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

Our Lady Help of Christens' Church 31 Oxford Street, Epping, NSW 2121

St Gerard Majella's Church 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford NSW 2118



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

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon Email: jim.mckeon@bbcatholic.org.au

Tel: 9876 2853

Parish Office Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au Tel: 9876 2853

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH YEAR C THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

Happy Christmas!

Every year we celebrate the good news of Jesus' birth, but this year, perhaps more than ever, we need the hope and joy which Jesus brings into our world. We invite you to recapture the hope of one small child whose birth 2000 years ago brought Heaven to touch Earth and whose life and love are still with us today. It has been our privilege to be your pastors this year through good, the bad and the changing times which a pandemic, lockdown, and re-opening have brought. No matter what 2022 may bring, we invite you to journey with our parish community where we seek to find God in in every part of our lives. The opportunities which these pages contain are our invitation to you, on behalf of our whole parish team, to come and be part of our parish family next year. May God bless you - Fr Jim McKeon & Fr Bogdan Skupien.

New Youth-Led Mass: We're launching a new youth-led Mass at St Gerard's on Sunday nights at 5pm starting January 30th. While everyone is welcome, it will be our teenagers and young adults who will be taking the lead in our ministries. We'll offer a BBQ or other hospitality afterwards, and then our Antioch youth group for people aged 16-23

Gathering online: One thing we discovered this year was that when we can't gather in person that online gatherings can be very effective, whether that is a gathering for work, with family, with friends, or as a church. During lockdown we gathered on Sunday evenings for a liturgy of prayer, scripture and sharing. And even though lockdown is now behind us, we know that coming to church can be challenging whether that's due to having a baby or a toddler, or being housebound through illness or injury or caring for someone. For others, just coming into a crowded church can be a bit unfamiliar or intimidating. So $I^\prime d$ now like to invite you to something new which we created during lockdown: a monthly, online liturgy gathering for families with

young children which we're calling Toe in the Water" (as in, a gentle way to ease into a Sunday church

gathering).

We'll meet on the 4th Sunday afternoon of each month at 4.30pm starting January 23rd. We'll listen to a bible reading, reflect on moments of joy in our lives, have music, and pray together. You and your children can take part from the comfort of your couch, and even crying toddlers or barking pets are welcome. It will run on Zoom via the QR code here.

The Epping Redevelopment: Planning has been underway for several years now in partnership with Stockland to redevelop the OLHC site to build a new Parish Centre (hall, meeting rooms and offices), and school with underground parking and outdoor gathering spaces centred around OLHC Church. The Parish will handover control of the site to Stockland on February 4th for redevelopment to commence. There are posters at the back of OLHC Church, and visuals at ttps://olhc-develop.com.au/designplans/ to show you what is planned. OLHC Church will always remain open and accessible on weekends for Mass. We will explore our options for parking and for weekday Masses early in the new year.

Christmas & New Year changes: All of our Masses & Reconciliation times will continue, with the only exception being no adoration & reconciliation on Monday Jan. 3rd at OLHC. The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Day to Monday January 3rd but the office number 9876 2853 will divert to one of the priest's phones at all times. Fr Jim will be on annual leave from Dec 30th to January 10th.

Mass for New Year's Eve: Fr Bogdan will celebrate a special Mass at 6pm at St Gerard's on Friday Dec 31st as a vigil of the Solemnity of the Mother of God and to pray for the new year ahead. This will be in place of adoration that evening. New Year's Day Mass will be the usual Saturday time of 9.15am at OLHC with the blessings of Images of Our Lady.

Welcome back to Fr Anselam Lakra who will be celebrating Masses at St Gerard's on Jan 1st and 2nd, and to Fr Joey Frez who will be celebrating Masses at OLHC on Jan 8th & 9th while Fr Jim is away.

Farewell Hien: We now bid a fond farewell to Hien Vu who has been with us as seminarian on pastoral placement this year. Hien has taken part in almost every area of parish life, and brough his gentle, engaging, welcoming presence to everything he has done. We will formally farewell him at our carols evening on Boxing Day, 6pm at St Gerard's



These small groups will continue to meet face to face in Epping or Carlingford, and some online, with both daytime and evening sessions offered, to give you opportunity to join in.

If you've thought to join but never got around to it, why not make 2022 the year!

If you are already part of a group, we hope you continue in 2022 and even go as far as to invite someone to join you. What a great way to evangelize others! Romans 10:17—So then faith comes by hearing, and Hearing by the word of God.

There will be more to come on our Parish Faith Formation Team and Programs in 2022. Check out https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/groups-and-ministries/grow-in-faith.

Meanwhile, over the summer break we invite you to share in our parish subscription to *Formed* which is like a Catholic version of Netflix. Formed offers lots of videos and movies to help you grow in your faith. Go to https://formed.org/signup_In "Find your Parish or Organisation" type "Epping" and select "Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford" then add your name and email address to get started.

Baptism: Do you have a baby or a pre-school child to be baptised in 2022? While it is sometimes attractive to go back to a church where the parents were married, or where a parent was themselves baptised, the best place for a child to be baptised is in the parish where the parents now live and either do, or will worship. Baptism is a new beginning, and the process of baptism preparation which includes a one hour baptism workshop with some parishioners and a presentation and blessing at a Sunday Mass is a great way to start a relationship with the parish if you haven't yet made contact. If that's you and you'd like to enquire about baptism, please go to https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/sacraments/baptism-under-eight and fill out the form there.

Marriage: We've been having a post-lockdown rush of weddings, and perhaps you're thinking that 2022 is the time for you to get married here at OLHC or St Gerard's. Marriage is a sacrament, and like baptism, is best celebrated in the local parish where one of the couple already live, or where they intend to live when married. Fr Jim and Fr Bogdan are available to celebrate weddings at our two parish churches, but don't accept invitations to do weddings elsewhere. Contact the parish office to speak with one of the priests.

Reconciliation: The sacrament of Reconciliation is a hidden treasure of the church. It can bring relief to burdened consciences or be an avenue for spiritual and moral growth. It is good to go at least once a year, and so an ideal time is to go around your birthday each year, as a marker of how you have been in the year past, and how you would like to grow in the year ahead. We offer the sacrament on Mondays at 6pm at OLHC, Fridays at 7.30pm at St Gerard's, Saturdays at 9.45am at OLHC and Saturdays at 5pm at St Gerard's.

How and where do I ignite my faith in 2022?

In our community we believe that faith grows in small groups where we can come together to reflect, to ask questions, and to help each other find answers in the light of Catholic faith. Over the last few years these small groups have been forming which are now part of our yearly program. Some of these small groups are:

Lenten Program—March-April

A 6-week reflection on the scripture readings of Lent. This year we will have available the Lenten program from Brisbane Diocese to reflect on the weekly gospels and hear the personal reflections and stories of people.

Alpha—May-June

Alpha is a great way to ask those deep and meaningful questions in a small group environment, enjoying the company of others sharing a meal with them, watch a video about people's faith journey and their testimonies.

Unlock the Mysteries of the Bible—second half of the year

yearThis has been a successful program where the bible is unpacked in 8-week program guided by a bible timeline, user manual and a small group led discussion.

Men of St Joseph—Thursday nights

To discuss and reflect on Faith related dilemmas, from a man's point of view.

Bible Study Group—Friday mornings

This group meets throughout the year, to reflect on the scriptures of each Sunday.

Bible reading via WhatsApp—Daily

This podcast is about 20-25 mins a day. This is a great way to listen to God's work.

Fr Jim McKeon

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome any visitors to our parish of Epping and Carlingford, which is made up of our two worshipping communities of St Gerard Majella's at Carlingford and Our Lady Help of Christians at Epping. If you are visiting today, we are glad that you are with us and we hope that our celebration of the Eucharist together for this Solemnity will provide both nourishment and challenge on your Christian journey.



ANGEL TREE

Thank you to all those who responded with a donation to Angel tree to provide a gift card for the children of a parent who is incarcerated. 53 children will receive a gift card suitable to their age as well as a Christ-

mas Card from their parent and a Christmas card to their Carer with an express prepaid envelope to mail the gift to their home. \$2350 was donated Thank you to Natalie Viset who purchased these gifts and arranged them for each child and family. Thank you also to Joanne, Helen, Marie and Carol for your support in looking after the tree and For Betty who collected the money from each parish regularly. Once again our parish community has demonstrated magnificent generosity and compassion. The prison Ministry thanks you very much

Margaret.Wiseman Chaplain Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre Margaret.wiseman@justice.nsw.gov.au 92895422



New Year's Day – the blessing of our images of Our Lady.

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

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



2021 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Commenced 4th December

Every baby should be born with hope for the future

Our Lady Help of Christians Epping: Envelopes are available at the back of the Church and can be placed in the second collection box . Also Receipts can be provided immediately if the donation is made to one of our members who will be available to assist at the 'Vinnies Table' after Mass.

St. Gerard Majella Carlingford: Envelopes are available at the entrance to the Church and can be placed in the second collection box. Also Receipts can be provided immediately if the donation is made to one of our members at the Piety

Your gift will offer hope this Christmas

PARISH STAFF

Parish Secretary:

Dennis Porteous Ph.: 9876 2853 Email: Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au

Asst. Parish Secretary:

Maree Balzulat Ph.: 9876 2853 Email: Maree.Balzulat@bbcatholic.org.au

Admin. Assistant

Michael Davies Ph: 9876 2853 Email: Michael.Davies@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Support Worker (PSW) Sacramental Programmes and Children's Ministries Lynn Siau

Ph.: 0407 255 593 Email: Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

Pastoral Support Worker (PSW) Youth:

Joanna Mak

Ph.: 0404 710 588 Email: Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au

Missionary Discipleship Coordinator: Denis McNamara

Ph.: 0410 041 944

Email: Dennis.McNamara@bbcatholic.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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES are available near the bulletin boxes of both our churches.

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

This diocesan fund not only provides the living allowance and household costs for the priests of the parish, but also provides funds for health care for priests and maintains priests in their retirement. Please support the Christmas Offerings. The envelopes can be placed on either plate.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR:

Our Parish Office will be CLOSED from 12 noon on Christmas Eve until Tuesday 4th January.

For emergency sick calls or in the event of the need to make funeral arrangements please ring the parish office number as usual 9876 2853 (the phone is always diverted to Fr Jim's and Fr Bogdan's home outside of office hours). Please leave a message, which will be returned promptly.

However – NO office or routine enquiries during that time please.





Page 4

Sacramental & Children's Ministries Information



Children's Sacramental Journey - First Reconciliation 2022

Enrolment for First Reconciliation will open on Thursday, 27th January 2022. In our Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and who are in Year 4 or above are invited to enrol.

Our Sacramental Programme is advertised through the parish website, bulletins, announcements at Mass, both parish school newsletters, catechists and word-of-mouth. If you do know of anyone who may wish to enrol their children, please feel free to spread the word for us.

Enrolment information will be emailed to all who were enrolled in Confirmation 2021 and to all who have enquired online. If you have any queries or would like more information regarding your child's sacramental journey within our parish, please feel free to drop me a line or visit our parish website for more details here: https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/sacraments/childrens-sacraments



Children's Liturgy - Kidz Word

Kidz Word is taking a break during the school holidays. The parent leaders deserve a HUGE round of applause for all they have done to support this ministry, both during the lockdown and outside of it. We are so blessed to have them put in their time and effort to bring God's Word alive to our children. Thank you to this AMAZING team of parents!

Here's wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas season and a blessed year ahead!

Lynn Siau Sacramental Programme and Children's Ministries 0407 255 593 Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

Page 5

Planning your 2022 Goals? Have you considered Bible reading?

Through his podcast, Fr. Mike Schmitz has been reading the 'Bible in a Year', in 2021. Father reads 3-4 chapters of the Bible every day and explains the passages in a Catholic context. This podcast is about 20-25 mins a day. This is a great way to listen to God's Word and has changed so many lives.

Testimony - Listening to this podcast daily has been the biggest blessing for me in 2021. It has been the first time that I have heard the entire Bible and I now appreciate God's constant and unwavering love for humans and how salvation comes through Jesus. It has deepened my understanding with the Mass and relationship with the Bible and with Jesus. I recommend that everyone listens to this, not only once but ongoing, and I will relisten to the podcasts in 2022. — Jo, Epping & Carlingford

Apple podcasts - https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/the-bible-in-a-year-with-fr-mike-schmitz/id1539568321

Google podcast - https://podcasts.google.com/feed/ aHR0cHM6Ly9mZWVkcy5maXJlc2lkZS5mbS9iaWJsZWluYXllYXIvcnNz

Hallow https://hallow.com/2021/01/12/bible-in-a-year-with-father-mike-schmitz/

Spotify https://open.spotify.com/show/4Pppt42NPK2XzKwNIoW7BR

YouTube with subtitles - https://www.youtube.com/playlist? list=PLeXS0cAkuTPqFMtZQ379qdEmcfxO1SvXc

You may sign up for Bible reading plan, via https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/the-bible-in-a-year-with-fr-mike-schmitz/.

If you have any questions, please email Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au



Antioch Youth, Cana Youth and Emmaus

wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Antioch will resume on Sunday, 16th January 22

Cana will resume on Friday, 28 January 22

Emmaus will resume on Tuesday, 25th January

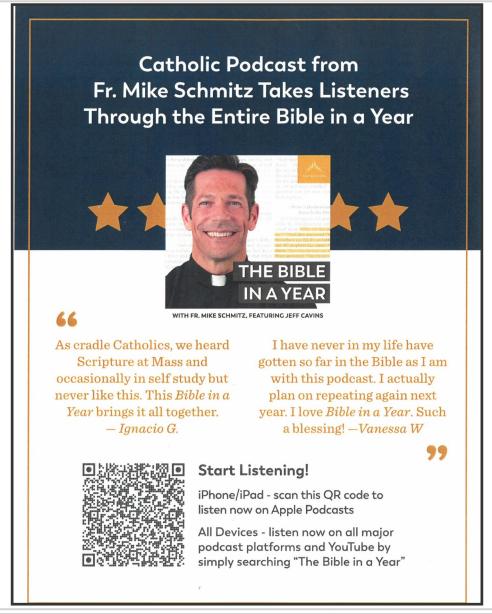
STAYING IN CONTACT WITH THE PARISH



Use this QR Code to subscribe to receive this bulletin electronically each fortnight.







Have You Told Us? If you have recently changed your address, phone number or email. For parishioners who give by credit card, does your credit card expire in the near future? Please give the parish office a call on 9876 2853 if you have received a new credit card and/or a new expiry date.

After Hours Sick Calls—9876 2853

Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Jim and Fr 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.

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.



Awesome service. Amazing results.

Betty Ockerlander bettyockerlander@mcgrath.com.au 0408 505 080

McGrath |

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.







Merry Christmas







Supporting the Parish Financially

The Catholic Church has a strong tradition of giving, following in the footsteps of St Paul who spoke about caring for one another; it has established and supported many worthwhile charities throughout its long history.

This culture of charity continues on, but a parish can only sustain itself and these charitable works with the help of its parishioners whose generosity makes great things possible.

We ask you to consider making a donation to the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford. To do so please use the following bank account: Please note that the two accounts previously shown have been changed by the bank; you are asked to use the account shown below.

Internet Banking
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
BSB: 062 784
Account No: 100001603
Church Account (2nd Collection)
Please use your envelope number
and surname as the reference

2nd Collection

- Parish running costs e.g. administration, insurance, utilities, general maintenance and upkeep of the church, presbytery and parish property.
- Parish staff salaries.

BSB: 062 784
Account No: 100001604
Pastoral Revenue Account
(1st Collection)

Please use your surname as a reference.

1st Collection supports the needs of priests of the parish.

- The priests' monthly salary.
- Upkeep of the presbytery, e.g. food, utilities, cleaner, etc.

Responsorial Psalm Response The Nativity of Christ Mass during the

PS 97:1-6 r. v. 3

All the ends of the earth have seen the

Page 8

Gospel Acclamation The Nativity of Christ Mass during the Day Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

WEEKEND MASSES							
Epping 5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm.							
Carlingford	arlingford 6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am						
WEEKDAY MASSES							
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	No Mass	12:15pm	6:00pm	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	
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 Also, Epping Monday 6pm and Carlingford Friday at 7:30pm OR BY APPOINTMENT.							
BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: BY APPOINTMENT							
PARISH OFFICE: 543 North Rocks Rd, Carlingford PH: 9876 2853 Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au							
POSTAL ADDRESS FOR THE PARISH OFFICE: PO Box 369, Epping NSW 1710							
ST GERARD MAJELLA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH: 9871 1633 Email: sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au							

Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of Everlasting life. Grant that life to: **Recently deceased:** Caroline Collerson, Gilles Vivien, Doreen Brown, Guillermo Surco, Eva Joseph.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS' PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH: 9868 3322 Email: olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Please pray for Teresa Dobosz who died on Thursday, 16th December The funeral was held at St Gerard's on Wednesday 22nd December.

Anniversaries: Maryanne Whealing, Judy Wright

Also for: Mark Hillier, Richard Barry, John & Elizabeth McEnearney, Rowstom Family, Ivan & Edith Almeida, Tony Moses.

Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsya, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, 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, Radhi Riley, Patrick Thornton, Jan Doherty, Ana Matijasic, Benjamin Verco, Peter Kelly. John Goodwin, George Bell, Michael & Susan Tuite, Noelene Viset, Eileen Brownlow, Leonie Hale, Elaine & Graham Yeates, Anne Kilby, Cohen Hadden, Yuqin Li, Paul Kelly, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Maureen Carlon, Augustine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Patricia Muschalik, 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, Janice Lemon, Mary Lou Petony, Donald Wong, Joyce Heidke, Betty Brennan, Dennis Porteous, Tony McEnearney.

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

Responsorial Psalm Response The Holy Family 26/12, Ps 83:2-3.5-6.9-10 R. v.5

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Date	Mass Time	Epping	Mass Time	Carlingford
01/01/22	5:00pm	Fr Bogdan	6:00pm	Fr Anselam
02/01/22	8:30am	Fr Bogdan	7:45am	Fr Anselam
02/01/22	10:15am	Fr Bogdan	9:30am	Fr Anselam
02/01/22	6:00pm	Fr Bogdan		

Gospel Acclamation The Holy Family 26/12/21

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

	Date	Mass Time	Epping	Mass Time	Carlingford
ı	08/01/22	5:00pm	Fr Joey Frez	5:00pm	Fr Bogdan
ı	09/01/22	8:30am	Fr Joey Frez	7:45am	Fr Bogdan
ı	08/01/22	10:15am	Fr Joey Frez	9:30am	Fr Bogdan
1	08/01/22	6:00pm	Fr Bogdan		

Responsorial Psalm Response The Epiphany of the Lord Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 R. v.11

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Gospel Acclamation The Epiphany of the Lord

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.



