

Responsorial Psalm Response The Lord upholds my life.	Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel; to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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: Margaret Cooke (nee Feld), David Boulton, Louise Carey.

Anniversaries: Ivan Almeida,

Also for: Roger and Jean-Claude Nina, Edith Almeida.

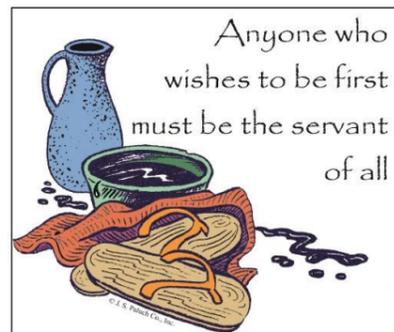
Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsya, Residents of Wesley Rayward Nursing Home, Rose Prior, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Amy, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, 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, 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, Robert Carroll.

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

**Celebrations this Week—
25th Week in Ordinary Time**

Thursday—Memoria, St. Vincent de Paul,
Saturday—Feast, Sts. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
29/09/18	5:00pm	Fr Joey Frez	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
30/09/18	8:30am	Fr Peter Dowd	7:45am	Fr Joey Frez
30/08/18	10:15am	Fr David Ranson	9:30am	Fr Joey Frez
		Fr Peter Dowd		
30/09/18	6:00pm	Fr Joey Frez		



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

**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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 23-9-18

Wisdom 2:12.17-20 James 3:16-4:3 Mark 9:30-37

Dear Parishioners,

At all Masses this weekend we will see a brief video clip featuring Archbishop Tim Costelloe explaining the upcoming 2020 Plenary Council and the process which will be used in the lead-up to the Council. As you may be aware The **Plenary Council 2020** is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future. We are invited to gather together as local communities, with the Holy Spirit in our midst, and listen and speak about God's dream for our Church.

Your voice is important! You are invited to contribute and share your story to the Plenary Council agenda in coming weeks. You will be encouraged to speak boldly and with passion about your unique experience of faith and of the Church and to listen to others with an open and humble heart. In the coming weeks there will be opportunities provided in the parish for you to gather with your friends, parish community, family etc. to pray, talk and listen to one another. Your responses will then be submitted online.

In particular, we would like parishioners to come together in groups where possible to listen and share their insights and experiences. However, where this is not possible especially for those who are housebound you are still encouraged to make a personal response to the question, "what do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" More information on how this can be done will be given over the coming weeks.

Finally as mentioned a couple of weeks ago Parramatta Council has placed our DA for the proposed

development of our Epping site on public exhibition where neighbours are given the opportunity to comment on the application.

Any comments made are then considered against the relevant planning controls.

As you know, as a parish we have had six parish forums and have tried to involve as many people as possible in the process of imagining the future of our Epping site. My hope is that what we do here at OLHC Epping will not only benefit the parish but the wider community of Epping also given the amount of time and consultation we have undertaken in recent years it would be beneficial if Council received submissions in support of our application.

If you would like to make such a submission the DA reference is **DA/586/2018** and all submissions need to be submitted by 25th September.

Also, there are available some reflection points which may assist you near the entrances to each of our Churches.

Please feel free to take one with you to assist in your response to Council.

As always we continue to keep all our parish initiatives in our prayers especially our new season of Alpha which begins on 26th September.

Fr Peter

Safeguarding— September is Safeguarding month.

We will be kept safe by ADULTS who...

TELL us about dangers
– and what's being
done to protect us



COMMUNITIES OF SAFETY AND CARE

We will be kept safe by ADULTS who...

SEE what other
adults are doing,
and how they are
behaving



COMMUNITIES OF SAFETY AND CARE

Plenary Council 2020 Bulletin Notice Week 1



Plenary Council 2020

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

talk and listen to one another. Your responses will then be submitted online.

The **Plenary Council 2020** is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future. We are invited to gather together as local communities, with the Holy Spirit in our midst, and listen and speak about God's dream for our Church.

Your voice is important! You are invited to contribute and share your story to the Plenary Council agenda in the next few weeks. You will be encouraged to speak boldly and with passion about your unique experience of faith and of the Church and to listen to others with an open and humble heart. In the coming weeks there will be opportunities provided in the parish for you to gather with your friends, parish community, family etc. to pray, talk and listen to one another. Your responses will then be submitted online.

explore
life
faith
meaning



ALPHA begins here in our parish on Wednesday, 26th September in the Parish Hall at Epping. Commencing at 7:30pm. Entry via Cambridge Street and parking in the school grounds.

ALPHA



"There's been a gnawing pain in my heart and soul about what is the meaning of life. What's my role in it?" Mr Hayden said. At the age of 85, and after a lifetime as a declared atheist, former Labour leader and governor-general Bill Hayden has been baptised as a Catholic. "This took too long. From this day forward, I'm going to vouch for God." Source *The Catholic Leader*
The Priest who baptised him said "There was no denying for him that God is real and he had come to discover that."
Discover how God is real for you. Join us at Alpha. You do not have to wait till you are 85.

Please invite someone to Alpha. Do you see someone new to our parish at Mass? They may have been sitting where you always sit! They may be looking around. You might walk with them to the carpark. Say hello and ask them if they would like to meet people in the parish. There is a meal at 7pm this Wednesday evening for people to meet neighbours. Encourage them to go. You could also offer to go with them and share the meal!
We look forward to seeing you over a hot dinner.

Ask the Holy Spirit to draw people to our parish community, so they can discover Jesus. Please pray for people to receive the loving and healing presence of Jesus in their lives and in your own life. This week the Alpha question is "Who is Jesus?"

You can also fill in the "Sign in page" to come to Alpha. These are at the back of the church. You can put it in the box or contact Maree at the parish office on

See you this Wednesday evening.
Denis McNamara

Sunday 30th September 10:15am Mass

To the induction of Martino our Seminarian into the ministry of Lector by Fr David Ranson, Diocesan, Administrator of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

Martino is currently studying for the priesthood at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd Homebush. The Seminarian at the end of the second year petitions for and if accepted receives the Ministry as Lector. This calls them to be servants of the Living Word of God.

If you are planning on coming along to the morning tea afterwards, could you help by bringing a plate of food to share. Thank you your help is much appreciated.

(For further explanation on the role of Lector see page 5)



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.

AFTER HOURS SICK CALLS—9876 2853

Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Peter and Fr Joey at home. In the event that they are unavailable, their answering machines will record your message or ring the number given in the message. However, if possible please restrict routine enquiries to office hours.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

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

POSITION VACANT

Facilities & WHS Officer - Pennant Hills—Full-time

We are seeking an experienced Facilities & WHS Officer to provide facilities management and expertise in maintaining Diocesan assets as well as coordinating and managing Chancery and Parish WHS responsibilities. As the successful candidate you will meet the following selection criteria:

If you are interested in applying for this position, please **apply online** or via recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au and include a **cover letter**, **statement as to the selection criteria** (which explains how you meet the requirements of this role) and a **current CV**. Applications close **4pm on Friday, 26 October 2018**.

Please note that the successful candidate may be required to undergo pre-employment screening.

For the Love of God Encore Screenings

For the Love of God: How the church is better and worse than you ever imagined, a documentary by the Centre for Public Christianity, confronts the worst of what Christians have done - and also traces the origins of Western values like human rights, charity, humility, and non-violence back to the influence of Jesus. The film is showing at Events Cinemas **Hornsby** on Wednesday **26 September 2018** at 7:00pm; and **Avoca Beach** Picture Theatre on Monday 29 October at 7:00pm.

Further information at: <https://www.publicchristianity.org/documentary-screenings/>

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.

ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

A reminder that if you are admitted to hospital, please try to ensure that you write down your religion as Catholic on the admission form, so that you can receive Catholic services during your stay.

HAVE YOU TOLD US? If you have recently changed your address, phone number or email. For parishioners who give by credit card, does your credit card expire in the near future? Please give the parish office a call on 9876 2853 if you have received a new credit card and/or a new expiry date.



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Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel—The Struggle To Love Our Neighbor

"The most damaging idolatry is not the golden calf but enmity against the other." The renowned anthropologist, Rene Girard, wrote that and its truth is not easily admitted. Most of us like to believe that we are mature and big-hearted and that we do love our neighbors and are free of enmity towards others. But is this so?

In our more honest, more accurately perhaps, in our more humble moments, I think that all of us admit that we don't really love others in the way that Jesus asked. We don't turn the other cheek. We don't really love our enemies. We don't wish good to those who wish us harm. We don't bless those who curse us. And we don't genuinely forgive those who murder our loved ones. We are decent, good-hearted persons, but persons whose heaven is still too-predicated on needing an emotional vindication in the face of anyone or anything that opposes us. We can be fair, we can be just, but we don't yet love the way Jesus asked us to, that is, so that our love goes out to both those who love us and to those who hate us. We still struggle, mightily, mostly unsuccessfully, to wish our enemies well.

But for most of us who like to believe ourselves mature that battle remains hidden, mostly from ourselves. We tend to feel that we are loving and forgiving because, essentially, we are well-intentioned, sincere, and able to believe and say all the right things; but there's another part of us that isn't nearly so noble. The Irish Jesuit, Michael Paul Gallagher, (who died a short time ago and will be dearly missed) put this well when he wrote: "You probably don't hate anyone, but you can be paralyzed by daily negatives. Mini-prejudices and knee-jerk judgments can produce a mood of undeclared war. Across barbed wire fences, invisible bullets fly" (Into Extra Time). Loving the other as oneself, he submits, is for most of us an impossible uphill climb.

*We can be fair,
we can be just,
but we don't yet
love the way
Jesus asked us
to.*

So where does that leave us? Serving out a life-sentence of mediocrity and hypocrisy? Professing to loving our enemies but not doing it? How can we profess to be Christians when, if we are honest, we have to admit that we are not measuring up to the litmus-test of Christian discipleship, namely, loving and forgiving our enemies?

Perhaps we are not as bad as we think we are. If we are still struggling, we are still healthy. In making us, it seems, God factored in human complexity, human weakness, and how growing into deeper love is a life-long journey. What can look like hypocrisy from the outside can in fact be a pilgrimage, a Camino walk, when seen within a fuller light of patience and understanding.

Thomas Aquinas, in speaking about union and intimacy, makes this important distinction. He differentiates between being in union with something or somebody in actuality and being in union with that someone or something through desire. This has many applications but, applied in this case; it means that sometimes the heart can go somewhere only through desire rather than in actuality. We can believe in the right things and want the right things and still not be able to bring our hearts onside. One example of this is what the old catechisms (in their unique wisdom) used to call "imperfect contrition," that is, the notion that if you have done something wrong that you know is wrong and that you know that you should feel sorry for, but you can't in fact feel sorry for, then if you can wish that you could feel sorry, that's contrition enough, not perfect, but enough. It's the best you can do and it puts you at the right place at the level of desire, not a perfect place, but one better than its alternative.

And that "imperfect" place does more for us than simply providing the minimal standard of contrition needed for forgiveness. More importantly it accords rightful dignity to whom and to what we have hurt.

Reflecting on our inability to genuinely love our neighbor, Marilynne Robinson submits that, even in our failure to live up to what Jesus asks of us, if we are struggling honestly, there is some virtue. She argues this way: Freud said that we cannot love our neighbor as ourselves, and no doubt this is true. But since we accept the reality that lies behind the commandment, that our neighbor is as worthy of love as ourselves, then in our very attempt to act on Jesus' demand we are acknowledging that our neighbor is worthy of love even if, at that this point in our lives, we are too weak to provide it.

And that's the crucial point: In continuing to struggle, despite our failures, to live up to the Jesus' great commandment of love we acknowledge the dignity inherent in our enemies, acknowledge that they are worthy of love, and acknowledge our own shortcoming. That's "imperfect" of course, but, I suspect, Thomas Aquinas would say it's a start!

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.

Catholic HealthCare

Catholic Healthcare is a service provider of retirement living units, residential homes and Community in-home services. The in-home services provided by Catholic Community Services assist people to live at home longer, by providing the care they need through government-funded, home care support programs. We can assist you to navigate the My Aged Care system to review your eligibility for government support. Services can provide personal care, in-home respite, social support, shopping, transport to medical appointments, domestic assistance, meals preparation and a range of health and wellness services that improve mobility and physical wellbeing, as well as pastoral care for spiritual and emotional wellbeing. Please see brochures placed at the back of the Church for contact information and details of the services, or contact us directly on 1300 319 011 or 1800 225 474 and we will be happy to assist you.

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	23/09/18	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word at St Gerard's
		10:15am	Liturgy of the Word at OLHC
		7:00pm	PMR Epping—Antioch Meeting
Mon.	24/09/18	9:00am	PH Epping—Little Engines Playgroup
		9:30am	PH Carlingford—Gerry's Playgroup
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's
		7:30pm	St Gerard's Church—Rosary Group
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP meeting
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
Tue.	25/09/18	7:00pm	St Gerard's Church—Adult Choir practice
		8:00pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet—See page 4
		9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
Wed.	26/09/18	9:30am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		10:10am	St Gerard's School—Grade Mass Yr. 6
		10:15am	OLHC Class Mass Yr. 3
Thur.	27/09/18	7:00pm	PH Epping Alpha Sessions begin
		9:30am	St Gerard's Mass—including whole school and No Exposition and Benediction
		10:15am	OLHC K2 Liturgy in the hall
Fri.	28/09/18	12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians
		7:00pm	PH Epping Growing in Faith
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
Sat.	29/09/18	10:00am	PMR Carlingford—Scripture Reflection
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA Group
		9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians
		9:45am	Exposition and Benediction
		10:15am	Benediction
		5:00pm	Vigil Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians
		5:00pm	Reconciliation
		6:00pm	Vigil Mass at St Gerard's

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

Supporting the Parish Financially

We thank all those who currently contribute to the support of our parish financially.

However, if you don't currently have Weekly Envelopes or arrangements for periodical contributions could we invite you to consider one of the following methods of contributing.

The Parish Giving Programme consists of

- * weekly Envelopes;
- * periodically either quarterly, half-yearly or yearly;
- * monthly via Credit Card;
- * monthly via your Bank Account (we will provide you with a form to sign to authorise a Direct Debit contribution).

Please visit the Parish Office or ring on 9876 2853 or email: dennis@eppcarl.org.au

PARISH STAFF

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

Asst. Parish Secretary
Maree Balzulat Ph.: 9876 2853
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Pastoral Care Assistant
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Email: maree@eppcarl.org.au

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



Broken Bay Diocesan Central Council Festive Mass

A Vincentian Family Celebration
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
23 Yardley Avenue, Waitara

7:00pm Thursday 27th September 2018

RSVP (02) 9495 8300 or email
william.wachsmann@vinnies.org.au



A weekend camp of Mass, talks, good food, bush walks, archery, sports and prayer for young men who are seeking an adventure and a deep exploration of their spiritual life.
Cost: \$75

RSVP: by Friday 28 September 2018
Online registration: <http://www.vocationcentre.org.au/events/srodowisko-vocations-camp-for-men-2018/>
For more information contact us at:
vocationcentre.org.au | Ph: (02) 9307 8424
Email: vocations@sydneycatholic.org

Children's Sacramental Journey – After Confirmation

Dear Parents,

With the formalities over, we hope you will find a little time and space to celebrate your parental efforts in some delightful way. You certainly deserve it!

Of course, like parenting itself, your faith journey with your child continues beyond the programme. We acknowledge that, like all parenting, it can be very hard work, but also a joy and an extraordinary privilege.

Things to keep working on in the home environment to help your child 'grow' into this sacrament:

Be attentive to the power of the Holy Spirit at work, the fruits and the gifts, all around you. They enjoyed that session very much; don't let that time be forgotten!

Affirm your child's gifts and call him/her forth as a servant of God. There are many things they can do for others that can make a difference to others.

Practise home rituals: e.g., family prayer, grace at meals, scripture reading, Catholic symbols in the home.

Take your child shopping at a Christian/Catholic shop to buy a few special things to set up a prayer space. A trip to Hot Dollar for some candles could be fun, as is getting coloured ribbons to decorate according to the church's liturgical calendar i.e. green for Ordinary Time, gold, purple, red and pink!

Send me an email to come and see me so your child can get his/her dove, Confirmation name tag and the Wishing-Tree fruit décor back to be placed in a special treasure box or corner at home.

Bring your child to Sunday Mass and encourage their involvement in our parish community. E.g. Children's Liturgy (Kidz Word), Children's Mass and our children's choir.

In all this, we pray that you and your family will experience the Lord's peace and joy. Enjoy the ongoing adventure!

Adapted from "Confirmation" published by Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay

Lynn Siau
Children's Sacramental Co-ordinator
0407 255 593
kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

CLASS MASS Yr. 3 Class Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' School, Epping this **Wednesday 26th September** at **10:15am**. All class families are welcome!

INFANTS LITURGY There will be an Infants Liturgy at Our Lady Help of Christians School, **this Thursday, 27th September** at **10:15am** in the hall. All class families are welcome.!

GRADE MASS Yr. 6 Grade Mass this **Wednesday 26th September** at 10:10am at St Gerard's. All class families are welcome!

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

meets this **Tuesday, 25th September** at **8pm**. Come join us for an hour of reciting the Chaplet, praise and worship, reflection of a Scriptures verse, prayer for intentions and thanksgiving followed by some simple fellowship.

Venue changes monthly within the neighbourhoods, all are very welcome to attend, please call Cynthia for more info on 0404 488 238.



Alpha Masterclasses

"Masterclasses" are an opportunity for Alpha Teams from the parishes of our Diocese to meet and exchange ideas and experiences of Alpha with each other for mutual support and networking. There will be opportunities to ask questions about all aspects of Alpha, and to look ahead to planning for great Alphas in the new year by drawing on best practice in running and sustaining Alpha as an initiative of evangelisation. Presented by: Lorraine McCarthy, Alpha in a Catholic Context Coordinator in Australia

Date: Tuesday 30 October 2018

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Venue: Caroline Chisholm Centre, Building 2, 423 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills



Our Lady Help of Christians annual fundraising event, the Epping Twilight Market, is approaching fast. Please "save the date" to this magical evening on Friday 9th November from 5pm–9pm.

St. Vincent de Paul "Shop till you Drop" Bargain Bus Day is happening again this year on Saturday 27th October. Could all money be in by next Friday 28th September, as the bus has to be paid for. 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.



Year of Youth 2018

CANA 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, 7:30pm - 9pm. In the Parish Hall @ Carlingford**

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 to the meeting would really help out with the costs of the night. Thanks.

Ring Ashleigh for any further information
0430 120 015



Lectors

The history of Lectors in the Roman Catholic Church.

The word "lector" is derived from the Latin word for "reader." The lector ministry dates back to the beginning of Church history, when educated laymen were called upon to proclaim the Word in the liturgical services. According to the New Advent Catholic Encyclopaedia, "the first mention of a Christian liturgical reader is by Justin Martyr (d. about 165AD) in 1 Apol., lxvii, 3, 4. The homily known as "il Clem. ad Corinthios" also contains a reference to a lector, anaginoskon (xix, 1). The position of reader was honourable and dignified. It involved a higher standard of education than that of most offices. Although Justin says that the bishop preached the sermon, it appears that the reader himself often went on to expound what he had read. As the idea obtained that a special blessing and dedication should be given to everyone who performs an office for the Church, the reader too was instituted by prayers and some ceremony. Readers were blessed and set apart..."Eventually this responsibility became one of the minor orders, conferred on those preparing for the priesthood. Prior to Vatican II, the Church recognised 4 minor orders (later renamed "ministries") beneath priests: lectors, exorcist, acolyte, and porter, as well as subdeaconates. Those who filled these positions were actually preparing To be priests.

Vatican II called for a revision of sacraments because almost no one served in the "minor orders," saying the following about lectors: "Readers exercise a genuine liturgical function. They ought to discharge their office therefore, with the sincere devotion and decorum by so exalted a ministry and rightly expected of them by God's people. Consequently, they must be deeply imbued with the spirit of liturgy, in the measure of proper to each one. And they must be trained to perform functions in a correct and orderly manner." Pope Paul the VI deemed that readers and acolytes would be those preparing for the diaconate, although he made it clear that readers could be ordinary lay persons instituted to be lectors.

The Apostolic letter Ministries quaedam of 15 August 1972 (in effect from Jan. 1, 1973) decreed that minor orders were to be called ministries, and that lay persons could be lectors and acolytes.

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY:

This Sunday 23rd September

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 7pm, in the Parish meeting room @ Epping

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

The lector role was also defined as proclaiming the readings from sacred Scripture, except for the gospel in the Mass and other sacred celebrations; reciting the psalm between the readings when there is no psalmist, presenting the intentions for the general intercessions in the absence of a deacon or cantor; directing the singing and the participation by the faithful; instructing the faithful for the worthy reception of the sacraments, and preparing other faithful who are appointed on a temporary basis to read the scriptures in liturgical celebrations.

The General Intercessions of the Roman Missal states the following about lay lectors:

In the absence of an instituted lector, other laypersons may be commissioned to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scriptures. They should be truly suited to perform this function and should receive careful preparation, so that the faithful by listening to the readings from the sacred texts may develop in their hearts a warm and living love for Sacred Scripture." They should be truly suited to perform this function and should receive careful preparation, so that the faithful by listening to the readings from the sacred texts may develop in their hearts a warm and living love for Sacred Scriptures."

Finally, it is the practice of some Eastern Orthodox churches to tonsure (shave the hair from the top part of the skull) their lector trainees just prior to ordination. Thankfully the Roman Catholic Church does not follow that practice!

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