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 Jim McKeon Tel.: 9876 2853 Email: jim@eppcarl.org.au



Assistant Priest: Fr Bogdan Skupien Tel.: 9876 2853 Email: Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Office:9876 2853

Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au

Welcome to our Parish of Epping and Carlingford consisting of our two worshipping communities of St Gerard Majella's Church at Carlingford and Our Lady Help of Christians' Church 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 celebration of the Eucharist together will provide both nourishment and challenge on your Christian journey.

YEAR B	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
Acts 4:8-12	1 Jn 3:1-2	Jn 10:11-18		
Dear Parishioners,	FOURTH SU 25 April 202	NDAY OF EASTER YEAR B- Sunday 21		
Are you enrolling your child in a Ca Throughout the year people contact the parish priest's reference for enrolment School. In 2021, Fr Jim invites paren erence to attend a Parent Connect will develop the partnership of par	e parish seeking a into a Catholic Its seeking a ref- Gathering which ish, family and World Day of Sunday. Today the Chi tions. Will you more vocatior	Prayer for Vocations, Good Shepherd urch throughout the world prays for voca- u make a special effort to ask the Lord for as to the priesthood and religious life?		
school in the project of sharing Ca both primary school and high scho	ol students	• Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead.		
We will host gatherings each month thr the next one being Sat May 1st 11am -	12pm at the meet- the week.	parish priests in your prayers throughout		
ing room at St Gerard's (behind the chu Rocks Rd, Carlingford.	young per	e your children, grandchildren, or other ople to consider a vocation as a priest or		
We invite one or both parents to come, dren where possible. Bring your school you if you have it.	reference form with • Pray a ros	prother or sister. Sary for more young men and women in our prespond to God's call.		
Contact jim@eppcarl.org.au to RSVP or mation	a priest, dead	joy in knowing you are following the Lord as on or in the consecrated life inspire you? ocations Office at 0418 522 449 or email:		
BUY A BIBL On sale after al weekend 24/25th April 2021 at both Catholic Bible \$15 Childre	l Masses this our Churches			
QR Code for T		Seminarians of Broken Bay 2021, Fr Paul Durkin, Vocations Director & ohen Wayoyi Assistant Vocations Director. ocations.ministry@bbcatholic.org.au		



The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

Alpha in a Catholic context continues at Carlingford

This Tuesday, we ask, "Why did Jesus die?"

Paul said the crowd he spoke to in Athens thought it was foolish! So do many today. Why on earth would someone die such a cruel death, when they had a choice? What has his death got to do with us? Where is God in all of this, if there is a God? How do you make sense of what happened?

What did Jesus mean when we hear in the Gospel, *I am the good shepherd: the one who lays down his life for his sheep. The Father loves me because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. It is in my power to lay down my life, so it is in my power to take it up again.* Jn 10:11-18

Join us this Tuesday in the parish hall at St Gerard's Carlingford.

Come for dinner at 7:00pm. We watch the Alpha video, enjoy a cuppa and take time to consider \sim *Why did Jesus die?* Call me on 0410 041 944, to let me know you have decided to go. You can take a friend. See you this Tuesday, 27th April.

Denis McNamara

Alpha in a Catholic context

Prepare for Pentecost

Join the disciples and Mary as they prayed, **Come Holy Spirit**.

The descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost transformed the Apostles and formed the Church. Through them, the whole world was changed. That same Spirit is still at work in the Church and the world today. Join Professor Mary Healy to learn from the **Acts of the Apostles.** We can discover the dramatic power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our families. We can share with our friends and neighbours.

We will join on Zoom to watch and discuss and pray. This is like a Lenten Group. You can join on a Monday or a Wednesday night from 7:30 pm.

To join on Zoom, please send an email to receive the Zoom invitation to <u>denis.mcnamara@eppcarl.org.au</u>

Denis McNamara

Supporting Disciples to become Missionary

Is Bible study needed? Think about the world around us.

We are living in a time when many in the West have abandoned Christian faith. They live as though they no longer believe. God's love has changed their lives.

In our days... in vast areas of the world the faith is in danger of dying out, like a flame which no longer has fuel. The real problem at this moment of our human history is that God is disappearing from the human horizon. The light which comes from God is dimming. Humanity is losing its bearings. The destructive effects are increasing and obvious. Pope Benedict XV

What supports marriage and family?

A world view that life is sacred, relationships and love matter. See how these values are at the heart of Pentecost. Hear how God's unfolding plan for us and for all humanity is revealed through the Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles. Join us for 4 weeknights. Be prepared for Pentecost.

Denis McNamara

Supporting Disciples to become Missionary



Fage 3

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK					
Mass at OLHC					
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WELCOME TO THE MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

The group is dedicated to Catholic men, who together spend time, to pray and to discuss how Catholic men live in today's world, discuss and support Catholic family issues and choices we make. You are most welcome to join us on Thursday, 29th April at 7.30 pm, in the parish meeting room, Carlingford.

The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

PARISH STAFF

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

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

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

Parish Support Worker (PSW) Sacramental Programmes and Children's Ministries Lynn Siau Ph.: 0407 255 593 Email: lynn@eppcarl.org.au

Sacramental Programme Assistant: Lisha Abraham Ph.: 0407 255 593 Email: kids sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

Pastoral Support Worker (PSW) Youth: Joanna Mak Ph.: 0404 710 588 Email: joanna@eppcarl.org.au

Missionary Discipleship Coordinator: Denis McNamara Ph.: 0410 041 944 Email: denis.mcnamara@eppcarl.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council

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



Episode 14

Tune in this ANZAC day as we hear from Mike about the history of our local army veterans. Join us for our discussion of the Power Parables and have a chat with two of our younger parishioners Alex and Olivia!







www.anchor.fm/grace2020

The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

Page 4

Parish Information

FIRST EUCHARIST

Congratulations

to the following children, and their families, who will celebrate their First Eucharist this Sunday at both our churches:

Gabriel Ackland, Terence Antonio, Cooper Hajinakitas, Anna Shi, William Taylor, Jianna Vellapallil, Ziyan Wang and Ella Woon. Congratulations also to Ella Samaha who completed the programme with us.

Thank you to both our parish school principals, teachers, parents and all volunteers in our various parish ministries for their assistance in making this celebration memorable for the families! A special mention and thank-you to the Year 2 class parents of St Gerard's Primary School for preparing a special gift for all the First Communicants!

LYNN SIAU SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LYNN@EPPCARL.ORG.AU











CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL

The third CWF Appeal for this Financial Year will be held in both churches the weekend of

the 8/9 May.

Envelopes will be placed at the end of pews and available at the bulletin boxes. Our parish quota for this Appeal is \$19,311. Please give generously, as any shortfall needs to be made up from parish funds.

The Parish Finance **Committee Meeting**

will take place this Wednes-day, 28th in the parish meet- Finance ing room at Carlingford commencing at 7:30pm.



FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

There will be devotions in honour of Our Lady, on the 1st Saturday of the month preceding the 9:15am Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church. This includes the rosary and prayers. You are most welcome!

Memorial Mass

For the repose of the soul of Bev Aliprandi on the occasion of the first Anniversary of her death, will be celebrated by Fr Bogdan on Wednesday, 28th April at 9:30 am.

As Bev died during COVID-19 pandemic, many of us could not attend her funeral. Bev touched the lives of so many people here at St Gerard's with her prayerful acceptance of her lot in life and always willing to help anyone in need.

MOTHER'S DAY APPEAL GIVE 6 THINGS

This Mother's Day, please donate 1 item each week to give to refugees living in this community.

9 May-20 Jun 2021



The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

Youth And Young Adults

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

MEETING 25th APRIL Come along to the Antioch meeting to hear a great talk, join in discussion time, hear 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** at **Epping**. So head on down and bring a friend, All 16 - 22 year old's are VERY WELCOME!

Joanne 0416 030 927, Karen 0421 506 577 (parent supporters) "It was at Antioch the believers were first called Christians"



CANA: OUR 7-9 yrs. YOUTH GROUP

If you're in Years 7-9 come along for a night Jam-packed with FUN & FAITH! EVERY FRIDAY night of the School Term, 7:30-9pm in the Parish Hall at St Gerard's. It's a great place to catch up with old friends, and meet some new ones!

CANA will meet this Friday 30th April



John 2:11 'The first of these miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana.'

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us."

JOHN 1:14

BUY A BIBLE

Purchase a Bible after Mass on the 24-25 April.

Catholic Bible: **\$15** Children's Bible: **\$25** BIBLE READING GOSPEL OF JOHN

Join us as we read 12 chapters from the Gospel of John.

2 May | 10.30-11.30am

St. Gerard's Church Carlingford

BIBLE IN A YEAR

Join us on the journey via Facebook or WhatsApp as we read 'The Bible in a Year' with Fr. Mike Schmitz.

Starts 10 May 2021





Organised by the Bible Reading Group CATHOLIC PARISH OF EPPING AND CARLINGFORD



If you would like to come, please contact the Youth Minister Joanna on 0404 710 588 if you have any questions.



PRAISEFEST is back in the flesh, face to face, person to person and not on zoom! Woot!

God willing, our next PRAISEFEST will be on 28 May 2021 at St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah from 6.00-9.00pm.

If you've missed getting your worship on, catching up with friends from different parish and schools communities, and partying it up on the praise party floor, then we have got a treat for you.

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Reflection - Honoring an Abundant and Prodigal God

There's a disturbing trend within our churches today. Simply put, we are seeing the embrace of our churches become less-and-less inclusive. More and more, our churches are demanding a purity and exclusivity not demanded by Jesus in Gospels.

Indeed the very word "inclusivity" is often glibly dismissed as being part of the "I am spiritual but not religious" ethos, as if being inclusive were some kind of light-weight, New-Age, thing rather than a central demand within Christian disciple-ship itself.

Inside God there is no scarcity, no stinginess, no sparing of mercy. What does it mean to be inclusive? We can begin with the word "Catholic": The opposite of being "Catholic" is not being "Protestant." The opposite of "Catholic" is being narrow, exclusive, and overly selective in our embrace. The opposite of being "Catholic" is to define our faith-family too-narrowly. "Catholic" means wide, universal. It means incarnating the embrace of an abundant and prodigal God whose sun shines on all indiscriminately, the bad as well as the good. Jesus once defined this by saying: "In my father's house there are many rooms." God's heart is wide, abundant, prodigal, and universally-embracing, a heart that takes care to pray for those "other sheep who are not of this fold." To be "Catholic" is to imitate that.

Everyone else, without a single exception, falls short. In the gospels we see that Jesus' passion for inclusivity virtually always trumps his concern for purity and worthiness. He associates and dines with sinners without setting any prior moral conditions that have to be met to before those sinners are deemed worthy of his presence. His disciples, much like many good sincere church-people today, were forever trying to keep certain people away from him because they deemed them unworthy; but Jesus always answered that he didn't need that kind of protection, and that, indeed, he wanted them all to come to him: let them come to me! Indeed, that is still Jesus' call: Let them come to me, all of them!

We need to be more inclusive. I highlight this because today our faith families are shrinking and instead of us weeping empathically about this loss of wholeness we are more prone to be secretly gleeful about it: good riddance: they weren't real Christians anyway! Or, in the words of some Catholic commentators, they were Cafeteria-Catholics, picking and choosing which parts of the Gospel they liked and turning a meaty Catholicism into Catholic-Light.

Such a judgment, however sincere and well intentioned, needs to operate under two huge caution flags: First, such a judgment leaves the person making it rather vulnerable. Who is a true, fully practicing Catholic? Several years ago, I was asked by a Roman Catholic School Board to write a definition of what it means to be a "practicing Catholic." I agonized over the task, examined the classical working definitions for that, and eventually produced a bit of a formula. But I prefaced the definition with this preamble: only Jesus and Mary were fully practicing Catholics. Everyone else, without a single exception, falls short. We are all Cafeteria-Catholics. We all fall short; all have shortcomings, and all live the Gospel somewhat selectively. To cite the most salient example: many of us bear down more on church-going and private morality, to the neglect of the non-negotiable Gospel demand regarding justice; others simply reverse this. Who's closer to Jesus? Who's more of a Cafeteria-Catholic?

The answer to that question lies inside the secret realm of conscience. But what we do know is that none of us gets it fully right. All of us stand in need of God's forgiveness and all of us stand in need of the patience of our ecclesial communities.

The second caution flag is this: the God that Jesus reveals to us is a God of infinite abundance. Inside God there is no scarcity, no stinginess, no sparing of mercy. As the parable of the sower makes clear, this God scatters his seed indiscriminately on every kind of soil—bad soil, mediocre soil, good soil, excellent soil. God can do this because God's love and mercy are limitlessness. God, it seems, never worries about someone receiving cheap, undeserved grace. As well, Jesus assures us that God is prodigal: like the father of the prodigal son and his older brother, God embraces both the missteps of our immaturity as well as the bitterness and resentment within our maturity. Good religion needs to honor that.

Today, on both sides of the ideological divide, conservative or liberal alike, we need to remind ourselves of what it means to live under an abundant, prodigal, universally-embracing, and "Catholic" God. What it means, among other things of course, is a constant stretching of the heart to an ever-wider inclusivity. How wide are our hearts?

Exclusivity can mask itself as depth and as passion for truth; but it invariably reveals itself, in its inability to handle ambiguity and otherness, as rigidity and fear, as if God and Jesus needed our protection. More importantly, it often too reveals itself as lacking genuine empathy for those outside its own circle; and, in that, it fails to honor its own abundant and prodigal God.

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.

Tage 7

The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

E-Bulletin If you would like to receive the bulletin by email, please send an email with e-bulletin as the subject title to: maree@eppcarl.org.au	Online Public Lecture - Liturgy and Sacraments in a COVID World: Renewal not Restoration ACU Centre for Liturgy is hosting an online public lecture by Msgr. Kevin W. Irwin from the Archdiocese of New York.				
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.	In the chaos of COVID-19 many parishes have had to adapt quickly to keep their communities connected and attached to the Eucharist using streaming technology; but what are the risks and lessons learnt during this pro- longed distant experience of Church? The Lecture will be online via Zoom on Monday 17 May , 10.00am - 11.30am . Cost: \$10 or \$5 for students/ pensioner concession .				
After Hours Sick Calls— 9876 2853 Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Jim and Fr	To register go to <u>www.acu.edu.au/PublicLectureCfl</u> For more information contact <u>centreforlitur-</u> <u>gy@acu.edu.au</u> or call (02) 9701 4751.				
Bogdan at home. In the event that they are unavailable, their answering machines will record your message or ring the number given in the message. However, if possible please restrict routine enquiries to office hours.	Position Vacant Parish Administrative Assistant Woy Woy Catholic Parish Part-time, 12 hours per week 2 days (8.30am - 3.00pm) Wednesday and Friday				
Ecumenical Relationships Our parish is strongly com- mitted 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.	Can you see yourself as a welcoming face of Woy Woy Catholic Parish? If you have previous office administration experience and this role interests you, please email a cover letter and CV to <u>recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au</u> . For further information please email <u>recruit-</u> ment@bbcatholic.org.au or see the full advertisement at:				
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.	Applications close Friday, 7 May 2021 This role will be subject to a WWCC and National Police History Check.				
Our Lady Help Of Christians Catholic Primary School Principal: Ms Dominique O'Sullivan 8 Cambridge Street, Epping 2121 Ph: 9868 3322 www.olhcdbb.catholic.edu.au Email: olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au	St Gerard's Catholic Primary School Principal: Mrs Barbara Yee 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford 2118 P: 9871 1633 www.sgcdbb.catholic.edu				
USEFUL LINKS					
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CatholicParishOfEppingAndCarling	ford				
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/catholicparisheppca	ırl/				
Fr Jim's YouTube: https://youtube.com/channel/UCLpbDNqP8u1Wx4Gm08jJydA	*				
Epping and Carlingford Website: https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford	WN BIILI				
G.R.A.C.E podcast via internet: https://open.spotify.com/show/1y2EWOFkWJMRN5tAWJN9an	FUNERALS Feaders in Personal Service				
Awesome service. Amazing re Betty Ockerlander bettyockerlander@mcgrath.com.au	esults. 9519 5344				

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Responsorial Psalm Response

become the cornerstone.

Ps: 117:1.8-9.21-23.26.28-29 R. V.22 The stone rejected by the builders has Page 8

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.. Alleluia!

WEEKEND MASSES							
Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm						
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am						
	WEEKDAY MASSES						
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	No Mass	12:15pm	9:15am	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	
HEALING MASS	SS Carlingford—1st Thursday, Epping — 3rd Wednesday (no Healing Mass in Jan.)						
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 [Temporary dates for Reconciliation Monday 6pm at Epping and Friday 7:30pm at Carlingford until further notice]							
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: Thomas Magee, Nicola Calabrese,

Please pray for Alexander Tocher who died last week. The funeral Mass will be held at St Gerard's next Tuesday, 27th April at 11:00am.

Anniversaries: Mato Matijasic,

Also For:

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, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Margaret Floyd, Barbara Madafiglio, John Lyons, Bev Gibbeson, Radhi Riley, Patrick Thornton, Jan Doherty, Maureen McKeough, Ana Matijasic, Benjamin Verco, Peter Kelly. John Goodwin, George Bell, Patrick Thornton, Michael & Susan Tuite, Benjamin Verco, Noelene Viset, Eileen Brownlow, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Arnold Day, Maureen Carlon, Fr Adrian Borst, Augustine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Patricia Muschalik, Delma Soria, Sr Abanasia Lee, Maria Belisario, Stella Edwards, Fara Vargas, Theo Stevens, Monica Weeden, Thomas Woodward, Wai Chun Wong, Heather Stoodley, Agnes Wong, Alex Benjamin Zaragoza, Amarech Zewolde, Janice Lemon, Mary Lou Pentony, Donald Wong, Joyce Heidke.

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

Date	Mass Time	Epping	Mass Time	Carlingford
01/05/21	5:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien	6:00pm	Fr Jim McKeon
02/05/21	8:30am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	7:45am	Fr Jim McKeon
02/05/21	10:15am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	9:30am	Fr Jim McKeon
02/05/21	6:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien		

