

<b>Responsorial Psalm Response</b> The Lord is King; he is robed in majesty.	<b>Gospel Acclamation</b> <b>Alleluia, alleluia!</b> Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <b>Alleluia!</b>
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**WEEKEND MASSES**

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

**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:** Paul Schwager, Jim Carmody, Betty Murdoch, Vicky Kennedy, Philip Ting (father of John Ting), Mary Ellis, Frankie Fernandes (brother of Irene Fernandes), Patricia Amy,

**Anniversaries:** Ng Ah Chin, Roger & Jean-Claude Nina,

**Also for:** Mary Anne, Anthony & Hugh Mulligan,

**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, Cooper Rundell, 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, Tony ?, 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, Frank Holmes, Joyce Fewtrell, Patricia Muschalik, Ernest Lau, Sr. Pauline Wicks rsj, Delma Soria, Sn Atanasia Lee,

*To celebrate Ann Milling's 11 years of leadership as  
Principal at St Gerard's Catholic School,  
a Mass of Thanksgiving will be held on  
Wednesday, 19th December at 9.30am  
St Gerard's Church, Carlingford  
Morning tea will follow Mass.*

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
01/12/18	5:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd	6:00pm	Fr Joey Frez
02/12/18	8:30am	Fr Peter Dowd	7:45am	Fr Joey Frez
02/12/18	10:15am	Fr Peter Dowd	9:30am	Fr Joey Frez
02/12/18	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd		

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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

**Assistant Priest: Fr Joey Frez**  
**Ph.:** 9872 3400  
**Email:** joseph@eppcarl.org.au

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

**Parish Website:** www.eppcarl.org.au

**Parish Office: 9876 2853**

**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 B OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 25-11-18**

**Daniel 7:13-14**

**Apocalypse: 1:5-8**

**Mark 11:9-10**

### OUR ADVENT ECUMENICAL SERVICE

A reminder that our gathering with our fellow local Churches with whom we share a covenant relationship will take place this **Tuesday, 27th November** at **7:45pm** in St Alban's Church, 3 Pembroke Street, Epping with The Rev. Andrew Hall, Senior Pastor at the Epping Baptist Church. Please be there if you are able for this final ecumenical gathering for the year as we prepare together to celebrate the Lord's birth.



**A Welcome Gathering for all 2019  
Kindergarten Families at  
St Gerard Majella's School**

Will take place at St Gerard's Carlingford on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
December** at the **9:30am Mass**

As part of our welcome to new kindergarten students for 2019 the families will be called forward for a blessing during the Mass to mark the commencement of their child's years of school education.

Everyone is invited to the morning tea which will take place in the parish meeting room.

Could I please ask, **if you are coming along to the morning tea, could you bring a plate to share with fellow parishioners.**

We look forward to seeing you then.

*Fr Peter*

*Together as One....*

*A Mass to remember, love and pray with  
our children who have died*

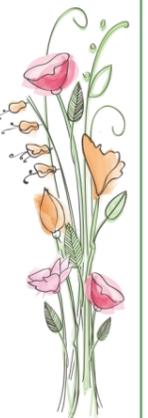
You are invited to a candlelit Eucharist for parents, siblings, grandparents or other family members, and friends who have experienced, or been touched by the death of a baby, (before or after birth), a child or young adult.

- A time to remember our young people who have died.
- A time to thank God for the gift of our children and the special place they will always hold in our lives and hearts.
- A time to show support for families who have lost their precious baby, child or young person, recently, or long ago.
- A time of care and gratitude for those who work with families experiencing the death of a young person.

**Thursday, 29th November  
at 7:30pm,  
at Our Lady Help of Christians'  
Church, Epping**

You are welcome to bring a photo, or a symbol of the young person you are remembering, such as a small item of clothing, a toy or favourite book to place in the sacred space.

All are welcome!





**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASSES**

All children are invited to take part in the Christmas Vigil Masses (5 pm at St Gerard's and 6 pm at OLHC on Christmas Eve in both churches.) We would like volunteers for many roles. We also need parent volunteers to assist at the practices, during the Mass and with supper.

The children participating in the Mass will be required to attend practices.  
Parent helpers will also be required to attend.

**Carlingford:**  
Parent Run-through & mime learning Saturday 15th December 3:30pm - 4:30pm  
Dress Rehearsal Thursday 20th December 10:15am- 11:15am  
**Epping:**  
Parent run-through & dress rehearsals Thursday 13th December & 20th December 4:00 - 5.00pm .  
**Any questions?** Please email:  
**Lynn for Carlingford** stgchildrensmass@gmail.com and  
**Therese for Epping** olhcchildrensmass@gmail.com

**Please detach and return no later than 2nd December Epping / Carlingford**  
*(Please circle which church you will be attending)*

Please provide order of preference for each child for roles from Gospel mime, readings and processions. Although we try to give everyone his or her first preference, it is not always possible.

Child's Name	Age	Role

**Parents:** I am/am not able to assist with practices & during Mass.

I am/am not able to assist with packing away supper after Mass

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

*Confirmation of roles etc. will be notified via email*

**Congratulations! Fr Peter on the Anniversary of your Ordination**



May you remember all the many ways God has touched people through your life. Happy Anniversary!  
With best wishes from the Parish Family

**Pope urges faithful to respond to the "cry of the poor"**

In his message for the second World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis has called for a new evangelisation that prompts Catholics "to make tangible the Church's response to the cry of the poor".

In a letter to clergy throughout Australia, Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life chairman Bishop Terence Brady encouraged all Catholic communities to be involved and respond to the theme of day: "This poor man cried and the Lord heard him" (Psalm 34:7).

The World Day of the Poor will be celebrated this year on November 18.

"The Holy Father notes that there are many different forms of poverty and he asks us to consider 'Who are the poor?'" Bishop Brady said: "He describes how we only recognise the voice of the poor in silence and then, having listened, we must answer. Our response, he suggests, calls for a 'loving attentiveness which honours the person ... and seeks out his/her best interests'."

Pope Francis inaugurated the World Day of the Poor at the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016. The Pope's 2018 message was signed on the feast day of St Anthony of Padua (June 13), the patron of the poor.

Pope Francis said: "The World Day of the Poor wishes to be a small answer that the Church throughout the world gives to the poor of every kind and in every land, lest they think that their cry has gone unheard."

"Often I am afraid that many initiatives, by themselves meritorious and necessary, are intended more to please those who undertake them than to really acknowledge the cry of the poor."

"We are so entrapped in a culture which obliges us to look in the mirror and to pamper ourselves that we believe that a gesture of altruism is sufficient without compromising ourselves directly."

Pope Francis explained poverty "is not brought on by itself, but is caused by selfishness, pride, greed and injustice".

"Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society," he said: "In order to overcome the overwhelming condition of poverty, it is necessary that the poor perceive the presence of brothers and sisters who show concern for them and who, by opening the door of their hearts and lives, make them feel like friends and family."

Bishop Brady said Pope Francis invites us to make concrete the words of the Psalm 22:27: "That the afflicted shall eat and be satisfied."

"His message contains a very practical suggestion: the sharing of the Sunday meal with the poor," Bishop Brady suggested.

"I encourage you to sow the seed of this idea, inviting parishioners and the homeless to share a meal after Mass on or around November 18, as the Pope calls us to celebrate in the spirit of joy for the rediscovery of our capacity for getting together, stating that 'Praying together as a community and sharing a Sunday meal is an experience which takes us back to the earliest Christian community'."

The Holy Father has invited "priests, and in particular deacons, on whom hands have been laid for the service of the poor (Acts 6: 1-7), as well as religious and the lay faithful – men and women – who in parishes, associations and ecclesial movements make tangible the Church's response to the cry of the poor, to live this World Day as a special moment of new evangelisation".

Pope Francis concluded his message by saying that "the cry of the poor is also a cry of hope which manifests the certainty of being liberated".

*The Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay News Event*

**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.**



**PIETY STORE St. Gerard's Church**

*come and browse*

- \*2019 Daily Missals commencing Advent**
- \*Christmas Cards**
- \*2019 Columban Calendars**
- \*Christmas gifts for all ages**

**THE NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
**At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.**  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**St Vincent's Westmead Old Boys Reunion**

Members of the St Vincent's Westmead Old Boys Association are invited to the 97th Annual Mass and Reunion:

Date: Sunday 25 November 2018  
Time: 11.00am  
Venue: Sacred Heart Church, 14 Ralph Street, Westmead  
Lunch: BBQ lunch @12.00pm  
Enquiries: Bob McDonald 0417 214 822

**Advent Women's Retreat at Notre Dame, Sydney**

On Saturday 8 December from 9.00am to 4:30pm, all women are invited to spend a day around the theme "My spirit rejoices in God my saviour." There will be Mass, Adoration, opportunities for Confession and three inspiring talks. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. The retreat is taking place at the Broadway Campus of the University of Notre Dame Australia. It is free, but registration is essential: 02 8204 4189 or online: [www.trybooking.com/YRQW](http://www.trybooking.com/YRQW).



**Make an Encounter in 2019**

Palms Encounters are rich immersions that challenge perceptions of our neighbours, guided by Palms mission volunteers with cultural experience of Timor Leste, Myanmar and Samoa.

Timor Leste- April & Sept  
Samoa - June  
Myanmar- November

[www.palms.org.au/encounters](http://www.palms.org.au/encounters)



## Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel—Happiness and Meaning

*Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth." (Gospel)*

"Are you happy?" How would you honestly answer that? My suspicion is that, for most of us, this would be a painful question which, given our fantasy of what happiness should be, we would tend to answer in the negative: "No, I don't think I'm happy. I would like to be, but there are too many limitations and frustrations in my life which block happiness."

"Are you happy?" To stare that question square in the face can make you more unhappy. A torturous self-scrutiny can result from it. What this suggests is that perhaps it is not a good question to ask in the first place. To ask myself: "Am I happy?" is to confuse things and to begin to demand things from life and from God that are not realistic.

For a Christian, there is a better question. The essential question should not be, "Am I happy?" but rather, "Is my life meaningful?" That is a different question, one which can help purify our perspective on things.

What God has promised us in Christ is not, as is unfortunately so often preached and believed, a life free from pain, sickness, loneliness, oppression, and death. The preacher who tells you that you will have less pain in life if you take Jesus seriously is not in touch with the gospel. What the incarnation promises is not that Christ will do away with our pain, but that God will be with us in that pain. That is something quite different. In fact, one can go further and say the opposite: If you take the gospel seriously, you will probably have more pain in your life because you will be a more sensitive person.

To take the gospel seriously is not to be given immunity from the human condition. No. For the Christian, as for everyone else, there will be the same sicknesses, the same cold lonely seasons, the same painful frustrations, the same choices that are regretted, and the same bitter losses. Like everyone else, too, eventually we will have to face death. Faith in God does not, in this world, save one from pain, misunderstanding, loneliness, and death. Faith does not offer a life free of pain. What God does promise is to be with us in that pain. That is why our Savior's name is Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.

To have faith in God is to have God with you. This, as Avery Dulles once so aptly put it, does not give you a ladder to crawl out of the human condition, but a drill to burrow into the heart of it:

Jesus enables us to believe that human life, with all its contradictions, is the place where God is pre-eminently found. Unlike every other mythology, the myth of the Incarnation gives us strength to face up to the harsh realities of our fragmented world, to feel and to transmit the touch of God's reconciling love. The Incarnation does not provide us with a ladder by which to escape from the ambiguities of this life and scale the heights of heaven. Rather it enables us to burrow deep into the heart of the planet earth and find it shimmering with divinity.

For the Christian, then, the important question is not: "Am I happy?" but "Is my life meaningful?" By asking the latter question rather than the former one, I do not torture myself with some unattainable romantic ideal and, more importantly, I do not ask God to exempt me from the human condition. My life is meaningful precisely when I sense God's presence in the midst of my suffering, sicknesses, loneliness, and pain. My faith should never pressure me to ask God to exempt me from these. Why should I be spared the human condition? Rather my faith should allow me to stand inside of every reality in my life, positive and negative, and see some meaning in it.

"Is my life meaningful?" When I ask the question this way the perspective is very different. Now my happiness will no longer depend upon my never getting sick, or upon my not getting lonely, or upon my never being misunderstood, or upon my never making wrong choices, or on somehow being exempt from death's shadow. Life can be frustrating and still be very meaningful. We can be lonely, sick, sorrowful about wrong choices, over-worked and unappreciated, staring old age and death in the face and still experience deep meaning. Happiness will be a by-product of that.

Are my symbols working? Is my faith deep enough so that every corner of my experience, no matter how painful, makes some sense in a higher plan? Is God with me as I walk through both health and sickness, joy and sorrow, friendship and loneliness, success and failure, youth and aging? Does my life have a meaning?

The question about happiness comes after that question.

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).*

## Red Wednesday – 28th November 2018

Red Wednesday aims to bring awareness to the plight of persecuted Christians globally. Around the world famous landmarks will be lit up in red on this day to bring awareness to the oppression of Christians. This year for the first time since its inception in 2016, Australia is participating in Red Wednesday. St Mary's Cathedral Sydney, will be lit up in red to mark the occasion and Mass will be celebrated at 5.30pm. The colour red is used as it is the colour of martyrdom. Show your support this Wednesday, 28 November, by attending an event; using social media (#RedWednesday); and by praying for those persecuted that peacefully practice their faith. For further details, please visit [www.aidtochurch.org/redwednesday](http://www.aidtochurch.org/redwednesday)

## PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	25/11/18	9:30am	Kidz Word at St Gerard's Church
		9:30am	St Gerard's Catechists' Mass + SRE Recruiting Drive
		10:15am	Kidz Word at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		12:00pm	Baptisms at St Gerard's Church
		12:00pm	Baptisms at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		7:00pm	PMR Epping—Antioch Meeting
Mon	26/11/18	9:00am	PH Epping Little Engines Playgroup
		9:30am	PH Carlingford Gerry's Playgroup
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		2:00pm	CH Epping OLHC Yr. 6 Graduation rehearsal
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP meeting
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford Rosary Group
Tue.	27/11/18	12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		1:30pm	PMR Carlingford—Alpha Session
		7:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir Practice
		7:45pm	Advent Ecumenical Service at St Alban's Church
		8:00pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet. See page 4
		9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
Wed.	28/11/18	9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		9:45am	PMR Epping Alpha Meeting
		7:00pm	PH Epping Alpha Session
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		11:30am	CH C'ford St Gerard's School practice for Advent
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
Thur.	29/11/18	7:30pm	CH Epping A Mass to remember, love and pray with our children who have died. Followed by supper in the parish meeting room.
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:00am	PMR Carlingford—Scripture Reflection
		11:00am	PMR Carlingford—Catechist Christmas lunch
		11:30am	CH Carlingford St Gerard's School practice for Advent
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
Fri.	30/11/18	4:00pm	CH Carlingford—Adult Choir practice
		4:30pm	CH Epping Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA Group
		9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
Sat.	01/12/18	5:00pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church
		6:00pm	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		PH—Parish Hall, CH—Church, PMR—Parish Meeting Room	

### Safeguarding Message

The protection of children and vulnerable adults within our Diocese will be achieved as every member of our community strives to be a person who **ENGAGES** the knowledge and experience of the wider community so that through dialogue and collaboration we can contribute to growth in the safety and wellbeing of our communities.

### PARISH STAFF

**Parish Secretary:**  
**Dennis Porteous** Ph.: 9876 2853  
Email: [dennis@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:dennis@eppcarl.org.au)

**Asst. Parish Secretary**  
**Maree Balzulat** Ph.: 9876 2853  
Email: [maree@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:maree@eppcarl.org.au)

**Pastoral Care Assistant**  
**Maree Balzulat** Ph.: 9876 2853  
Email: [maree@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:maree@eppcarl.org.au)

**Children's Sacramental Coordinator:**  
**Lynn Siau**  
Ph.: 0407 255 593  
Email: [kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au)

**Sacramental Programme Assistant**  
**Marcella Letteri**  
Ph.: 0407 255 593

**Cana Youth Group**  
**Ashleigh Belic**  
Ph.: 0430 120 015  
Email: [ashleigh.belic@gmail.com](mailto:ashleigh.belic@gmail.com)

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Advent -The Sacrament of Reconciliation:



There will be a celebration of the Second Rite of Reconciliation for both our communities at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church at Epping on Wednesday 19th December at 7:30pm.

Please make this a priority as a number of priests will be available.

### Antioch Parent Support

Once again I ask for parishioners to seriously consider assisting in the parent role essential to the continuation of Antioch in our parish. If, as many of you have said on numerous occasions, the parish needs to be serious about youth being a priority and support the growth in faith of our young people, then it is up to you, the parishioners to provide the ministry required.

Anyone interested in finding our more information please contact Fr Peter via the parish office on 9876 2853



### Divine Mercy Prayer Group

Meets this **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 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.

### Our December Healing Masses and Christmas Luncheons:

#### Carlingford:

the Mass will be celebrated Thursday, 6th December at 11:00am. To be followed by Christmas Luncheon.

Also come along and browse in the St Vincent de Paul Piety Store. Cards, Calendars and Christmas gifts for all ages.

#### Epping:

the Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, 12th December at 11am. Please note the later start of 11:00am as lunch will follow at each celebration. Both catering teams.

The Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated within each Mass. On both occasions a pre-Christmas lunch will be served in the Parish Meeting Room.

All are welcome - and we especially invite all our senior parishioners to this end of year gathering.



### MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS AT CARLINGFORD

A reminder, that our monthly Children's Mass at Carlingford, will take place next **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at the 9:30am Mass.

If you would like your child/ren to be involved in one of the active roles at a future Children's Mass please speak to Lynn Siau at the Mass next weekend or email stgchildrensmass@gmail.com



### ANGEL TREE 2018

If you have forgotten to bring the gift for the "Angel Tree" this weekend, could you please do so by next weekend 1st /2<sup>nd</sup> December at the latest so that they can be delivered in time for Christmas. Thank you for your support this year, and please pray for the children, parents and carers this Christmas

### CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL

We are deeply grateful to our Parish community for supporting our Charitable Works Fund. The donations you generously share with us are helping our families, our friends and our neighbours in the Diocese of Broken Bay.

**Shortfall after the third week is \$1,339**

Envelopes can be found at the back of the churches. 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 \$17,064.

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



#### Christmas Eve Evening, 24th December

#### Christmas Vigil Mass

5:00pm at St Gerard's  
6:00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians  
These are both Children's Masses. If possible the children are invited to bring a small gift to place under the tree. We invite you to provide your child with a gift wrapped card containing a small monetary donation to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. The children will be invited to place their gifts under the tree during the procession of gifts in the middle of the Mass.

#### St Gerard's, Carlingford

Night Mass: 10:00pm Mass  
Preceded by Carols at 9:30pm

#### Our Lady Help of Christians, Epping

Midnight Mass  
Preceded by Carols at 11:30pm.

#### Christmas Day 25th December

#### St Gerard's Carlingford

7:45am, 9:30am

#### Our Lady Help of Christians' Epping

8:30am, 10:15am **NO** 6:00pm Mass

### Can You Help?

We are looking for three volunteers to be part of the Altar Society at Epping.

This would involve dusting around the sacristy, and sanctuary, arranging flowers.

The work would need to be carried out on a Friday afternoon or after 10:30am on a Saturday morning.

If you are able to help please contact the parish office on 9876 2853.

Join the  
Altar  
Society

## Year of Youth 2018

### CANA YOUTH GROUP

Next CANA Meeting Friday 23 November

If you're in Yrs. 7-9

Come along for a night jam-packed with **FUN & FAITH! EVERY FRIDAY** night of school term **7:30pm-9:00pm** in the parish hall @ Carlingford.

It's a great place to catch up with friends and meet some new ones! Please remember that a small donation when you come to the meeting would really help out with the cost of the night! Thanks :)

Any questions call Ashleigh 0430 120 015



## Alpha



Your invitation to **Come and See** what Alpha is about.

On **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December** we invite everyone interested in finding out more about Alpha to join us for the evening meal at 7pm in the parish hall at Epping. We watch the video "Is there more to life?" and finish by 9pm.

This will be a wonderful evening of welcome. You will see and hear what has been happening for people over Alpha and also clarify any questions you or others may have. Do you have to pay? No. You are our guest! Just "Come and see" for yourself.

If you are driving, the entrance is 8 Cambridge St Epping, or if you are walking, you can enter from beside the church in Oxford Street. 'Come on down' to the hall in the school grounds.

As 2018 is ending and the Alpha sessions at Epping are coming to an end, another Alpha is being planned for 2019. Fr Peter has asked for an evening Alpha to be offered. This will begin after Easter in Term 2.

Alpha is very much the work of the Holy Spirit, so the first step is always to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide people to be there for our guests. They care for the guests and share the joy as hosts and helpers.

Another group make up the Alpha Task Force. They prepare the food, set up and pack up. They arrive early and cheerfully transform the hall into a space of hospitality with food for the buffet and flowers on the tables.

Thank you from all who benefit from the blessings of belonging more deeply to our parish community and believing more strongly in the power of God's love in our lives.

### Alpha Connect Groups

A new year and a new start is being prepared for 2019. Fr Peter is exploring ways people who have done Alpha can continue to connect with each other and continue their Alpha journey. He hopes people will be called by the Spirit to offer their homes, so others can gather there each fortnight for a fun-filled evening.

### OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY:

## Meeting this Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Why not Come along to the Antioch meeting to hear a great talk, join in discussion time, get into some awesome music, take time out for prayer and meet heaps of great young people from our parish!

The meeting starts at 7pm,  
in the Parish meeting room @ Epping  
So head on down and bring a friend.

**ALL VERY WELCOME!!**

Joanne—0416 030 927



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

### The Greatest love Praise and worship night



**When:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December

**Where:** Our Lady Help of Christians Epping Church  
29 Oxford Street Epping NSW 2121 Australia

**Time:** 6:45pm-9pm

Come and Join us for joyful and prayerful worship music and listen to a guest speaker. Dinner will be provided before the event and light refreshments will also be provided after.

### COMBINED CHURCHES EVENT - CAROLS IN THE PARK - SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2018 AT BORONIA PARK, EPPING

Come along to "Carols in the Park," and join with the people of Epping and Carlingford for an evening of fun and festivity, as we celebrate the heart of Christmas together as a community. **From 5pm** there will be an array of stalls from charities to food vendors. Come early to see how you can support local efforts, grab a bite and save yourself a good seat! **From 7:15pm** Carols Programme. **From 9:00pm** Fireworks! What else needs to be said.

