

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MASSES ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: BY APPOINTMENT

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS: 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: Margaret Beagle, Joe Younis, Ray & Irene Ruiz, Laurence O'Rourke (brother of John Rourke), Michael Wondracz, Michael O'Keefe, Leonardus Tommy Hendra, Colin Patten.

Also For: Edith Almeida Elvan,

Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsys, Residents of Wesley Rayward Nursing Home, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Alice Eng, Peck Quah, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Narelda & Alan Ryan, Kit Smith, Margaret Floyd, Bev Aliprandi, Barbara Madafiglio, John Lyons, Howard, Carey, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Arnold Day, Marcia Power, Maureen Carlon, Fr Adrian Borst, Augustine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Patricia Muschalik, Delma Soria, Sr Abanasia Lee, Maria Belisario, Stella, Edwards, Fara Vargas, Theo Stevens, Monica Weeden, Thomas Woodward, Wai Chun Wong, Heather Stoodley, Agnes Wong, Irene Winardi.

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

Parish Website Please use our parish website to access information regarding COVID-19. Parish website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford

In order to view Masses please go to the link provided on the parish website under Mass on Demand and follow the link to the YouTube channel or go directly to You Tube and use

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_t43V_sQu1LK2LM_Q6akIA

Supporting our Parish Financially

A number of people have enquired as to how they can continue their financial support for the parish during this difficult time. We realise that this may not be possible in the light of growing unemployment and reductions in superannuation returns at the moment and **there is absolutely no pressure on anyone to contribute!**

The First Collection

Supports the needs of the priests of the parish, the retired priests of the diocese and the Bishop.

The Second Collection

Money from the Second Collection supports the running costs of the parish including the payment of staff.

If you are able to contribute, the Church account details are shown below:

Epping and Carlingford Parish Accounts for Internet Banking with the Commonwealth Bank

First Collection BSB 062 784 A/C No 858 8002

Second Collection BSB 062 784 A/C No 858 8001

In order to record planned giving in the parish office, we would suggest the reference be planned giving number where applicable and surname.

Thank you to all those who have made financial contributions. Your support is very much appreciated.

Anzac Day Mass

Bishop Anthony will be celebrating Mass at the Cathedral to commemorate ANZAC day. We invite you to advertise the Live-stream.

Date: Saturday 25 April

Time: 9:30am

Livestream: [Hornsby Cathedral Parish YouTube Channel](#)



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

Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au



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

Parish Office: 02 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 A

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

26-04-20

Acts 2:14.22-33

1 Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

Dear sisters and brothers

Fr Bogdan and myself continue to hope and pray that you are all safe and well during these days. Importantly, keep looking out for each other with prayer and practical outreach where possible. With that in mind I want to share some practical initiatives we are offering within the parish in addition to our weekly online Sunday Masses on Demand.

Firstly, please see the articles in today's bulletin from Lynn Siau and Denis McNamara concerning our children's ministries and faith formation online gatherings. You are welcome and encouraged to sign up for any of these programmes.

Secondly, if you are self-isolating or staying at home and need some help, we want you to know you are not alone and where possible we would like to help. Whether it's a regular call to check in on how you are going, picking up made up scripts from the chemist, helping with shopping or praying with you, we have parishioners who have already stepped up to offer their time and service for you. The idea is that we use this time especially to create what one of our parishioners referred to as "Circles of Friends" within the parish.

Some of the ways we can offer you support are:

- . **A friendly phone call to check- in**
- . **Urgent supplies for example, picking up medical prescriptions**
- . **Errands such as posting mail, picking up parcels**
- . **Prayer support - to chat, to listen and to pray with you.**
- . **Computer support, for example how to connect to video chats or online Masses, how to buy items online.**

If you would like some support or know someone else in need please let us know by calling the parish on 98762853 or send an email to maree@eppcarl.org.au. Of course, all requests will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Also, if anyone is able to offer their services with providing any of the above areas could you also please make contact with the parish as noted above.

Secondly, I have been hearing some great stories about how people are praying in new and different ways either on their own or with their families. One family I know have created their own "altar" where they place their computer to view the online Masses surrounded with candles, a cross and Bible. **We would like to hear your stories also to share anonymously with the wider parish! Please send a brief description to me at my email address at peter@eppcarl.org.au.**

Finally, this **Anzac Day** weekend we especially remember all those who have died in war in the service of their nation and especially the families for whom these days continue to provide a time of grief and sadness. You are all remembered in a special way during our Mass this weekend!

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.



Preparing for Alpha Online in May 2020

Alpha continues online

We began Alpha at Epping in February. Then came Corona and we could not meet.

Now we can continue for Alpha is online. The team of ten has been preparing and we believe our conversations will support us and enrich our lives when we resume next Tuesday evening. We will miss our evening meal together, yet we trust we will see the Spirit is moving among us at this time.

If you are on the Alpha journey, we look forward to seeing you. If not, we ask you to pray that the Holy Spirit will gift us with faith that opens our eyes to recognise Jesus as the disciples did.

Alpha to begin online in a month ~ for this we pray:

Come Holy Spirit, fill us with your love. Use us to be loving and to witness to your love. Lead us to invite those you are now calling to offer Alpha to others.

The first question is usually, "WHEN will Alpha begin."

Our first task is in fact to pray ~ Nothing happens without the Holy Spirit and everything happens with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works through a team of people committed to their guests.

WHO are these hosts and helpers? A number are being called to join the team this weekend.

Please pray many will be available, so Alpha can begin **online** in May.

Denis McNamara *Coordinating Missionary Disciples*

Fr Peter prays to the Holy Spirit for us to be missionary disciples. May people be available to be offer Alpha to others.

Now is the time for us to go out to others and offer Alpha to them. We also pray "Holy Spirit, move the hearts of people to discover Alpha."

During this time of isolation when we cannot gather in the one place, we can gather together online to be with others doing Alpha.

Please pray for all who will be blessed by Alpha for Alpha relies on the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire!

Email Scam

Some parishioners received an odd email a week or so ago purporting to be from Fr Peter, but it was a scam.

These do go around from time to time. You can usually tell such things are fake by:

- The odd email address (which the scanner wants you to reply to).
- The odd language used.

If you do receive these emails don't open them and report it to the parish office.

PARISH STAFF

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 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.

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.

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

Principal: Mrs Barbara Yee
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford
2118

P: 9871 1633

www.sgddb.catholic.edu

E: sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au



Our Lady Help Of Christians Catholic Primary School



Principal: Ms Dominique O'Sullivan

8 Cambridge Street, Epping 2121 Ph: 9868 3322

www.olhcdbb.catholic.edu.au

Email: olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au

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We are here to help

We want to reassure you that we are here to help. Our Home Care, Residential Aged Care and Retirement Living services are operating today and every day to ensure you keep receiving quality care and support. For more information on our services please watch our Aged Care Services Explained video [here](#) to make the right choice of how we can help.

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Reflection on Sunday's Gospel - Living Beyond Our Crucifixions

Every dream eventually gets crucified.

How? By time, circumstance, jealousy, and that curious, perverse dictate, somehow innate within the order of things, the one insuring that there is always someone or something that cannot leave well enough alone, but, for reasons of its own, must hunt down and strike what is good. The good will always be envied, hated, pursued, smudged, killed. That's true even of dreams. Something there is that needs a crucifixion. Every body of Christ inevitably suffers the same fate as Jesus. There's no smooth ride for what's whole, good, true, or beautiful.

Where does the resurrected Christ meet us? But that's only half the equation, the bad half. What's also true, what the resurrection teaches, is that, while nothing that is of God can avoid crucifixion, no body of Christ ever stays in the tomb for long either. God always rolls back the stone and, soon enough, new life bursts forth and we see why that original life had to be crucified. ("Wasn't it necessary that the Christ should so have to suffer and die?") Resurrection follows crucifixion. Every crucified body will rise again.

But where do we meet the resurrection? Where does the resurrected Christ meet us?

Scripture is subtle, but clear. Where can we expect to meet the resurrected Christ after a crucifixion? The gospel tell us that, on the morning of the resurrection, the women-followers of Jesus, the midwives of hope, set out for the tomb of Jesus, carrying spices, intending to anoint and embalm a dead body. Well-intentioned, but misguided, what they find is not a dead body, but by an empty tomb and an angel challenging them with these words: "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? Go instead into Galilee and you will find him there!"

Go instead into Galilee.

What a curious expression! What is Galilee? Why go back? In the post-resurrection accounts of the gospels, Galilee is not simply a physical geography. It is, first of all, a place in the heart. Galilee is the dream, the road of discipleship that they had once walked with Jesus, and that place and time when their hearts had most burned with hope and enthusiasm. And now, just when they feel that this all is dead, that their faith is only fantasy, they are told to go back to the place where it all began: "Go back to Galilee. He will meet you there!"

And they do go back, to Galilee, to that special place in their hearts, to the dream, to their discipleship. Sure enough, Jesus appears to them there. He doesn't appear exactly as they remember him, nor as often as they would like him to, but he does appear as more than a ghost or a mere idea. The Christ that appears to them after the resurrection no longer fits their original expectation, but he is physical enough to eat fish in their presence, real enough to be touched as a human being, and powerful enough to change their lives forever.

Ultimately that is what the resurrection challenges us to do, to go back to Galilee, to return to the dream, the hope, and the discipleship that had once inflamed us but that now is crucified.

This too is what it means to "be on the road to Emmaus." In Luke's gospel (Lk 24:13), we are told that on the day of the resurrection two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem towards Emmaus, their faces downcast. That single line contains an entire spirituality. For Luke, Jerusalem, like Galilee for the other gospel writers, means the dream, the hope, the kingdom, the center from which all is to begin and where ultimately all is to culminate. And the disciples are "walking away" from this, away from the dream, towards Emmaus. Emmaus was a Roman Spa—a Las Vegas and Monte Carlo of human consolation. Their dream has been crucified and the disciples, discouraged and hope-emptied, are walking away from it, towards human consolation, muttering: "But we had hoped!" They never get to Emmaus. Jesus appears to them on the road, reshapes their hope in the light of the crucifixion, and turns them back towards Jerusalem.

One of the essential messages of Easter is this: whenever we are discouraged in our faith, whenever our hopes seem to be crucified, we need to go back to Galilee and Jerusalem, that is, to the dream, to the road of discipleship that we had embarked upon before everything went wrong. The temptation, of course, is, whenever we feel this way, whenever the kingdom doesn't seem to work, the temptation is to abandon discipleship for human consolation, to set out instead for Emmaus, for the consolation of Las Vegas and Monte Carlo.

But, as we already know, we never quite get to Emmaus. In one guise or another, Christ always meets us on the road, burns holes in our hearts, explains the latest crucifixion to us, and sends us back—to Galilee and to our abandoned discipleship.

Once there, it all makes sense again.

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.



Our next CWF Appeal takes place on the weekend of 2/3 May 2020.

The Charitable Works Fund is a 100% tax deductible appeal that supports five charities which make a difference to the lives of children and families in our Diocese. The charities are: CatholicCare Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Program. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD). St Lucy's School for students with disabilities. St Edmund's College also for students with disabilities. The Ephpheta Centre for all those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The CWF is a registered charity.

Donations can be made:

online <https://www.givenow.com.au/cwf>

Parish office by picking up an envelope.

Internet Banking—BSB: 062 784 A/C No: 858 8001
Please state the donation is for the CWF and your name.

We have failed to care for the Earth: Pope

By Carol Glatz, CNS

Celebrating Earth Day, the Pope said it was "an occasion for renewing our commitment to love and care for our common home and for the weaker members of our human family." "As the tragic coronavirus pandemic has taught us, we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst," he said during his weekly general audience, livestreamed from the Vatican.

As the Book of Genesis relates, he said, "we live in this common home as one human family in biodiversity with God's other creatures," and God has called on humanity to care for and respect his creation and "to offer love and compassion to our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable among us, in imitation of God's love for us, manifested in his son Jesus." God is good and always forgives, the Pope said, however, "The Earth never forgives: if we have despoiled the Earth, the response will be very bad."

"Because of our selfishness, we have failed in our responsibility to be guardians and stewards of the Earth," the Pope said. "We have polluted and despoiled it, endangering our very lives."

The Pope expressed his deep appreciation for the many international and local movements and initiatives that have been created in an effort to raise awareness and stir people's consciences and he said it will still be necessary "for our children to take to the streets to teach us the obvious: we have no future if we destroy the very environment that sustains us."

....continuation from bulletin dated 12 April 2020

Coronavirus and the Eucharist

This crisis called on us to care for another and thank God at home

Centre and summit

We describe the Eucharist as the centre and summit of our Christian lives, but often it is the sole part of our religious lives. This crisis calls on us to build up the surrounding foothills by caring for one another and thanking God at home, as well as in the church.

If we are not thankful for the meals we share at home, we are hardly ready to be thankful at the Great Thanksgiving that we call the Eucharist.

Every table is a sacred place

Jesus encountered people and taught at their tables. Every table is a place where we can encounter the Lord in those with us.

"We have failed to care for the Earth, our garden-home; we have failed to care for our brothers and sisters. We have sinned against the Earth, against our neighbours and ultimately against the Creator, the benevolent father who provides for everyone and desires us to live in communion and flourish together," he said.



Pope Francis at his general audience in the apostolic library yesterday (Vatican Media)

Humanity has failed to take care of the Earth and its inhabitants, sinning against God and his gift of creation, Pope Francis said yesterday. Source: CNS.





From Lynn's desk

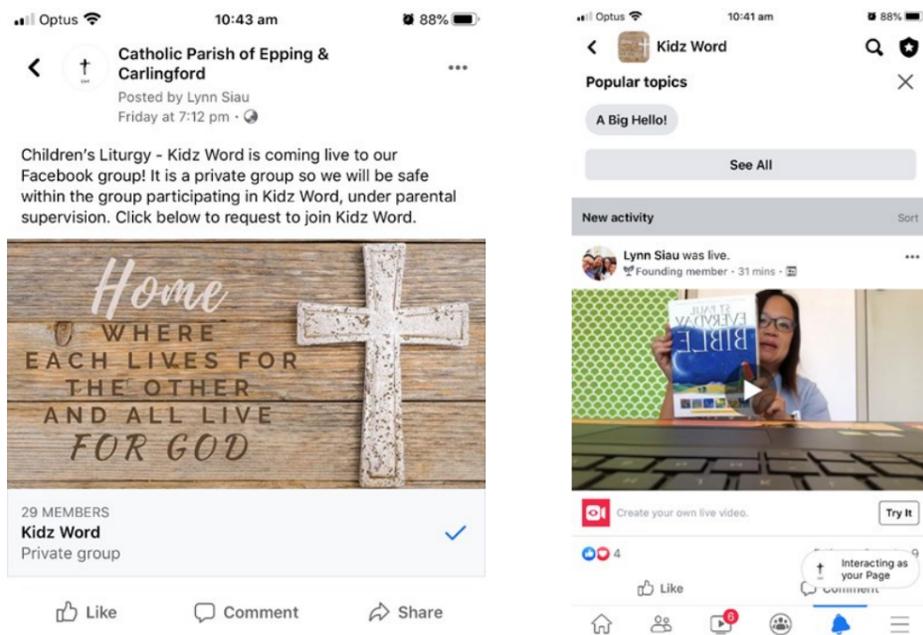
Children's Liturgy - Kidz Word is now online!

Hello everyone! It's been a hectic month, hasn't it?! I think that could well be an understatement of the decade... Together with nearly the whole world, we have had to change the way we live, adapt to new rules, be told it is not ok to visit family and friends, or wonder if that tickle in the throat needs to be examined. I have personally never been self-conscious of a sneeze until now! Yet I am also so very thankful for all the efforts in place to keep us safe and this includes each and every one of your efforts to stay home when you can because I see that as a sacrifice on your part to contribute to everyone's safety around you...it is an act of love! I am also thankful that I do not personally know anyone who has been infected with the virus so far. I pray it stays that way and that our restrictions can be eased sooner rather than later.

Nevertheless, we embrace, adapt, let go of what we cannot control and let God. It is only by saying "Let Thy Will be done" that I am able to place my trust in Him, and focus on finding solutions that allow us to get together abiding by our current restrictions and how best to still live each day cheerfully.

So this week, it is with excitement that I inform you our parish Kidz Word is live and running for the second week on Facebook! Some families who have been following us on our parish Facebook page knew from our announcements that Kidz Word was testing its first session last Sunday, so 29 families joined the group to access Kidz Word content. Thank you to the parents who printed the activity sheets and prayer sheet that was uploaded in advance so the children could participate in Kidz Word in the comfort of their homes!

They watched me read the Gospel, joined in praying the Creed and Prayers of the Faithful. I also gave them a mini lesson on setting up a sacred space and will introduce different sacramentals each week for ideas to create their sacred space. Below are some screenshots of what Kidz Word online looks like:



Does this look like something you would like your children to experience? Please do join us in our **safe private group** for Kidz Word live this Sunday at 10am!

Click link to join as a member: [Kidz Word on Facebook](#) and you will be taken through steps to become a member of the group. Yes, we are stringent on who we let in but that's just so you can feel safe in this environment!

As always, if you would like more details or if you require assistance in signing up for any of our parish online initiatives, please contact me. I would love to hear from you! Please also see all links below to find us on various online platforms by clicking on the logos.

....continued on page 5

...continued from page 4



Our parish YouTube channel is called **Catholiceppandcarl**. Sunday Masses go live at 5pm on Saturday. Click on the YouTube logo on the left to be taken to our YouTube channel and you can subscribe immediately.



Click on the Facebook logo to keep in touch with us on Facebook by "liking" our page so you can be kept updated with our latest news and be involved with some Facebook activities as a parish community. You might catch Fr Peter or Fr Bogdan live online some time!



We have just hopped on to Instagram! Click on the Instagram logo to "follow" us and together let's be inspired and reach out to others!

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

World Youth Day Lisbon 2022—Postponed to 2023!

The Vatican has announced, in a statement released on the afternoon of Monday 20 April (Rome time) that Pope Francis has decided to postpone the next international gathering of World Youth Day, which was scheduled to take place in Lisbon 2022. World Youth Day will now be held one year later, in August of 2023.

The decision was made, on account of the current health situation and its consequences for the movement and gathering of young people and their families.

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

Antioch are meeting online (via zoom) this Sunday 6-8pm! To join, please message our parent support, Joanne (joanne_sin@hotmail.com) or youth minister, Joanna Mak (joanna@eppcarl.org.au or 0404710 588).

Also, follow us on our Facebook page, @ Epping & Carlingford Antioch Community!

CANA: OUR Yr. 7-9 YOUTH GROUP

Our Cana (year 7-9) youth group meetings is currently Postponed. If you want to stay in touch, please email or message Joanna (email: joanna@eppcarl.org.au or mobile: 0404 710 588) to receive weekly Cana newsletters and updates.

Learning Hub

The Australian Catholic University have developed resources to help your work with children, young people and their families make sense of what they are seeing, hearing and feeling during this challenging time of coronavirus (COVID-19). For further information please visit:

<https://safeguardingchildren.acu.edu.au/practice-tools/safeguarding-children-during-covid-19>



Learning from Home SRE Lessons

The Department of Education has approved the continuation of SRE classes during the COVID-19 period via a Learning from Home model. Our CCD team have been working hard to adapt lessons into Power Point format so that they can be delivered online. Schools will be able to share a link to the lessons on our website so that students and families can easily access these lessons at home.

While catechists cannot be involved in the lesson delivery at this time, they will be provided with suggestions for staying spiritually connected with the children they teach. Catechists are encouraged to continue praying for the children and their families, allowing space for the Holy Spirit to work in the students' lives and forming catechists for the time when they will return to the classrooms to teach.

CORONAVIRUS SAFETY

Follow these easy steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

