br Adalbert Imperial OCD (a Carmelite seminarian) will introduce us to them in his talk, *Spiritual Childhood, Sainthood*. We hope you will join us. Refreshments will be provided.

Date: Friday 28 February, 2020

Time: 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Location: Corpus Christi St Ives, Parish Hall.

Please RSVP at <http://tiny.cc/LittleFlower> for catering purposes

Positions Vacant

Parish Secretary—32.5 hours per week
Frenchs Forest Parish

Faith Formation Team Leader - Full Time
Parish of St Agatha's, Pennant Hills

Parish Administrative & Sacramental Programs
Coordinator—21 hrs per week
The Lakes Parish

For more information see Notice Boards at each of our churches.

Australian Catholic University, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, is offering a short course in March over 4 weeks, with a focus on the Plenary Council.

The theme 'Envisioning the Church of the Future: Themes of the Plenary Council' will include sessions: Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal; Humble, Healing and Merciful; Prayerful and Eucharistic; Missionary and Evangelising.