

<b>Responsorial Psalm Response</b> The Lord is kind and merciful.		<b>Gospel Acclamation</b> <b>Alleluia, alleluia!</b> I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. <b>Alleluia!</b>					
<b><u>WEEKEND MASSES</u></b>							
<b>Epping</b>	<b>5pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm</b>						
<b>Carlingford</b>	<b>6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am</b>						
<b><u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u></b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thur</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	
<b>EPPING</b>	No Mass	12:15pm	9:15am	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am	
<b>CARLINGFORD</b>	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	
<b>HEALING MASS</b>	<b>Carlingford</b> —1st Thursday, <b>Epping</b> — 3rd Wednesday						
<b>EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST:</b> <b>Epping</b> Saturday 9:45-10:15am, <b>Carlingford</b> , 4th Thursday 10:00am							
<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:</b> <b>Epping</b> Saturday 9:45-10:15am <b>Carlingford</b> Saturday 5:00—5:30pm <b>OR BY APPOINTMENT</b>							
<b>BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: BY APPOINTMENT</b>							
<b>PARISH OFFICE:</b> 29 Oxford Street, Epping NSW 2121 <b>PH:</b> 9876 2853 <b>Email:</b> parish@eppcarl.org.au							
<b>ST GERARD MAJELLA PRIMARY SCHOOL:</b> <b>PH:</b> 9871 1633 <b>Email:</b> sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au							
<b>OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTANS PRIMARY SCHOOL:</b> <b>PH:</b> 9868 3322 <b>Email:</b> olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au							
<b>Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of Everlasting life. Grant that life to:</b>							
<b>Recently deceased:</b> Seah Khung Img (Auntie of Lynn Siau), Mieke Van Werdt, Alicia Doyle, Bruce Laird, Peter Laird, Jose August da Rosa, Tammie Birch, Brian Walsh.							
<b>Anniversaries:</b> Jose Jr.							
<b>Also for:</b> Hugh Mulligan & John Anthony Martin,							
<b>Please pray for those who are sick:</b> 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, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Ron Jenkins, Dorothea Ellis, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Walter Souhrada, Stephen Last, Kathy Noonan, 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, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Kath McCarthy, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Joyce Fewtrell, Patricia Muschalik, Ernest Lau, Delma Soria, Sn Atanasia Lee, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave, Fara Vargas, Kathy Walsh, Theo Stevens.							
<i>Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.</i>							

### Our Parish Playgroup

**Carlingford:** Gerry's Playgroup meets on a Monday (during school term) at 9:30am in the parish hall.

For further information please contact Lisa Snow on 0413 666 007 or email lisasnow@optusnet.com.au

**Epping:** Little Engines Playgroup at Epping has not yet commenced for 2019. More information to come.



Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
02/03/19	5:00pm	Fr Joey Frez	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
03/03/19	8:30am	Fr Joey Frez	7:45am	Fr Peter Dowd
03/03/19	10:15am	Fr Joey Frez	9:30am	Fr Peter Dowd
03/03/19	6:00pm			

**SORRY WE'LL BE CLOSED!**

The Parish Office will be closed on **Wednesday 27th February**.

This is due to staff attending an all day workshop at the Diocese of Broken Bay.

## The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford Diocese of Broken Bay

### Our Lady Help of Christians' Church

31 Oxford Street, Epping and

### St Gerard Majella Church

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

**Parish Priest:** Fr Peter Dowd,

**Ph.:** 9876 2853

**Email:** peter@eppcarl.org.au

**Parish Office:** 02 9876 2853

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Joey Frez

**Ph.:** 9872 3400

**Email:** joseph@eppcarl.org.au

**Email:** parish@eppcarl.org.au

**Parish Website:** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford)

**Welcome to our Parish of Epping and Carlingford** consisting of our two worshipping communities of St Gerard Majella's at Carlingford and Our Lady Help of Christians at Epping. If you are new to the area or visiting today we are glad that you are with us, and we hope that our celebrations of the Eucharist together will provide both nourishment and challenge on your Christian journey.

### YEAR C

### SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**24-02-19**

**Samuel 26:2.7-9.12-13.22-23**

**1 Corinthians 15:45-49**

**Luke 6:27-38**

Dear Parishioners,

Firstly, my apologies to everyone that the new parish website wasn't available last weekend! A communication error on my part meant that the website hadn't 'gone live' as planned.

So it is now with great delight that I can announce that we have launched the new parish website!

As mentioned last weekend, one of the key priorities in the Parish Pastoral Plan for 2018-2019 was the modernisation and updating of the parish website. In order to access the new parish website please go to [www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford). We have also now redirected the previous URL to the new address.

The modernised website is simple and easy to use across various device forms with quick access to key information and the latest news from the parish.

Once again I would like to thank all who volunteered their time and skills to revamp and modernise our parish website. In particular, I would like to offer a heartfelt 'thank you' to **Mark Stanton** and **Siby Joseph** who contributed their talents and many long hours of hard work in ensuring that we now have an important tool for spreading the "Good News" of Jesus Christ within this part of God's vineyard and beyond. We would also appreciate your feedback on the new parish site, as, with any website, it is in constant need of updating and renewal.

Secondly, with Ash Wednesday just over a week away, I once again extend an invitation to **ALL** parishioners to consider being part of this experience of faith and parish community in 2019. One day a week for six weeks is the commitment being asked of you and we will do everything possible to find a time and venue which suits your schedule. Please find registration forms in the seats and return them to the boxes at the entrances to the church or the parish office.

Finally, we welcome again **Joanna Mak** our new youth minister who will be speaking briefly at all Masses at Epping this weekend. As has been the tradition in the past, you have an opportunity to financially support her work by contributing via the envelopes in the seats and placing your contribution with any of the two collections. Many thanks to all those who have already contributed to this appeal!

*Fr Peter*



The 'Light is On' is an exciting initiative this year for Lent that seeks to welcome people to our churches for quiet time, prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Churches around the Diocese will be open on **Friday evenings in Lent, 8, 15, 22 & 29 March, and 5, 12 April**. The 'Light is On' will be here at the **Epping and Carlingford Parish**.

The opportunity for Reconciliation will occur after the Stations of the Cross at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church, Epping each Friday as shown above.

**Times: 6:30pm -7:00pm Stations of the Cross**  
**7:00pm—8:00pm Quiet time & Reconciliation**

### LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES

A reminder that we will again have a weekly Ecumenical Service each Tuesday evening of Lent at 7:45pm. Please note the dates in your diary and help to make the Lenten season of renewal a time of building the bridges of Christian unity.

The programme will be as follows: **Tuesdays @ 7:45pm**

Date	Church	Preacher
<b>12 Mar.</b>	St Alban's Anglican Church	Fr Peter Dowd
<b>19 Mar.</b>	St Gerard's Catholic Church	Rev Greg Woolnough
<b>26 Mar.</b>	Epping Baptist Church	Bishop Ross Nicholson
<b>2 Apr.</b>	West Epping Uniting Church	Rev Paul Weaver
<b>9 Apr.</b>	Epping Uniting Church	Preacher from Epping Baptist Church

### 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.

### February 2019 Safeguarding Message

A culture of Safeguarding values COMPASSION....."Finally all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart and a humble mind" - 1 Peter 3:8

### Are You Listening?

Lenten groups can be a special experience,

of **being** with Jesus in an event in His life or, of **hearing** Jesus tell us one of his famous parables.

Did you hear that "Married at First Sight" is the most popular TV show in Australia and especially for young women? It is about people longing for love and believing it will happen at first sight. According to a *Media Watch* report, many of the people on the show end up regretting the experience and suffer emotional illness.

It is so popular because our lives are about relationships; being connected, respected. We often hope that our loneliness will be healed by love or we fear that we will end up in despair without friend or carer feeling life has been cruel to us.

However, there is no short cut to the challenge of friendship. Finding a friend, building a friendship takes time. Committing to your dearest friend for love, for life and for ever is what matters.

Becoming a friend of Jesus and discovering his love takes time too. Those who want to grow in friendship and understanding of Jesus can take a step or another step here at Epping and Carlingford by joining a parish Lenten Group.

Lent is the time we focus on Jesus.

We follow his footsteps. We watch, we listen and so often we are moved by being in his company. We become curious. We wonder and begin to hope. We want to respond and find words to express our feeling and awareness.

When we share this, we grow in friendship with Jesus and we also experience his presence among us in those around us and within us. Our focus is on Jesus fosters our friendship with him and with his friends.

To grow in friendship and follow Jesus to his Resurrection on Easter Sunday, Fr Peter invites you to consider being part of our Lenten Reflection Programme. Please fill in the form, which can be found on the seats in the church, and tell us where and when you can attend.

### 2019 World Day of Prayer

**Friday, 1st March 2019 commencing at 10:30am West Epping Uniting Church**

(Cnr. Carlingford Road and Orchard Street, Epping)

The Service - "Come - Everything Is Ready"- has been prepared by the women of Slovenia (a small country, 1/3 the size Tasmania). Slovenia gained its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 and today is a member of the EU and NATO.

*You are invited to bring a sandwich and share fellowship in a/c church hall at the conclusion of service. Tea, coffee and slice will be available. Everyone invited. Any enquiries can be made to Lorraine 9872 4005*

While many people have received an invitation by email, your personal invitation to a friend or neighbour and especially to someone near you at Mass could make a great difference in their life.

Remember how Jesus began. *I say this to you who are listening.* Perhaps some of us may have missed it. If recently you think you may have been distracted and not really heard Jesus talking to you personally, then perhaps our Lenten programme is where you may experience what it means *'to be listening to Jesus.'*

*Dennis McNamara- Missionary Discipleship Coordinator*

### Hosts and Leaders for Lenten Groups

If you have a spare chair in your Lenten Group, please ask someone at Mass you have not met before, to join you.

At the Masses next weekend you will receive the Lenten books and CDs for your group **"Compassion—Reflection, Sharing, Living the Good News."**

*Dennis McNamara—Missionary Discipleship Coordinator*

### Ceremony of Burning Palms for Ash Wednesday



It has been an ancient custom of our Church that ashes for Ash Wednesday are prepared by burning remaining palms from the celebration of the previous year's Palm Sunday. There is a powerful symbolism in this:

In the first place it is a symbol of the ongoing cycle of the celebrations of our salvation – each Lent and Easter is connected to the one preceding it.

But more importantly the palms represent the hollow welcome and honour that greeted Jesus on that first Palm Sunday. They are a symbol in a way of the futility that often would accompany ambition for worldly glory. The honour that Jesus received on the Palm Sunday rapidly became his rejection on Good Friday. The burning of the palms to produce the ashes that mark our Lenten commitment therefore can be a symbol of trying to let go of whatever is empty and hollow, lacking in depth and nobility, and re-committing ourselves to what is of depth and of lasting value.

A single celebration of the burning of palms for our two communities will take place on **Tuesday 5th March**. The ceremony will take place **after the 12:15pm Mass at Epping**. At the conclusion of Mass we will process outside where the palms will be burnt with a prayer so that they may then be prepared for our Ash Wednesday celebrations the following morning. We would invite anyone from both our communities who would like to take part to bring your palm from last year to be burnt in this celebration of preparation for Lent.

### 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.**

### 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.

**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.

### 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.

### 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.

### The Truth Justice and Healing Council

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

### 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.

Please keep our  
Seminarians  
in your Prayers:

Martino Huang  
Aldrin Valdehueva



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## Shaping the Pope's sexual abuse summit

This week the presidents of bishops conferences and representatives of religious congregations around the world will meet in Rome. Pope Francis called them there to reflect on the sexual abuse of children and to come to one mind in recognising its importance and responding to it. The meeting has aroused much discussion, most of it skeptical, about whether it will achieve anything. To understand and evaluate the meeting, we should keep in mind its background and the different groups that have a particular interest in it.

The first and most important group comprises the people whose lives have been devastated by the crimes of sexual abuse by people who held responsible positions in the Catholic Church. They include above all the direct victims whose subsequent lives have often remained blighted, but also the relatives, friends, fellow parishioners and school mates of people who were abused and Catholics whose faith was eroded.

They will hope, many against hope, that the meeting helps make children safe in the Catholic Church, more aware of the debt it owes people who were abused, and that offenders are brought to justice. To ensure that the meeting focuses on people who have been abused, Francis asked the participants to meet with them beforehand.

The second group comprises the Catholics in such nations as the United States, Ireland and Australia where the extent of abuse has been most publicised and its effects on the Catholic life most damaging. There the crisis of sexual abuse has metastasised, beginning with a focus on the perpetrators and victims. This brought the Catholic Church into disrepute and alienated a generation of Catholics.

The crisis then moved to focus on bishops and others who covered up the crimes, allowing abusers to re-offend. As a result of this bishops lost *a priori* credibility among Catholics as well as others when speaking about any personal or public moral issue. That was seen in public debate about same sex marriage and in the demand for criminal cases to be brought against bishops. The focus has more recently moved to the place of the Catholic Church in society, to the supervision the state should have over its activities, and to whether its financial and other privileges should be retained.

In the United States the most recent symbol of bishops' bad behaviour and the ineptitude of the Catholic Church in dealing with it is Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. Over many years he was promoted to high office despite reports made to United States bishops and to Rome of him behaving to say the least imprudently with seminarians. More recently he has been accused of earlier sexual abuse of children.

Embarrassed by their lack of jurisdiction to investigate charges made against their fellow bishops, the United States bishops in the November 2018 meeting proposed to institute a process. But the Roman Curia, which has yet to deliver on its promise to disclose the details of its dealings with McCarrick's case, requested that they delay until the coming meeting was held in Rome. Most bishops in the United States and other similarly placed nations will surely hope that the meeting opens the way quickly to a transparent and effective system of episcopal accountability.

"This debate has also affected Francis' reputation. Like Catholics generally and bishops in particular, he has been stained by the mud of the sexual abuse crisis."

The third group comprises bishops from churches where there are very few known cases of sexual abuse of children, either because they do not happen or because they are not reported. Many of these churches are preoccupied with other major problems — famine, for example, religious persecution or civil war. Some regard the sexual abuse of children as a malady of the west, and they may come to the meeting wanting some flexibility in the priority they give to it and in the procedures by which they deal with it.

The fourth group is a group of one: Francis. He emphasises the collegial aspect of his position, seeing himself as entrusted with the role of strengthening his fellow bishops in lived faith. In calling representatives of the bishops conferences to Rome to deal with an issue facing the whole Catholic Church he is clearly acting collegially. In his responsibility he also has the right to intervene in the life of local churches when bishops cannot or do not act rightly, as he has done most notably in Chile over the cover up of sexual abuse.

Francis has already spelled out what he wants from the meeting. In the words of his spokesperson, he hopes that 'when the bishops who will come to Rome have returned to their countries and their dioceses that they understand the laws to be applied and that they take the necessary steps to prevent abuse, to care for the victims and to make sure that no case is covered up or buried'.

The final group will not be present at the meeting but will colour the way it is reported and publicly received. They are the interested Catholics who will have a range of hopes and agendas for the Catholic Church. Most influential in shaping the reporting of Church business are the participants in the polarised debate about Francis' vision of the Catholic Church.

In his speeches and symbolic actions he has consistently softened boundaries between Pope and Church, clergy and laity, Catholics and non-Catholics, and between Church issues and public issues. He has also emphasised discernment over commandment, dialogue over confrontation, flexibility over rigidity, and the public living of the Gospel over defining it. His critics, who include some cardinals, argue that these approaches lead to a diluted faith, to a church indistinguishable in its operative beliefs and practices from secular society, and the loss of the symbols and patterns of relationship that constitute a distinctive tradition.

Where this debate has been politicised, the sexual abuse crisis is seen through partisan eyes. Prominent bishops accused of abuse or of covering it up are excoriated, defended or not mentioned, depending on whether they are seen to support or be critical of Francis' approach to the Church.

This debate has also affected Francis' reputation. Like Catholics generally and bishops in particular, he has been stained by the mud of the sexual abuse crisis. His association with people who have later been accused of covering up abuse and his slowness in orchestrating a concerted and energetic response by Roman officials to the sexual abuse crisis have been criticised. His critics, particularly a former apostolic nuncio to the United States Archbishop Carlo Viganò, have highlighted his alleged failures in order to discredit his papacy.

Although this debate is marginal to the meeting, and indeed to the Catholic Church, it will colour many people's perception and so the public response to the meeting. It is to be hoped that the meeting itself will have a tighter focus on the people who have been abused, and a broader focus on the shaping of a Church in which children will be safeguarded and crimes of abuse and cover-up at all levels will be publicised and punished.

*Andrew Hamilton consulting editor of Eureka Street—Article 18th February 2019*

## PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	24/02/19		Youth Minister speaking at all Masses at Epping
		9:30am	Liturgy of the Word—Kidz Word at Carlingford
		10:15am	Liturgy of the Word—Kidz Word at Epping
		12:00pm	Baptisms at St Gerard's Church
		12:00pm	Baptisms at Our Lady Help of Christians Church
		3:00pm	PH Epping First Reconciliation Session 1
		7:00pm	PMR Epping Antioch Meeting
Mon	25/02/19	9:30pm	PH Carlingford Gerry's Playgroup
		9:30pm	Until further notice NO Little Engines Playgroup
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP meeting
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford Rosary Group
Tue.	26/02/19	12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
Wed.	27/02/19	9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		7:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir Group practice
		7:00pm	CH Epping Adult Choir—Cyril Tumminello & Choir
		7:30pm	PMF Epping Parish Finance Committee Meeting
Thur.	28/02/19	9:30pm	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church followed by</b>
		10:00am	<b>Exposition and Benediction</b>
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
.		3:30pm	PMR Carlingford First Reconciliation Session 2
		5:30pm	Diocesan School Staff Mass—Waitara
Fri.	01/03/19	9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:00am	PMR Carlingford Scripture Reflection
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		4:30pm	CH Epping Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA Youth Group
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford Dads' Club
Sat.	02/03/19	9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
		3:00pm	PH Carlingford First Reconciliation Session 2
		5:00pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's
		6:00pm	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>

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

## PARISH STAFF

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**Missionary Discipleship Coordinator:**  
**Denis McNamara**  
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## THE SEASON OF LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday falls on

### Wednesday 6th March.

Please be part of our Ash Wednesday celebrations at Mass as we enter into the time of Lent:

### Epping

**9:15am (we will be joined by the OLHC Primary School for this Mass).**  
**7: 00pm Evening Mass**

### Carlingford

**9:30am (we will be joined by St Gerard's School for this Mass).**  
**7:30pm Evening Mass**



*Invitation to*  
**St Gerard's Open Day**

**Wednesday 13 March 9.15am—11am**  
**School Hall**



**Our Lady Help of Christians' Catholic Primary School**  
**8 Cambridge Street, Epping**



**Open Day**  
**Wednesday 13th March**  
**9:00am—11:00am**

Meet the Principal,  
Dominique O'Sullivan  
Phone 9868 3322





### Children's Sacramental Journey - First Reconciliation 2019

Preparation sessions for First Reconciliation will begin 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 aims to teach the children that God is always there, ever loving, ever gentle and unchanging, even when we have turned away. The children learn how God shows His love through people in situations that occur in everyday life.

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.

Upon completion of the four sessions, Candidates will celebrate their First Reconciliation in our parish on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

We always like to hear from you and look forward to building a fruitful relationship! If you have any queries or would like more information regarding your child's sacramental journey within our parish, please feel free to send an email to [kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au)

### Children's Mass - Carlingford

There will be a Children's Mass at 9:30am at St Gerard's Church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

The children can be involved in hospitality, readings, prayers and processions. We invite your children to participate!

Please email [lynn@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:lynn@eppcarl.org.au) for more information



**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!



### Children's Liturgy of the Word - 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

This week at both churches, Kidz Word will explore Choices and Forgiveness. It isn't easy when others push to not push back. It isn't easy to walk away from a fight, but that is the best way to act when we are bullied or in danger, for when we forgive others God forgives us. The children will be looking at ways they can do their best to act kindly, especially when loving another is difficult.

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

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

Lynn Siau  
Sacramental Programmes  
& Children's Ministries  
0407 255 593  
[lynn@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:lynn@eppcarl.org.au)



**PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE** will meet **this Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February**, in the parish meeting room at Epping commencing at 7:30pm.

**Dads' Club** The monthly gathering of the parish Dads' Club (for all dads in both the Epping and Carlingford communities of the parish) takes place this **Friday 1st March** at 7:30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

For details contact Tim Paxton 9945 0151. Dads welcome for a relaxing and enjoyable evening.

### BEYOND OUR PARISH

#### Catalyst for Renewal Reflection Morning

Our reflection mornings for 2019 will be returning to Hunters Hill on **Saturday 2nd March**. The mornings commence at 9:30am and conclude at 12:30pm.

**Fr Michael Whelan sm** will lead our reflection.

His topic/theme: **'Living is epiphanic'**. Our venue is the parish hall of Hunters Hill, corner of Gladesville Road and Mary Street. All are most welcome. No need to book. We do appreciate a donation.

Tea & Coffee provided. A time to be still. Enquiries: Carole Wilson 9869 1036. *'Come and See'*.

## Youth Page

### CANA: OUR yrs. 6-9 YOUTH GROUP



**Cana is on this Friday,  
1st March from 7:30-9pm  
in the St Gerard's Parish Hall.**

Anyone between year 6 to 9 is welcome to come and bring a friend or two!

If you have any questions,  
please contact  
Joanna Mak on

[joanna@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:joanna@eppcarl.org.au) or 0423 717 550.

### Can You Help??

"Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, Epping in May 2017 we located much of the unknown as well as known history, very early documents and treasured instruments of the church which we assembled and wrote about in "A Paddock out the Back". Everyone who attended that celebration was thrilled.

With the coming changes in Epping generally and the site of our Church and school we need to sort through and assemble much of the material which led to our display and published history. By properly assembling and protecting these historical documents and pieces they can remain as treasures and be passed on to future generations.

Please, are there any historians, lovers of history, parishioners generally who would be interested in assisting - sorting, collating, record keeping the materials we located and now have stored relating to our interesting history. Collating and properly storing at this stage means our history is passed on to future generations. Being part of a team saving and storing history is far more exciting to those doing it as well as to later generations than being told that it took up too much space and was disposed of. Much of Australia's history has been lost that way.

Please think about this and telephone your interest in joining a group:

**If you are able to assist, please contact the parish office on 9876 2853 or email [maree@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:maree@eppcarl.org.au)**

### NEW PARISH WEBSITE:

[www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford)



### OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY This Sunday 24th February

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 (4th Sunday of the month),**  
so head on down and bring a friend.

All young people from Yr. 10 to age 22  
are **VERY WELCOME!**

**For more information  
Joanne—0416 030 927**

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



### BEYOND OUR PARISH

#### Choir for the Rite of Election and Chrism Mass

Singers and Musicians from across the Diocese are warmly invited to lead the congregation in prayerful song at Our Lady of the Rosary, Waitara for the following diocesan events:

**Rite of Election**—10th March 2019 (Sunday)  
Rehearsal on the day in the Cathedral from 12:45pm for 2:00pm ceremony start.

**Chrism Mass 2019** — 16th April 2019 (Tuesday)  
Rehearsal on the day in the Cathedral from 6:00pm for 7:30pm Mass start. (*Supper provided*)  
Run sheet will be sent out closer to the date.

**RSVP** to ensure we have enough seats and music/hymn books for everyone. [cathedral@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:cathedral@bbcatholic.org.au) and The subject line type "CHOIR RSVP"

#### Join Us for a conversation with Fr Frank Brennan S.J., A.O.

Discussing a number of important issues facing the Church at this critical time in our history as well as sharing his insights on various social justice topics.

**When:** Sunday, 3rd March from 2:30pm to 5:15pm

**Where:** St Brigid's Hall in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre, First Floor, above Holy Family Catholic, 2 Highfield Road, Lindfield (lift access inside foyer of church).

**Bookings:** [www.trybooking.com/468555](http://www.trybooking.com/468555)  
Entry by gold coin donation

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[bettyockerlander@mcgrath.com.au](mailto:bettyockerlander@mcgrath.com.au)  
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