

The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford Diocese of Broken Bay

Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
31 Oxford Street, Epping and

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Welcome as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ!!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of Fr Joey and myself, I would like to extend every best wish and the promise of our prayers as we celebrate the Feast of the Birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! I would also like to extend a special welcome to all our visitors who are sharing in our Christmas Masses here at Epping and Carlingford over these days. No matter where you come from or what faith traditions you may belong to you are all most welcome!

The Feast of Christmas reminds us that Jesus did not need to claim his equality with God but rather emptied Himself of power, possessions and prestige to be open to love and to be loved. It is an invitation that is addressed to us not in our splendour but in our lowliness. We especially remember in a part way those separated from home or loved ones especially those seeking asylum in our country or overseas and prisoners or those in detention.

May we all experience the gift of hope and peace which the world cannot give.

A blessed Christmas to all!

Fr Peter



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works

2018 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

**Make this a Christmas Filled With Joy.
We need your help.**

Our Lady Help of Christians Epping: Envelopes on the pews and at Church entrances to be returned to the paper table or placed on the second collection.

St. Gerard Majella Carlingford: Envelopes on the pews to be returned to the Piety Store or on the second collection.

Receipts will be available for tax purposes.

Your Gift Could Change Lives

NEW YEAR'S DAY – the blessing of our images of Our Lady



One of the special feast days of this Christmas Season is the greatest and most ancient of the feasts of Mary – 1st January, New Year's Day: (the solemnity of Mary as Mother of God) – we highlight it by annually inviting everyone to bring their images of Mary to be blessed during 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's and the 12:15am Mass at Epping.

New Year's Day is the Octave Day of Christmas and celebrates Mary's role in our salvation: that it was through her acceptance of God's call and placing herself at the service of God that the Word was made flesh in and through her. As such this feast celebrates Mary as our model as she challenges us likewise to be 'mother of God' bringing Jesus to birth in our world through our own lives.



Our Parish Antioch Community

Antioch Community is having its
**Annual Outreach Weekend from
Friday 8th to Sunday 10th Feb.2019**

The Antioch weekend is run *FOR YOUTH, BY YOUTH* and is filled with,
TALKS & DISCUSSIONS, MUSIC,

FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN!!

It's a great chance to find out more about yourself, meet heaps of great young people from the parish, and grow closer to Jesus!

Venue: Parish Site @ St Gerard's,
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

**Registration Forms will soon be available
at the back of both Churches**

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

Alpha in Epping and Carlingford In 2019



Alpha in Catholic context at Epping and Carlingford is an opportunity to meet with people and see for yourself what being a Christian is all about.

We invite you to take time for yourself to understand more about life—especially your own life's journey.

Every Alpha session includes food, talk and discussion.

It will be an amazing time for all who join us on this journey.

Please watch the parish bulletin for dates, time and venue.

Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of Everlasting life. Grant that life to:

Recently deceased: Anna Ortner, Mary Anne, Anthony & Hugh Mulligan, Frank Holmes, Sr. Agnes Chong ocd, Robert Tan, Eddie Tam., Michael Appadurai, Emmanuel (Toto) Fernando, George Guanzon, Tony Moses.

Please pray for Rob Neil who died on 22nd December .

The Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday 27th December at 10:00am at OLHC Epping.

Anniversaries: Maryanne Whealing,

Also for: Ivan & Edith Almeida & deceased family members, Joanne Elchah, Bert Saul, Sylvia & Victor Carlon, Lilian & Joseph Saul, Dorgen & Joe Saul, Hurney & Waddell Families, Agnes Hu, Mato Matijasic, Tomo& Kata Medved & family, Vjekoslav & Julijana Medved, Karlo Puskaric, Mark Hillier, Richard, Eunice & Jack Barry, John & Elizabeth McEnarney.

Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsys, Residents of Wesley Rayward Nursing Home, Rose Prior, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Cooper Rundle, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Fred Saad, Ron Jenkins, Mike Van Werdt, Tammy Birch, Dorothea Ellis, Veronica Hartwich, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, 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, Austine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Martin Sill, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Rob Neil, Josie Scully, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Kath McCarthy, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Joyce Fewtrell, Patricia Muschalik, Ernest Lau, Sr. Pauline Wicks rsj, Delma Soria, Sn Atanasia Lee, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave, Fara Vargas, Kathy Walsh, Theo Stevens.

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

A Plenary Council Christmas opportunity!

***What do you think God is asking of us in
Australia at this time?***

It is essential for ALL Catholics to respond to this question for the future of our Church. There will be an opportunity at the Christmas Masses for family or friends who have not 'Had their Say' to write their response on one of the Christmas message cards on the seats. It can then be placed in the Plenary Council box in the Church or posted at their convenience.

If you would like to contribute or ask questions you too can place your response in one of the boxes or

Contact:

**Lynne Slocombe 0407138992 or
Email lynne.slocombe@gmail.com**

**Carole Wilson 9869 1036 or
Email carole.wilson@optusnet.com.au**

For further information visit the Plenary Council website and explore:

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are available near the bulletin boxes in both our churches.

The contributions via the Christmas Offering supplements the funds raised via the First Collection for the support and upkeep of priests. The fund it goes to depends very much on these special contributions at Christmas and Easter, without which it struggles to meet its commitments.

This diocesan fund not only provides the living allowance and household costs for the priests of the parish, but also provides funds for health care for priests and maintains priests in their retirement. Please support the Christmas Offerings.

The envelopes can be placed on either plate.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Our Parish Office will be **CLOSED from Midday 24th December until Monday 7th January.**

For emergency sick calls or in the event of the need to make funeral arrangements please ring 9876 2853 (the phone is always diverted to Fr Peter's or Fr Joey's home outside of office hours).