

Responsorial Psalm Response The Lord is kind and merciful.		Gospel Acclamation Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!					
<u>WEEKEND MASSES</u>							
Epping	5pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm						
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am						
<u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u>	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: Brian Walsh, Fr Leo Donnelly, Pat Tay, Rolands L'Olive,							
Anniversaries: Wendy Slattery, Jeanne D'Moriaf, George Kain, Roger & Jean-Claude Nina, Marian Scully,							
Also for: Maria Hur, Youhg Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Youhg Seok Seo, Soo Woog Jin.							
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, 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, Alice Eng Peck Quah, Dorothy Bonocorso, 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, Sr 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>							



Carlingford Conference

VINNIES CLOTHING DRIVE

Saturday, 30th March 2019 from 8:30am

All clothing and bric-a-brac Collected from our parish
Collect bags and **PRINT** Your name, address & phone number
(courtyard of St Gerard's Church)

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
30/03/19	5:00pm	Fr Joey Frez	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
31/03/19	8:30am	Fr Joey Frez	7:45am	Fr Peter Dowd
31/03/19	10:15am	Fr Joey Frez	9:30am	Fr Peter Dowd
31/03/19	6:00pm	Fr Joey Frez		

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The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford Diocese of Broken Bay

Our Lady Help of Christians' Church

31 Oxford Street, Epping and

St Gerard Majella Church

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Dowd,

Ph.: 9876 2853

Email: peter@eppcarl.org.au

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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

24-03-19

Exodus 3:1-8.13-15

Corinthians 10:1-6.10-12

Luke 13:1-9

Dear Parishioners,

Firstly, congratulations to all those who celebrated their First Reconciliation (Confession) this weekend. In particular, I thank the parents, facilitators, parish office staff and of course our wonderful Sacramental Co-ordinators, Lynn and Marcella for the tremendous way they organised and supported our young people in recent weeks as they prepare for this Sacramental of God's mercy. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated!

Secondly, this weekend at all Masses, representatives of the Parish Pastoral Council will give an update on what areas our Pastoral Plan will be focusing on this year. The purpose of such updates is to keep the wider parish informed on future priorities and upcoming events as well as getting your feedback which can be given via the parish office or at the PPC email address, ppcsecretary@eppcarl.org.au in the parish bulletin (see p. 3).

Thirdly, speaking of our parish plan, one area identified for a particular focus this year is "Developing and supporting parish Liturgical Ministries." The ministries identified are those of reader, serving, music, and hospitality.

The first of such ministries that we will focus on is the ministry of reader (Lector). The lector proclaims God's Word at Mass in such a way that God becomes present in the hearts and lives of God's people.

I would like everyone to consider whether God may be calling you to serve as a reader (lector) at Mass for your brothers and sisters. All the necessary training and preparation will be provided.

If you would like to assist or find out more about this ministry could you leave your name and contact details on the sheet of paper entitled "Ministry of Reader" near the main entrances to each of our Churches or email me directly at peter@eppcarl.org.au.

May God continue to bless all those involved in our ministries of service throughout the course of this year!

Fr Peter

DELAY TO THE OLHC SITE DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL RELOCATION

School Relocation to St Agatha's – December 2020 to the end of Term 1 2022

Dear parishioners and all parents of OLHC school Epping, as you would be aware, we originally anticipated the school would be temporarily relocated from December of this year (2019). However, due to delays in the planning approvals process, this date will be now be postponed for 12 months.

Since the development application (**DA**) was lodged last year, several factors have delayed the approvals process. These relate predominately to both the City of Parramatta Council and Transport for NSW requesting more information as well as some proposed amendments to the design.

Rather than disrupt the life of the school midway or throughout a school year, after very careful consideration it has been determined that we should allow a full 12 month delay to resolve the remaining issues.

This means the new temporary relocation dates to St Agatha's will now be from December 2020 until the end of Term 1 2022.

We appreciate your understanding and want you to know that together with Stockland, we are working hard to ensure the best outcome for our parish generally and in particular our parish school at Epping. We understand this could create uncertainty for parents, which is why we are telling you now - to give you as much notice as possible. We will continue to keep everyone informed throughout this process.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, we are holding an information evening for parents and all interested parishioners on:

Wednesday, 27th March at 7:30pm in the parish hall at Our Lady Help of Christians, Epping.
We hope you can join us.

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.

March 2019 Safeguarding Message

A culture of Safeguarding values SERVANT LEADERSHIP....."Like good stewards of the manifold of grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." - 1 Peter 4:10

2019 EASTER VIGIL CHOIR

We will once again celebrate the Easter Vigil 2019 as one parish at St Gerard's Church, Carlingford on Holy Saturday 20th April at 7:00pm.

We would like to invite parishioners from both churches to join our Parish Easter Vigil Choir to celebrate this most important Mass of the year.

Practices at St Gerard's Church at 7:30pm:
Wednesdays—27/3, 10/04 & 17/4

Rehearsal at St Gerard's Church at 2:00pm
Saturday 13th April (TBC)

Parking at the rear of the Church.

To indicate your interest, please email
Elizabeth on dneasti@optusnet.com.au
Fran on francunneen@optusnet.com.au



Be part of this special music group to celebrate this pinnacle point of our liturgical calendar!

Stations of the Cross—Fridays

Stations of the Cross will commence at 6:30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church, Epping. The Stations of the Cross will continue each Friday during Lent.



'The Light is On for You' will begin at 7:00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Epping. This is an exciting initiative for Lent, that seeks to welcome people to our churches in the Diocese for quiet time, prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This initiative will continue each Friday night at Epping during Lent.

Palm Sunday at Epping An Ecumenical Entry to Holy Week



We will gather together with the community from St Alban's Anglican Church and Epping Uniting Church for a common blessing of palms, before our principal Sunday morning celebration of Palm Sunday, 14th April.

The arrangements will be, that we will gather at 10:15am for the blessing of palms in the grounds of Our Lady Help of Christians' Church; after the blessing, we will then move out into Cambridge Street, processing up Oxford Street to our own church for the celebration of Mass.

Members of the St Gerard's community who would like to be part of this ecumenical entry into Holy Week are of course welcome to come to Epping that day. Palm Sunday is the threshold to Holy Week and this gathering will give us a wonderful opportunity to come together to begin that most sacred time of our common Church year.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS—GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

For Holy Thursday we would again like to create a beautiful 'Garden of Gethsemane' around the Altar of Repose for both our communities. To do this we need a loan of lots (and lots) of medium and large pot plants (or LARGE cuttings from trees if you're doing some pruning). They can be dropped off to:

Carlingford Hall – Please place plants/cuttings inside the hall or just outside the main door before 10am on Thursday morning (18th April).

Epping—Parish Meeting Room on Wednesday night 17th April (take inside the PMR) or before 10am on Holy Thursday 18th April (take inside the PMR). Pot plants can be collected again on Good Friday. We also need helpers on Holy Thursday 18th April to set up the 'Garden of Gethsemane': at Epping at 10am (in the Parish Meeting Room) and at Carlingford at 12 noon (in the hall) Please don't leave it to others – but come along and give a hand. Looking forward to celebrating Easter together

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! Please help to make the Lenten session of renewal a time for building bridges of Christian unity.

26/3 **Epping Baptist Church**
Cnr Ray & Carlingford Rds, Epping.
Preacher: Bishop Ross Nicholson

2/4 **West Epping Uniting Church**
Cnr Orchard & Carlingford Rds, Epping
Preacher: Rev Paul Weaver

9/4 **Epping Uniting Church**
Cnr Chester & Oxford Sts, Epping
Preacher: Epping Baptist Church



Lenten Ecumenical Service at St Gerard's last Tuesday. Please be part of next Tuesday's Service at Epping Baptist Church.

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.

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

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

Praying with St John of the Cross

6th April: 10:00 am – 4:00pm

Cost: \$30 (please remember to bring your lunch). Pick-ups from Minto train station at 930am and 1000am. Presenter: Barbara Stenning OCDS

"For well I know the spring that flows and runs although all is night."

Finding life and joy in today's world: A retreat using worship from Taizé

12th April – 14th April.

Cost: \$300 (concessions apply)
Facilitated by Annemarie Nichol

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it"

Holy week and Easter

17th April – 21st April

Cost: \$500 (concessions apply)
Presenters: Carmelite Team

The Carmelite Community at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville invites you to come, prepare and celebrate with us the Most Holy Triduum of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. The retreat begins with dinner on Wednesday 17 April and concludes after morning Mass on Easter Sunday, 21 April.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – relationship enrichment for married couples
26th – 28th April at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW
Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or

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 to support the students, staff, chaplains and Scripture program. Please join us on Thursday 4 April from 8-9pm at 9 Gloucester Road Epping. We will finish promptly. Enquiries: Katrina Collins 0400 488 459 / ckjsge@gmail.com

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, *[all bow.]*
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

21 CHAPTERS OF JOHN IN 21 DAYS

CHALLENGE YOURSELF BY READING A CHAPTER A DAY, OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN.

A FEW MINUTES EACH DAY
TO LISTEN OR READ USING
YOUR SMARTPHONE OR
BIBLE.



REFLECT ON THE READING



SHARE YOUR REFLECTION
IN WHATSAPP



STARTS 23 MARCH 2019
ENDS 13 APRIL 2019

TO JOIN TEXT '21' TO
0435 031 848 (LEON)



CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION Email Denis McNamara at
denis.mcnamara@eppcar.org.au

The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford
Diocese of Broken Bay

This Saturday you can read Chapter 1 of John's Gospel and join the challenge of reading 21 Chapters in 21 days. This Sunday you can join the groups and read 2 chapters. Join us. Just SMS '21' to 0435 031 848

If you need a copy of John's Gospel, you can receive one from the sacristy. It fits into a pocket or purse.

Denis McNamara
Missionary Discipleship
Co-ordinator



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Reflection on this Sundays Gospel: An Angry Savior?

In the Gospel for Sunday, Jesus, sounds angry and threatening and we must talk about that.

"If you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" "The tower at Siloam fell on them"; "Cut down the fig tree," etc. Is the loving Lord we have known actually furious and offended?

Let us look.

News comes to Jesus that Pilate has murdered a number of Galilean people. Still worse, Pilate has mixed their blood with that of sacrificed animals. Such a gruesome story is worthy of denunciation.

Instead Jesus draws a point from it:

Do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means!
But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!

What is the logic here? It seems you don't have to murder people in order to get punished. You can qualify just by failing to repent!

So, is Jesus truly an angry savior? Angry in the same way people think that God was in the Old Testament? Unforgiving, warlike, furious, demanding an infinite sacrifice to make up for humankind's sins against an infinite God?*

But when we look at the First Reading, we do not find an irate God at all. Instead, we find a tender one, grieving over the troubles of his people.

I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them.

Lovely. God instructs Moses about how to rescue the people. Great compassion from the depths of the transcendent God.

Didn't Jesus have the same kind of compassion for his own people? Yes. He gives a parable in the second half of the Gospel that might help us understand:

An orchard owner orders his gardener to chop down a sadly unproductive fig tree. The gardener advises him to leave it one more year and see if, with some tending, it will bear fruit. Give it one more chance.

Who does the heartless orchard owner represent? We always assume that it is God. We half-remember the story in Mt 21:18-19 of Jesus actually cursing a fruitless fig tree.

But here, on the contrary, Jesus is not the orchard owner at all, but the gardener, asking mercy for the disobedient fig tree!

When he warns the people that they will perish if they don't repent, he is shouting at all of us to turn back to God in order to avoid destruction! He is "startling the poor sheep back" from the edge of the cliff (to paraphrase Hopkins, the poet**).

You and I are the sheep.

There is still reason to fear God, of course, since he is infinite and infinitely more fiery than the burning bush. But the closer you come to the center of God, the more your fear turns to gratitude. You are not scalded or consumed by the divine fire—you are warmed and gentled at its welcoming hearth.***

Jesus' tough love leads us to that hearth.

John Foley, SJ

* There was a character called an "apteryx (a wingless bird with hairy feathers)" in the American comic strip "BC." One day it made a nasty comment to the snake. The snake answered, "How can you treat a fellow creature with such disdain?" The bird replied, "I read the Old Testament, buddy."

** From The Wreck of the Deutschland, by Gerard Manley Hopkins:

Finger of a tender of, O of a feathery delicacy, the breast of the Maiden could obey so, be a bell to, ring of it, and Startle the poor sheep back!
is the shipwreck then a harvest,
does tempest carry the grain for thee?

***For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil" (John 3: 16 ff).

Father Foley can be reached at: Fr. John Foley, SJ Facebook Twitter Email
Fr. John Foley, SJ, is a composer and scholar at Saint Louis University.

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The closer you come to the center of God, the more your fear turns to gratitude.

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	24/03/19		PPC speaking at all Masses
		9:30am	Kidz Word at St Gerard's Church
		10:15am	Kidz Word at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		2:00pm	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group—Chinese Group
		7:00pm	PMR Epping—Antioch Meeting
Mon	25/03/19	9:00am	No Little Engines Group at the moment
		9:30am	PH Carlingford Gerry's Playgroup
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:15am	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP Conference Meeting
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford—Rosary Group
Tue.	26/03/19	12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		5:00pm	CH Epping—Antioch practice for Good Friday
		7:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir Practice
		7:45pm	Lenten Ecumenical Service—Baptist Church Epping
		8:00pm	Divine Mercy Prayer Group see p. 4
Wed.	27/03/19	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:00am	PMR Epping Lenten Group
		11:30am	St Gerard's School—Reconciliation 5B
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford—Easter Vigil Practice
		7:30pm	PH Epping Delay to the OLHC Development Site and School Relocation
Thur.	28/03/19	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:00am	followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		7:00pm	PMR Epping Lenten Group
		7:00pm	PMR Carlingford Antioch Lenten Group
		7:30pm	Rm 2 RCIA Lenten Group
Fri.	29/03/19	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:10am	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		4:30pm	CH Epping Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		6:30pm	The Light is On—Stations & Reconciliation
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA Group
Sat.	30/03/19	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
		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			

THE PARISH WEBSITE www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford contains a complete directory of parish life and downloads of important documents.

PARISH STAFF

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

Asst. Parish Secretary:
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Pastoral Care Assistant:
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Parish Support Worker (PSW) Sacramental Programmes and Children's Ministries
Lynn Siau
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Sacramental Programme Assistant:
Marcella Letteri
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Pastoral Support Worker (PSW) Youth:
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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 ppcsecretary@eppcarl.org.au and a member of the council will get back to you.

Discernment Evenings

Every Christian has a vocation, a special invitation from God to become holy and whole, to walk a unique, earthly path that leads ultimately to heaven. Samuel Group participants are encouraged to bring their unique questions, desires, strengths and weaknesses to God, and to learn to respond to His loving voice.

This discernment event is for young adults, who meet together once a month in order to pray, ask questions and discover their individual vocations or lifetime call from God.

We invite you to set aside a few hours on Wednesday evening 27th March in order to learn more about God and yourself and investigate your vocation, a special call from God, to leave a mark in this world.

Date: 27 March, 29 May, 24 July, 18 September, 20 November.

Time: 5:30 – 7:30

Where: Holy Name Parish, 5 Billyard Ave Wahroonga- The Priory





Children's Sacramental Journey - First Reconciliation 2019

Congratulations to the following children who have completed their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our parish:

Jacob Africa, Danielle Agostino, Massimo Agostino, Sophie Andrews, Amelia Aquilina, Alana Aquilina, Nathaniel Basha, Oliver Brown, Poppy Brown, Isabella Butts, Annabelle Cairns, William Carroll, Joshua Corsiatto, Annabel Cullen, Aaron Donohoe, Timothy Doyle, Naomi Fernandes, Reuben Fernandes, Sally Fidler, Isaac Flanagan, Zac Forster, Noah Foster, Lachlan Frost, Eva Galati, Leon Galati, Anton Galati, Porsha Gill, Phoebe Greville, Cooper Hajinakitas, Samuel Hanna, Connor Hays, Jaden Hendricks, Giancarlo Ibarra, Febby James, Rebecca Jensen, Daniel Jeral, Janice Jeral, Cody Jones, Marissa Joseph, Chrissa Joseph, Reuben Joseph, Jamie Kastelan, Charlotte Keller, Emilie Klimkeit, Xavier Leung, Liana Madeleine, Ethan Mareath, Darcy McNicholas, Marcus Miranda, Dia Miranda, Antoine Moujalli, Elyse Nguyen, Nicholas Nuvoli, Yumin Oh, Zara Palfrey, Chloe Perry, Jessica Pham, Noah Pinto, Chloe Raad, Michael Saba, Raul Saldanha, Anneka Salgado, Christian Sam, Nigel Sathesh, Samantha Sia, Mackinley Simpson, Jerome Solomonides, Ari Sun, Samuel Taggart, Audrey Tedja, William Tedja, Jacob Terrel, Shievon Thasanthan, George Thomas, Leo Turco, Cara Turco, Cayleigh Twohill, Caitlin Wallis, Clare Wang, Brodie White, Darcy Wytenburg and Alex Zeitoun.

The parish would very much like to thank the parents and carers, our Catholic School Principals, Mrs. Barbara Yee and Miss Dominique O'Sullivan, teachers, catechists and facilitators who have helped these children prepare for Reconciliation. A special thank-you also to our sacristans, music ministry and those who operated the Power-Point presentation, for their assistance with the liturgies.

First Eucharist 2019

Enrolment for First Eucharist is now open and will close on Sunday 31st March. In our Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, undergone preparation for Reconciliation and who are currently in Year 3 or above are invited to enrol.

Our Sacramental Programme is advertised through the parish website, bulletins, announcements at Mass, both parish school newsletters, catechists and word-of-mouth. If you know of anyone who may wish to enrol their children, please feel free to spread the word for us. Enrolment brochure, information and forms are available at the back of both Churches. Alternatively, please feel free to email us and we will forward you an Enrolment Pack.

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 send an email to kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 3rd Sunday of Lent

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, Kidz Word celebrates that God always gives us a second chance. There is One who loves each of us very much, always patiently waiting, encouraging us and giving us what we need. God also wants us to care for and encourage one another so everyone is always given a chance to grow into the kind of people God has called us to be.

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 We look forward to hearing from you!



Children's Mass - Carlingford

There will be a Children's Mass at 9:30am at St. Gerard's Church, Carlingford on Sunday 7th April.

The children can be involved in hospitality, readings, prayers and processions. We invite your children to participate! Please email me for more information.



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

Divine Mercy Prayer Group meets this **Tuesday, 26th March 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.

Youth Page

CANA: OUR yrs. 6-9 YOUTH GROUP



**Cana is on this Friday,
29th 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!

Save the date: CANA Easter egg hunt on 6th April
7:30pm-9:00pm.

Come along for loads of fun games and an
Easter Egg Hunt!!!

If you have any questions,
please contact Joanna Mak on 0423 717 550. or
Email joanna@epping.org.au

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

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 parish!



**The meeting starts at 7pm, in
the Parish meeting room @ Epping,**
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



It is all about the 'fruit'

This weekend we voted for what we want for NSW. We had our say about who we believe will deliver the results we want. Whoever you voted for you are looking for results! Jesus told a parable about fruit.

A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit and found none. He said, "Cut it down". The gardener replied "Let it alone for one more year until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit well and good, if not you can cut it down". Luke's Gospel Chapter 13, verse 1 to 13. (Lk 13:1-13)

Talking of fruit, the purpose of our parish is to produce fruit. The Mission Statement, at the top of page 2 in the Sunday Bulletin each week states:

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.

Can we see the "fruits" of our parish?

- ◇ How are we growing as a diverse Catholic community
- ◇ Are we becoming a better and bigger community who are more centred in the Eucharist?
- ◇ How are we improving our service and reaching out more to others?
- ◇ Do people experience growing in relationship with God and with each other?

Yes, thanks be to God, there is growth!

However, the owner of the vineyard may expect more fruit. Could we dig around and add fertiliser that will nourish the parish to produce the growth that provides more fruit?

How could the Holy Spirit be calling us as a *Catholic community centred in the Eucharist*, to focus on our purpose, which is *to serve and reach out to others* and to *grow in relationship with God and each other*.

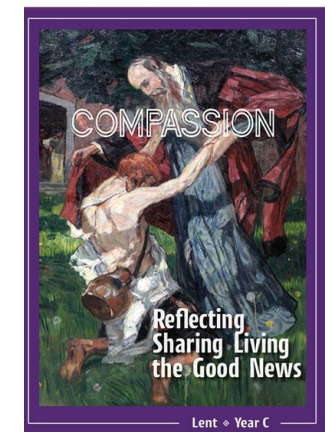
Just as the Catholic Church has a mission, our parish has a mission and you and I have a mission that is more than being nice and hoping fruit will appear. We are called to reach out, go out and as Jesus put it, "Go. Make Disciples."

In our Lenten Groups and in this time of Lent, let the Spirit dig around the stuff in our lives to loosen us up and gift us with grace that will fertilise our spiritual growth. We can then relate with our God who we worship and connect more with each other.

We ask the owner of the vineyard, *'Give us one more year to do what Jesus Commanded.'*

Go. Make disciples. Jesus looks for people transformed and lives bearing fruit.

Denis McNamara ~ *inviting disciples to serve and reach out so they may produce fruit*



Food for Sydney's Refugees Many of the Sydney refugees depend on **FOODBANK** supplied by the Jesuit Refugee Service in Parramatta for their staple diet. **The Jesuit Refugee Service** is asking for donations on weekly basis during the following six weeks' of Lent. The require the following:

- Week 3 Cooking Oil
- Week 4 Canned Tomatoes (preferably chopped)
- Week 5 Chick peas (canned)
- Week 6 Kidney beans (canned)

The food will be taken to the Jesuit Refugee Service and then given to FOODBANK for distribution to the refugees. There will be marked boxes located in both Churches. Thank you for the anticipated support. For further information please contact Trish on 0425 270 215.