

Responsorial Psalm Response

Ps 104:1-6.8-9 R. vv.7.8

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

(Holy Family)

Gospel Acclamation**Alleluia, alleluia!**In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through the Son.**Alleluia!**

(Holy Family)

WEEKEND MASSES

Please note, we must adhere to social distancing within the churches.

EPPING:5:00 pm Vigil Mas
8:30 am Mass
10:15 am Mass
6:00 pm Mass**CARLINGFORD:**6:00 pm Vigil Mass
7:45 am Mass
9:30 am Mass**Healing Masses**3rd Wednesday of the month—Epp,
1st Thursday of the month—C'ford.
[No Healing Mass in January]**Exposition of the Eucharist**Epping
Sat. 9:45am-10:15am
Carlingford
4th Thursday of the month**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Please note, we must adhere to social distancing within the churches.

EPPING:Monday—No Mass
Tuesday—12:15 pm
Wednesday—10:00 am
Thursday—12:15 pm
Friday—12:15 pm
Saturday—9:15 am**CARLINGFORD:**Monday—9:30 am
Tuesday—No Mass
Wednesday—9:30 am
Thursday—9:30am
Friday—9:30 am
Saturday—No Mass**Sacrament of Reconciliation**Epping
Sat. 9:45am—10:15am**Parish Office:**29 Oxford Street, Epping
NSW 2121
Tel: (02) 9876 2853
Email: parish@eppcarl.org.auSt Gerard Majella
Primary SchoolTel: 9871 1633
Email: sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.auOur Lady Help of Christians
Primary School

Tel: 9868 3322

Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of Everlasting life. Grant that life to:**Recently deceased:** Lynn Sweeney, Jenny Roberts, Anthony Fernandes, Mick Atkins, Margaret McShane, May May Wong, Clara Ni Wayaan Kurniati, Evelyn Joseph, Adeline Theodore, Neville "Nev" Wilkin, Wong Fong Yee, Mamerto Amparo,

Please pray for Ailne Eyles who died last week

The Funeral Mass was held at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church last Thursday.

Anniversaries: Ivan Astalosh,**Also for:** Ivan & Edith Almeida and deceased members of the Almeida & Serpes family, Mark Hillier, Richard Barry, John, Elizabeth & Kathleen McEearney, Noon & Jack Barry, Rowston family, Robert Prasad, Hurney & Waddell families, 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, Residents of Wesley Rayward Nursing Home, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Alice Eng, Peck Quah, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Margaret Floyd, Barbara Madafiglio, John Lyons, Bev Gibbeson, Alison Deane, Radhi Riley, Patrick Thornton, Jan Doherty, Maureen McKeough, Pauline Wicks rsj, Ana Matijasic, Benjamin Verco, Peter Kelly, John Goodwin, Michael & Susie Tuite, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Arnold Day, Maureen Carlon, Fr Adrian Borst, Augustine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Patricia Muschalik, Delma Soria, Sr Abanasia Lee, Maria Belisario, Stella Edwards, Fara Vargas, Theo Stevens, Monica Weeden, Thomas Woodward, Wai Chun Wong, Heather Stoodley, Agnes Wong, Alex Benjamin Zaragoza, Amarech Zewolde, Janice Lemon, Mary Lou Pentony, Donald Wong,**Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the family.****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.

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
02/01/21	5:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd	6:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien
03/01/21	8:30am	Fr Peter Dowd	7:45am	Fr Bogdan Skupien
03/01/21	10:15am	Fr Peter Dowd	9:30am	Fr Bogdan Skupien
03/01/21	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd		

Parish Website:<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford>**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**Parish Website:** www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford**Assistant Priest: Fr Bogdan Skupien****Ph.:** 9876 2853**Email:** Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au

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.

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

Dear brothers and sisters,

On behalf of Fr Bogdan and myself, I would like to extend every best wish and the promise of our prayers as we celebrate the Feast of the Birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! I would also like to extend a special welcome to all our visitors who are sharing in our Christmas Masses here at Epping and Carlingford over these days. **No matter where you come from or what faith traditions you may belong to you are all most welcome!**

To say this year has been extraordinary is an understatement! Just when we thought life was returning to some semblance of normality the situation on the Northern Beaches reminds us again that we can never be complacent when it comes to living with this virus!

I wish to especially offer my heartfelt apologies to all those who were unable to be physically accommodated in our churches over the Christmas Day Masses. In particular, I offer my deep sorrow to those who did book but then had to be asked not to physically attend due to changes in government directives.

With the announcement on the weekend that most public indoor venues were to immediately revert back to the four square metre distancing rule which affectively halved the maximum numbers of people allowed in our churches and the confirmation on Wednesday that such a rule will apply to places of worship on Christmas Day, I had to make an incredibly hard decision to reduce the numbers of persons already registered which, to be honest, breaks my heart but is required in the interest of protecting the public health of the broader community and ensuring we don't receive a considerable fine.

After consulting with various people I decided to count the numbers of persons allowed to be physically present in churches at our Christmas Masses **in the order in which they were booked**. We could think of no other fair way to arrive at the new lesser number of persons allowed in our churches.

I cannot apologise enough for all the upset and sacrifice that this request will cause as I know Christmas is a special time to gather at Church and something we have all been looking forward to especially given the year we have had with the pandemic.

Bishop Anthony wishes to assure us all of his thoughts and prayers at this time. He has also emphasised that the Christmas obligation is suspended for all those who are unable to participate at Mass given the restrictions with which we are dealing.

All attending physically our Christmas Masses are required to wear a mask.

I often reflect on the fact that the first Christmas occurred in the midst of chaos and huge inconvenience for Mary and Joseph. I pray that despite all the disappointments of this year,

you and your families will still enjoy a blessed and peace-filled Christmas! Please know you are all in my prayers at this time.

God bless you all!

Fr Peter

For the live-streaming of the 5pm Family Vigil Mass from St Gerard's Church Carlingford and/or the Midnight Mass & 10:15am Mass from Our Lady Help of Christians' Church Epping:

We invite you to join us online at 5pm on Christmas Eve for our live-streamed family Mass or at 11:45pm for carols and the Midnight Mass. These will be live-streamed through our parish Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicParishOfEppingAndCarlingford>

They will also be uploaded and available on our parish YouTube channel from 7pm the same evening and Christmas morning 6am: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_t43V_sQu1LK2LM_Q6akIA



Parish Plan 2021

As you may be aware, during the weekend of Dec 12-13, 2020, the new Parish Plan was communicated to the Parish of Epping and Carlingford, concentrating on our focus for 2021. During the development of the Parish Plan, one of the several inputs was the feedback received from a parish survey where around 120 responses were received. This survey provided the top five priorities for our parish in the following order:



- To develop a strong sense of community in this parish
- Care for people in need
- Spiritual growth, formation and prayer
- Liturgies that are nurturing to people's faith
- Encouraging parishioners to discover and use their gifts.

Armed with this information and other inputs and in line with our parish mission, the PPC with Fr Peter and Fr Bogdan have nominated **five pillars** of missionary discipleship: **CONNECT, SERVE, WORSHIP, GROW and GIVE**. These pillars are intended to support every parishioner to grow in their faith and become an authentic missionary disciple building a personal relationship with Christ and with each other.

CONNECT: Come together socially with other parishioners and join a small group

Main focus: Develop Missionary Discipleship program; Welcoming Program, Communications Plan; Social events - to reinvigorate parish

SERVE: Minister in the parish, reach out to others with practical care and the gift of faith

Main focus - Build Ministry involvement, Outreach to people in Need by promoting expand existing programs.

WORSHIP: Participate in Sunday Mass and other opportunities for prayer

Main Focus - Develop Music in Masses and develop Sunday 6pm as youth Mass

GROW: Every year attend a seminar to learn about our faith and the scriptures

Main focus - Missionary Discipleship course; Lent 2021; Alpha 2021; Advent 2021; 'Formed' website; ongoing Connect groups; Scripture/Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible; Faith sharing course. Maximise attendance through online and in-person options

GIVE: Give generously to the work of the parish and the wider church

Main focus - Increase electronic giving, introduce Tap and Go technology; introduce planned-giving and online giving via website

Joan Sally
PPC Chair



Christmas Carols Service Saturday, 26th December at St Gerard's Majella at 7:00 pm

We would like to invite all parishioners to join us this Saturday evening at St Gerard's Church for the Christmas Carols Service.



"A huge thank you to Eva Jansen who leaves us for a new job in Canberra this weekend. For over 6 years Eva has shared her faith as a Catechist creatively & enthusiastically with the students at Cheltenham High School. She has also been immersed in other Parish activities & Ministries - Alpha, Eucharistic & Senior Serving to name a few. The Catechists & Parish greatly appreciate all you have done & wish you & daughter Jocelyn all the

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 the 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's and the 12:15am 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 Je-



2020 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Commencing 5th December

Vinnies changes lives every day

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 attend 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 Store.

Your gift could change a life this Christmas

Covid-19 Plan

- We adhere to maximum number of person permitted in the church based on the four square metre rule (80 people at Epping and 145 at Carlingford).
- Coloured cards on the seats indicating seating positions ensure maximum separation.
- All are asked to sanitise their hands on entering & leaving and sign in the book.
- We ask the parishioners to sanitise the pew where were sitting after every Mass
- There is no physical exchange of the sign of peace.
- All are asked to maintain approx. one arm length of spacing when coming forward for Holy Communion (which is given on the hand first and then those receiving on the tongue are asked to come up last).

FACE MASKS THANK YOU !

Thank you to all those that have been wearing masks to mass.

If you have forgotten your mask there is a supply available. Check with the Greeter or with the Sacristan in the Sacristy.

We strongly encourage our parishioners to continue to care for each other and wear a face mask when attending Mass, especially when singing.



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 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.

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.

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.


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