

<b>Responsorial Psalm Response</b> Ps 116 R Mk 16:15 Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.	<b>Gospel Acclamation</b> <b>Alleluia, Alleluia!</b> I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. <b>Alleluia!</b>
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**WEEKEND MASSES**

<b>Epping</b>	<b>5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm</b>
<b>Carlingford</b>	<b>6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am</b>

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
<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

**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:** Sharon Kelly, Ping Kew Chung, Mary Seward Sophie Hollis,

*Please pray for **Ron Jenkins** who died last week.  
The funeral will be held at Macquarie Park on Monday 18 Aug. at 11:15am in the Palm Chapel*

**Anniversary:** Agnes Chia, Albert Chia, Felipe Soria Sr, Christine, Veronica & Lincoln, Edith & Ivan Almeida

**Also for:** Young Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Yeo, Maria Hur, Soo Woog Jin, Vincent James Dellow, Alice Mary Dellow, Christopher Luce Dwyer, Nigel (Frost) Bowen, Claire Bowen, Thelma Jean Whiteoak, Alice Andrade, Agnes Huang,

**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, Kathy Noonan, Alice Eng, Peck Quah, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Betty Connors, Narelda & Alan Ryan, Kit Smith, Margaret Floyd, Peter Baker. 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, Ernest Lau, Delma Soria, Sr Abanasia Lee, Maria Belisario, Stella Edwards, Fara Vargas, Theo Stevens, Monica Weeden, Thomas Woodward, Brigitta Williams, Wai Chun Wong, Elizabeth Barton, Heather Stoodley.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
31/08/19	5:00pm	Fr Joey Fez	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
01/09/19	8:30am	Fr Joey Frez	7:45am	Fr Peter Dowd
01/09/19	10:15am	Fr Joey Frez	9:30am	Fr Peter Dowd
01/09/19	6:00pm	Fr Joey Frez		

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

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

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

**St Gerard Majella Church**  
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

**Parish Priest: Fr Peter Dowd,**  
**Ph.:** 9876 2853  
**Email:** peter@eppcarl.org.au

**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****TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME****25-08-19****Isaiah 66:18-21****Hebrews 12:5-7.11-13****Luke 13:22-30**

Greetings everyone!

As I have said to some of you this past week, while I am 'physically' back in the parish, I'm not quite sure about the rest of me!...two and a half months away and given the wonderful varied and challenging experiences which I have had during that time, does require a bit more 'adjustment' than I Anticipated. Still, I can honestly say it is good to be home! Please be patient as I settle back into parish life and continue to reflect and process my experiences and time away over recent months.

Also, some of you may be anticipating (even hoping) for a run of 'travelogue' homilies over coming weeks. I'm sorry to disappoint you but my intention is to gradually share the fruits of my sabbatical, when appropriate, as time progresses.

Finally, like many of you, I continue to be deeply saddened and gutted by the ongoing fallout of child sexual abuse at the hands of clergy and senior officials within the Catholic Church in particular. This week Cardinal Pell lost his appeal against his conviction for historic child abuse offences. It is essential we respect the legal processes and their outcome, whether we personally agree or not with the decision. Most importantly, while we certainly pray for Cardinal Pell, our thoughts outreach and prayers must firstly be directed to all those who have been so greatly wounded by the crime of sexual abuse, particularly from our own community of faith.

I am aware that within our parish and the wider community our reactions to this outcome will be diverse and complex. For some, this case has reopened existing wounds and past traumas.

Along with other church leaders I want to reiterate my support to the victims of abuse and to all who are hurting. Should anyone wish to come and speak personally with me in coming days I will definitely make myself available. Please contact me either in person, by email or phone to make an appointment.

Also, be mindful of those resources available for our personal support, including those of CatholicCare. Please do not hesitate to call Melinda Rixon, Office for Safeguarding (Chancery) on 8379 1605 or by email [safeguarding@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@bbcatholic.org.au). Other supports include 1800 Respect—Call 1800 737 732 or visit [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au) or Lifeline on 131 114 or [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

Let us care for one another and remember we must answer the inevitable questions put to us by the sad circumstances of this week as Fr David Ranson, our Diocesan Administrator said on a previous occasion, "with humility, integrity and courage, such that a new sense of purpose might motivate and guide us into the future, not with stoic resignation, but with Christian hope. In this way, this dreadful moment in the life of our Church in Australia can act to purify and clarify our own discipleship".

Blessings

Fr Peter

### 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.

### Safeguarding Message August 2019

Next month (September) is Safeguarding month in the Diocese of Broken Bay.

This year the Diocese of Broken Bay is celebrating the theme. *A safe community is one in which all experience a sense of belonging.*

All clergy, parishioners and the wider community are invited to the Diocese Liturgy which signifies the start of SAFEGUARDING MONTH

### Listen carefully

At Mass we pray "Lord hear our prayer". At the same time the Lord asks us, *Listen with all your attention.* The words spoken to us were written in the Bible with a message for us. The *Word of the Lord* in the first reading tells us "**I am coming to gather the nations of every language**". *Every language from every nation is coming together.* Can you see how they link? God is reversing what happened at the Tower of Babel when the people on earth were divided by many languages into many nations in Genesis 11.

Our response ~ "**Go out to all the world and tell the Good News**". That sounds straight forward. We could start with our neighbour. Before you go out, have you worked out what "Good News" you would tell your neighbour?

The second reading from the letter to the Hebrews says, "**Suffering is part of your training**". When things don't go our way and we suffer, we may not see it as training? In the Gospel Jesus has strong advice "**Try your best to enter by the narrow door**." May we be among those *from east and west, north and south who take their place at the feast of the Kingdom of God.* Do you know the way to that narrow door?

The *Word of God* and the *Gospel of the Lord* have meaning and give us direction. Coming in September, you will be invited to learn much more when we "**Unlock the Mystery of the Bible**".

Denis McNamara Supporting Missionary Disciples

### CATECHISTS & HELPERS URGENTLY REQUIRED

Catechists and helpers are urgently required for classes at Epping and Carlingford. The Catechist Ministry is one which reaches out to the children who attend State Schools; the catechist shares his/her faith with the children. Become a catechist to-day; enjoy belonging to this special ministry – training and all teaching resources provided. If you can assist please contact: Katherine Tam on 0418 391 048 or Mary O'Byrne 9871 2120.

School and Time of Lesson

**Murray Farm** (Tuesday) 9:00-9:30am  
9:40-10:10am  
10:20-10:50am

**Epping West** (Tuesday) 11:30-12:00pm  
12:00-12:30pm  
12:30- 1:00pm

**Epping Public** (Tuesday) 9:20- 9:50am  
9:50-10:20am

**Roselea** (Wednesday) 11:30-12:00pm  
12:00- 12:30pm  
12:30- 1:00pm

**Epping North** (Thursday) 9:00- 9:40am  
9:40- 10:10am

**Epping Heights** (Friday) 9:10- 9:40am

Helpers are needed at all the schools with urgent assistance at Epping West (2), Epping Heights (1) and Roselea (1).

### The Dignity of Baptism: Priest, Prophet and King

**Q One of the prayers in the baptismal rite says that we have become "a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet and King." How do Christ's members act as priests, prophets and kings?**

**A** In Baptism, we are called to be like Christ – to act as "priests, prophets and kings" in the world (*Rite of Baptism for Children, 62*). It sounds impossible.

But what does a priest do?

He intercedes with God on behalf of the community. The royal priesthood of the baptised, to which we belong, does the same – offering worship to God and interceding for the world in prayer.

What do prophets do?

They speak out, proclaiming God's will for the world. We do the same when faith motivates us to speak out for the oppressed and to live in a way that shows others what the Gospel means.

And what are kings?

They are those chosen by God to serve. In Baptism, we are chosen, anointed and sent to follow Christ's example of leadership through service. changes everything.



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### 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

### SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

### Marist Brothers Eastwood – Year 12 Class of '79 Reunion

Saturday 28 September, 2019

North Ryde RSL Community Club

Please visit our Facebook page: Class of 1979 Reunion (the cost is \$50.00 per head) for payment details  
Contact Brian Johnston on 0419 144 062 if you have any questions.

Please advise any class mates that you are in touch with of the event.

Looking forward to catching up!

P.S. On Sunday we are planning a lunch at the El Rancho for anyone connected to, but not part of, the Class of 79 (eg, First XIII, First XI team members).

### 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, (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.

### Association of the Miraculous Medal:

Members and intending members are invited to the first AMM National Assembly to be held on 28th and 29th September, 2019. Registration is necessary by 7th September, 2019. For further information contact: Yolanda mob:0425 231 939 or Nora mob: 0406 611 471

  
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### Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel - The Agony in the Garden—The Place Where Angels Strengthen Us

Trevor Herriot writes: "Only after we have let the desert do its full work in us will angels finally come and minister to us."

That's one of the lessons of Gethsemane. It's only after the deserts of loneliness, duty, and helplessness have done their work in Jesus that "an angel from heaven came and ministered to him." A unique thing can happen to us when we are overwhelmed. When the burden of self-sacrifice prostrates us in weakness and leaves us sweating blood, it's then that God's strength can flow into us most deeply. Many people have experienced this.

Jesus gets up off the ground and walks with courage to face the ordeal that awaits him.

Martin Luther King, for example, recounts his own Agony in the Garden and the angel that came to strengthen him:

One night toward the end of January, I settled into bed late, after a strenuous day. Coretta had already fallen asleep and just as I was about to doze off the telephone rang. An angry voice said, 'Listen, nigger, we've taken all we want from you, before next week you'll be sorry you ever came to Montgomery.' I hang up, but I couldn't sleep. It seemed that all of my fears had come down on me at once. I had reached a saturation point. I got out of bed and began to walk the floor. Finally

I went to the kitchen and heated a pot of coffee. I was ready to give up. With my cup of coffee sitting untouched before me I tried to think of a way to move out of the picture without appearing a coward.

In this state of exhaustion, when my courage had all but gone, I decided to take my problem to God. With my head in my hands, I bowed over the kitchen table and prayed aloud. The words I spoke to God that midnight are still vivid in my memory:

"I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right. But now I am afraid. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I've come to the point where I can't face it alone."

At that moment I experienced the presence of the Divine as I had never experienced him before.

The parallel to Jesus in Gethsemane is so obvious that it's superfluous to elaborate on it. God sends angels to strengthen us precisely when God finds us lying prostrate, sweating the blood of duty. Moreover that particular kind of sweat does something else for us as well.

In the Gethsemane accounts we're told that, right after being strengthened by an angel, Jesus gets up off the ground and walks with courage to face the ordeal that awaits him. His agony and the strengthening he receives with it, readied him for the pain that lay ahead. Indeed, at the time of Jesus, the word "agony" had a double sense: Beyond its more obvious meaning, it also referred to a particular "readying" that an athlete would do just before entering the arena or stadium. The athlete would ready himself (in those days the athlete normally was a he) for the contest by working up a certain sweat (agony) with the idea that this exercise and the lather it produced would concentrate and make ready both his energies and muscles for the rigours that lay ahead. No athlete wants to enter the contest unprepared, unready.

The gospel writers want us to have this same image of Jesus as he leaves the Garden of Gethsemane: his agony has brought about a certain emotional, physical, and spiritual lather so that he is now readied, a focused athlete, properly prepared to enter the battle. Moreover, because of his strengthening he brings a certain divine energy, he is indeed more ready than any athlete.

Christina Crawford, writing about a low time in her life, once commented: "Lost is a place too!" Indeed, biblically, it's a very important place. It's the place where angels can come and minister to us and it's the place that readies us for spiritual battle. When our own strength gives out, when the pain of duty seems too much, when we lie prostrate in weakness and cringe before what truth, justice, and God seem to be asking of us, when we've come to the point where, like Martin Luther King, we can no longer face it alone, we're finally at that place where angels can minister to us and we've finally worked up the spiritual lather that has readied our souls and bodies for the Good Fridays that await us all.

Certain things, Trevor Herriot suggests, can only happen in gardens and deserts:

How long, covered in the sackcloth of grass, thorn and sky, before our desires and illusions fall to intimations of communion; before edges dissolve and we comprehend the mystic's dream of union beyond all boundaries and distinctions?

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](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

#### Celebrations this Week— Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

**Tuesday:** Memoria, St Monica  
**Wednesday:** Memoria, St Augustine  
**Thursday:** Memoria, The Passion of St John the Baptist

#### Men's Retreat Weekend: 30 Aug – 1 Sept 2019 - \$230 Mr Paul White

Join other men of faith exploring how, the power of "Yes!" changes circumstances in dark times; how we can live in the light of God's truth which can bring much joy to our lives and much needed peace and harmony. Come, relax and enjoy God in tranquility at St. Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, RSVP Ph:4630 0233 OR email [contact@towersretreat.org.au](mailto:contact@towersretreat.org.au)

### PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	25/08/19	9:30am	Kidz Word at St Gerard's Church
		10:15am	Kidz Word at OLHC Church
		3:00pm	PH Epping Confirmation Session 3
Mon	26/08/19	7:00pm	PMR Epping Antioch meeting
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP meeting
Tue.	27/08/19	7:30pm	CH Carlingford Rosary Group
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		8:00pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet. See page 4
Wed.	28/08/19	9:15am	<b>Whole School Mass at OLHC Church—Theme "Grandparents"</b>
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		7:00pm	Adult Choir practice
Thur.	29/08/19		CSO Principals & Clergy Day at Pennant Hills
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:15am	<b>St Gerard's Class Mass 3/4M</b>
Fri.	30/08/19	12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		3:30pm	PMR Carlingford Confirmation Session 3
		6:30pm	PMR Epping Confirmation Parent Gathering Evening
Sat.	31/08/19	9:00am	St Gerard's School Fathers' Day Liturgy + breakfast
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:10am	PMR Carlingford Scripture Reflection
Sun.	1/09/19	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 meeting
Sun.	2/09/19	9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
Sun.	3/09/19	3:00pm	PH Carlingford Confirmation Session 4
		5:00pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church
Sun.	4/09/19	6:00pm	Mass at St Gerard's Church

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

### Talk Around the Parish Table (TAPT)

At our next TAPT dinner, we will discuss "What creates a vibrant Parish which helps our lives. Is it friendship, fellowship and support, or a Good Shepherd or priest leader, or prayer groups, or other ministries, or other".

We would like to invite you to come along and talk about your experience.

**Date:** Saturday, 31st August after the 5:00pm Mass,

**Venue:** Parish Meeting Room (under the church).

**RSVP:** Trish Harrison 0490 912 747 for catering purposes.

We would like to invite you to bring a plate of food to share. Thank you to those brave souls who have shared in the past.

Trish Harrison

### PARISH STAFF

**Parish Secretary:**  
**Dennis Porteous** Ph.: 9876 2853  
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**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:**  
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**Pastoral Support Worker (PSW) Youth:**  
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**Missionary Discipleship Coordinator:**  
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**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](mailto:ppsecretary@eppcarl.org.au)

### World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - 1 September 2019

Christian churches all over the world celebrate the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* on 1 September, and the *Season of Creation* between 1 September and 4 October – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. This year's theme is "The Web of Life: Biodiversity as God's Blessing". We pray that all people may learn to respect and celebrate the goodness of God's gift of creation in all of its variety. For further information and resources please visit [SeasonofCreation.org](http://SeasonofCreation.org). Join the global community by using the #SeasonOfCreation hashtag on social media.

### JESUIT MISSION INDIAN BAZAAR

Come and join in the fun and festivities at Jesuit Mission's Indian Bazaar on Saturday 14 September 2019, 9am-5pm at St Ignatius' College, Riverview. There will be rides, stalls, auctions and more. The annual fundraiser supports Jesuit Mission's work in over 13 countries, empowering the most vulnerable people to transform their lives and build brighter futures. More details at <https://jesuitmission.org.au/indian-bazaar/> <https://www.facebook.com/events/926093744402699/>



## Confirmation 2019

This weekend, the children will be presented with the Creed at all weekend Masses. During the sessions, we explained to the children what it means to be receiving the Creed, what they are saying 'Yes!' to, and by professing their faith, they are saying 'I believe!' Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they continue on this journey to learn more about our beautiful faith.

Time flies, as we move into Session 3 this week – Life in the Spirit. We help the children understand what spiritual growth means by talking about the Holy Spirit, how their love and their faith can grow. God plants seeds in their hearts so they can grow to become people who love greatly and learn to trust in God even when things are difficult. We discuss the Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Parable of the Sower. We teach them they can grow spiritually through prayer, bible stories, learning from people around them and using their gifts for parish ministries to love and serve others. There is also a Wishing-Tree activity where the parents get to tell their children what fruits of the spirit they hope to see grow in them.

Upon completion of the four preparation sessions, Candidates will go on to celebrate Confirmation in our parish on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September.

On another note, at our Confirmation liturgies on the 14<sup>th</sup> September, we would like to invite children in Year 3 and above to join in singing with the choir during the celebration! If you are interested in signing your child up for this special occasion, please send us an email, indicating which church you would like to sing at.

Confirmation will be celebrated at 10am in St Gerard's Church and 12pm in Our Lady Help of Christian's Church.

If you have any queries or would like more information regarding your child's sacramental journey within our parish, please feel free to contact us.

### Children's Mass - Carlingford

There will be a Children's Mass at 9:30am at St. Gerard's Church, Carlingford on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September**. Fr Peter and Fr Joey invites the children to come and participate!



The children can be involved in hospitality, readings, prayers and processions. Please email us if you would like your child to be allocated a role.

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

**Divine Mercy Prayer Group** meets this **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 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.

## CWF CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL

The first CWF Appeal for this Financial Year continues this weekend in both our Churches.

### SHORTFALL AFTER THREE WEEKS—\$7,917

Envelopes can be found in the pews. Please give generously as any shortfall from this appeal will have to be made up from normal parish funds – please support the appeal so that we can avoid this happening. Our Parish quota for this Appeal is \$18,577.

Donations \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your kindness, your thoughtfulness and your generosity.

### St Vincent de Paul "Shop till you Drop"

Bargain Bus Day is happening again this year.

**Date:** 26 October 2019

**Tickets:** Only 45 tickets are available—wise to get in early.

**Cost:** \$60 includes morning and afternoon tea and a great venue for lunch.

**Shopping venues:** KB Toys, Bonds and Manchester Importers, plus many more new and exciting places.

For further details please contact *Marilyn Sharp* on 9872 1436 for further details.



THE PARISH OF EPPING AND CARLINGFORD

## 25 CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE IN 25 DAYS

CHALLENGE YOURSELF BY READING A CHAPTER A DAY OF, THE PHILIPPIANS, JAMES, PETER I & II, JOHN I, II & III, AND JUDE

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

REFLECT ON THE READING

SHARE YOUR REFLECTION IN WHATSAPP

STARTS 17 AUGUST 2019  
ENDS 10 SEPTEMBER 2019

TO JOIN TEXT '25' TO 0435 031 848 (LEON)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Denis McNamara:  
[denis.mcnamara@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:denis.mcnamara@eppcarl.org.au)

## Youth Page

### OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY Meeting this Sunday 25 August

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 people!**



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"



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



CANA is on this Friday 30 August from 7:30—9:00 pm in St Gerard's Parish Hall.

CANA is a relaxed social and Christian gathering for young people between Year 6-9, with a combination of **games, food, a talk** each week and **prayer**.

Come along and try it, bring a friend along and make some new friends.

If you have any questions, please contact the Youth Minister, **Joanna Mak**  
[joanna@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:joanna@eppcarl.org.au) or 0423 717 550

### Read a chapter a day of Letters written by the Apostles

Join us as we read the letter of James this week and begin the first letter of Peter from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. Send an SMS to ... to receive daily information using WhatsApp on your phone. *We can assist you with WhatsApp.*

### Peter I: The Context

**Peter I** is a wonderful letter. It is easy to understand and gives us strength at the times when we need it. It's a great letter to read regularly.

It is a letter written by St Peter to Christian communities in the lands that are now part of Western Turkey. The letter was given to a faithful friend (named Silvanus) who travelled to many Christian communities where he shared the letter, where they copied it and further distributed to neighbouring Christian communities.

Peter wrote the letter from Rome. At the time, Rome, as the capital of the world's most powerful empire had become an immoral place. It became known as 'Babylon', because it reminded people with Jewish backgrounds of the ancient city of Babylon, a city famous for its vices and decadence.

It was written about 62-64 A.D, while the Emperor Nero ruled. At the time, things were starting to become very difficult for Christians (it was around the time of the start of the great persecution when large numbers of Christians were first martyred in the arenas). Peter was writing to the Christian communities to strengthen them for the ordeals that were coming.

The letter shows that more than 30 years after the Pentecost the Holy Spirit was still working through Peter, strengthening him and guiding him as he continued to lead people to Jesus. The beauty of the letter is that it is the words of St Peter encouraging his readers to be holy in all they do, because as Christians their lives now must be different from those times when they weren't Christian. They must live in a way that shows that their lives are dedicated to God.

Peter's letter is rich in detail about how we can live a more deeply Christian life.

Peter advises that sufferings to Christians will come, just as Jesus suffered, and it must be expected. If we read Peter closely we can hear him encouraging his readers – including us - to draw closer to God by deepening trust, obedience and patience through the periods of suffering.

### Peter 2

Peter 2 is a very different letter to Peter 1. Peter 2 shares a deal in common with Jude's epistle, and it is possible that Peter may have been alerted to the problem he addresses in his letter by Jude's epistle. It seems most likely to have been written by Peter (or the key ideas dictated by Peter) in Rome shortly before his death around 65 AD. The intended readers were likely to be those of Peter I; the Christian communities in Asia Minor.

We see Peter in the First Epistle strengthening the faith of his readers during a time of persecution, while in the Second Epistle he sought to help Christians recognise and reject false teachers who were causing considerable harm to the Churches. Peter states his concern for his readers in the Second Epistle as he explains that he wrote both "as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking" (2 Peter 3:2). Both Epistles show how deeply Peter took to the task that Jesus placed upon his shoulders of building the Church.

The Christians of Asia Minor (modern Turkey), the majority of whom were converted Gentiles rather than Jews. Their religious backgrounds prior to becoming Christians were a multitude of polytheistic cults and pagan sects, all of whom had ideas and behaviours that were very different to those that the Jewish-Christian worldview brought.

False teachers, heretics and deceivers were spreading messages denying the Second Coming of Christ. They were saying that because Jesus hadn't come yet (it was about 30 years after his resurrection) he wasn't going to come at all. This led to their trying to introduce a debased morality on that grounds that without Jesus' second coming there wasn't going to be a judgement, and so why shouldn't people live immoral lives without fear of any repercussions.

Peter wrote to the Christian communities and stressed that he personally had seen the glory and power of Jesus in the Transfiguration and that we can fully depend upon His promises. He warns of what awaits those who reject or turn from God, but assures those of God's steadfast loyalty to those who remain true to Him. "Be on your guard" he urges "so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawlessness [departing from Jesus' teachings] and fall from your secure position." (2 Peter 3:17).

Peter's urgings to cultivate **wholesome thinking** is most certainly as relevant for us today as it was for his contemporary readers.