## 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 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 Church at Carlingford and Our Lady Help of Christians' Church 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 celebration of the Eucharist together will provide both nour-ishment and challenge on your Christian journey.

## YEAR A

## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY Philippians 2:1-11

Matthew 21:28-32

27-09-20

Dear sisters and brothers,

Ezekiel 18:25-28

For those I haven't spoken to since my return from leave last Friday week, I can assure you I had a wonderful, refreshing break...my thanks for your prayers throughout those days, especially during my retreat at Douglas Park. Of course after one week "back in the saddle", so to speak, I could probably do with at least another week but I appreciate greatly the time that was available!

This Sunday is **World Day of Migrants and Refugees** with the theme **"Forced Like Jesus Christ to Flee"**....as Pope Francis writes, "*During the flight into Egypt, the child Jesus experienced with his parents the tragic fate of the displaced and refugees*......

**Gees...... Unfortunately, in our own times, millions of families can identify with this sad reality.**" Below is a letter from Archbishop Christopher Prowse who gives further context to our reflections this weekend. In a particular way, I pray we have the courage to speak out especially on behalf of those who are struggling to survive in our country with little or no government support as they await their asylum claims to be processed! Like many who live on the fringes of society their plight often gets negative or little media attention or can be dismissed as "less important" than other issues facing mainstream Australia.

May we never forget Jesus's words to us all, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me!"  $\!\!\!$ 

Finally, I thank the great work of many of our parishioners who continue to support and minister to those who seek to call Australia home!

Fr Peter

## "Dear Friends,

Let us spend some time during this COVID-19 pandemic to focus on another crisis in our current times – those displaced throughout the world. Global migration is a major challenge for much of today's world and a priority for the Catholic Church.

In words and deeds, Pope Francis repeatedly shows his deep compassion for all who are displaced. Witness his encounters with migrants and refugees on the island of Lampedusa and Lesbos. Witness his call for their full embrace: to welcome, to protest, to promote, and to integrate migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking.

This year's theme for the Holy Father's Message for 2020 World Day of Migrant and Refugee is: "Forced like Jesus Christ to flee".

Regarding the many statements of the Catholic Church on various aspects of migration, a recurring biblical image has often emerged: the Flight into Egypt of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Like an icon of so many of the displaced, the Holy Family represents people "on the move". The Church stands alongside the fragilities and dangers of the millions attempting to find a dignified home in the world.

This pastoral care of the Church towards Migrants and Refugees aims at emphasising and focussing on the following aspects as named by the Pope Francis.

**Welcoming:** Increasing Safe and Legal Routes for Migrants and Refugees

**Protecting:** Defending the Rights and Dignity of Migrants and Refugees.

**Promoting:** Fostering the Integral Human Development of Migrants and Refugees.

**Integrating:** Greater Participation of Migrants and Refugees to Enrich Local Communities.

May I offer a final word of sincere gratitude to all those who dedicate themselves to the pastoral care to Migrants and Refugees in Australia.

Perhaps an exhortation from St Paul stresses our Gospel imperative to welcome those seeking hospitality as displaced persons:

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Rom 15:1-7)."



**106TH** World day of Migrants and Refugees Sunday, 27 September 2020







# Who is a Catechist?

Let the little children COME TO ME, do not hinder them, for the KINGDOM of GOD belongs to such as these. LUKE 18:16



## Who is a Catechist?

A Catechist ((SRE) teacher) is a person who gives her/his time voluntarily to provide Special Religious Education to children in our parish public primary and secondary schools.

An SRE Assistant helps the catechist in the classroom.

Catechists are those who're called to serve through teaching, witness, prayer, service and building community.

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## Give the Gift you were given, by giving, we receive.....

## Catch the Vision...

From the work of a small group of concerned Catholics in the 16th Century has grown one of the most prolific ministries in the Catholic Church. These few passionate souls dedicated themselves to teach people and share their knowledge about the Faith and this has grown into a ministry that extends beyond the boundaries of culture, language, age and resources. It is supported by years of faithful service and changes the lives for thousands of young people. Welcome to the world of a Catechist!

*By Giving, We Receive...* Sharing in love what we know brings new life. Proclaiming the Good News profits not only those who hear it but those who proclaim it. Truly, "It is giving that we receive" (St Francis of Assisi)

## Remember ...

You won't be 'thrown in the deep end' and many people start as a classroom helper. You will receive quality training in the curriculum and classroom management so that you feel confident in the classroom and can focus on sharing the gift of the faith

## Primary Schools

Epping Public School (Tuesday: 9:20, 9:50am) Epping North Public School (Thursday: 9:10, 9:40am) Epping West Public Schools (Tuesday: 11:40am, 12:10, 12:40pm) Epping Heights Public School (Friday: 9:10am) Murray Farm Public School (Tuesday: 9:00, 9:40, 10:20am) Public School (Mednesday: 11:20am, 12:00, 12:20am) Rpselea Public School (Wednesday: 11:30am, 12:00, 12:30pm)

<u>Secondary Schools</u> Carlingford High School (Friday, am) Cheltenham Grils School (Thursday, pm) James Ruse Agricultural High School (Wednesday, pm)

*I am interested in being a Catechist!* Please call Parish Office weekdays 9:00 am-4:00 pm at 9876 2853 or contact Katherine Tam for Primary Schools at katherine@eppcarl.org.au and Mary O'Byrne for Secondary Schools at mary@eppcarl.org.au

Tage 2

## Fage 3

#### **PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK** Dav Date Time **Event** 27/09/20 7:45am Mass at St Gerard's Church Sun. 8:30am Mass at OLHC Church 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's Church Mass at OLHC Church 10:15am 6:00pm Mass at OLHC Church 6:00pm PMR Carlingford Antioch Meeting Mon. 28/09/20 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's Church Tue. 29/09/20 12:15pm Mass at OLHC Church 9:15am Mass at OLHC Church Wed. 30/09/20 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's Church Thur. 01/10/20 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's Church 12:15pm Mass at OLHC Church 8:00pm PMR Epping Men of St Joseph Mass at St Gerard's Church Fri. 02/10/20 9:30am 12:15pm Mass at OLHC Church 9:15am Mass at OLHC Church Sat. 03/10/20 9:45am Exposition and Reconciliation 10:20am Benediction 5:00pm Reconciliation at St Gerard's 5:00pm Vigil Mass at OLHC Church 6:00pm Vigil Mass at St Gerard's Church PH—Parish Hall, CH—Church, PMR– Parish Meeting Room

# Keep in Touch (KIT)

Keep informed, keep exploring, keep on thinking about the things that matter the most and move us. If you would like to receive Keep in Touch please forward your email address to the parish office, contact number: 9876 2853 email: maree@eppcarl.org.au



## Men of St. Joseph

Men of St Joseph is a group of Catholic men who want to pray together, grow spiritually, share their experiences and support one another. The group discusses our spiritual and daily issues and helps us to be the better people, members of the Church and of our families.



Meeting every Thursday at 8pm in the PMR at Epping.

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Enquiries to Fr Bogdan by emailing: Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au

Fr Bogdan

## The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

## 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** 



https://anchor.fm/grace2020

# Antioch Community, Cana Youth, Emmaus Young Adults Youth Group & Bible Reading





## BLESSING OF HSC STUDENTS

We invite all our HSC students from both communities in the parish to:

6pm Vigil Mass at St Gerard's Saturday 3rd October

> 6pm Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Sunday 4th October

There will be a blessing for all students within the Mass.



## Young People—How listening helps

Video—Seen and Heard

https://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/seenand-heard

This video is a series of six vignettes of real-life examples, shot from the point of view of a child, showing how they feel when they were not listened to. It then goes on to show how the simple act of listening has real and long-lasting effects. We hope this video will ensure the viewer understands how a child or young person feels when they are not being listened to and that these videos will assist people who work with children and young people every day and for all of us when interact with children, to better understand the importance of listening to them. It is important to recognise we all have a part to play in ensuring children and young people have a say in decisions that affect them. Doing so will ultimately lead to better services, practices and outcomes for all children and young people.

## Tage 4



## Tage 5

## **Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel....Our Inner Garment**

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself taking the form of a slave (Phil 2:5-7ab).

Many things divide us: language, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, politics, ideology, culture, personal history, temperament, private wounds, moral judgments. It is hard, in the face of all this, to see people as brothers and sisters, who are different from us, as equally important citizens of this world, and as loved and valued by God in the same way we are.

Our inner garment is the image and likeness of God inside of us. And so we often live in a certain distrust of each other. Sadly too we often demonize each other, seeing danger where there is only difference. We then

either actively oppose someone or simply steer clear of him or her and caution our loved ones to stay clear as well.

Consequently we live in a world in which various groups stay away from each other: liberals and conservatives, Protestants and Catholics, Jews and Arabs, Arabs and Christians, Muslims and Buddhists, black and white races, pro-life and pro-choice groups, feminists and traditionalists, among others.

What we fail to realize is that these differences are really our outer garments, things that in the end are accidental and incidental to our real selves.

What is the meaning of this?

We wear more than physical clothing to cover our naked selves; we cover our nakedness too with a specific ethnicity, language, religious identity, culture, political affiliation, ideology, set of moral judgements, and a whole gamut of private wounds and indignation. These are in essence our outer garments.

But we also possess a deeper inner garment. Our real substance, identity, and capacity to act with larger hearts, lies underneath. What lies beneath our outer garments?

In the Gospel of John, at the Last Supper (John 13:2-5) when he is describing Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, (in a carefully worded passage) John uses these words:

Jesus knowing that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, got up from the table, took off his outer garments and, taking a towel, wrapped it around his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing.

When John is describing Jesus "taking off his outer garment" he means more than just the stripping off of some physical clothing, some outer sash that might have gotten in the way of his stooping down and washing someone's feet. In order to let go of the pride that blocks all human beings from stooping down to wash the feet of someone different than oneself, Jesus had to strip off a lot of outer things (pride, moral judgments, superiority, ideology, and personal dignity) so as to wear only his inner garment.

What was his inner garment? As John poetically describes it, his inner garment was precisely his knowledge that he had come from God, was going back to God, and that therefore all things were possible for him, including his washing the feet of someone whom he already knew would betray him.

That is also our true inner garment, the reality that lies deeper beneath our race, gender, religion, language, politics, ideology, and personal history (with all its wounds and false pride). What is most real is the fact that deep down, beneath these other outer things we nurse the dark memory, the imprint, the brand of love and truth, the inchoate knowledge that, like Jesus, we too have come from God, are returning to God, and therefore are capable of doing anything, including loving and washing the feet of someone very different from ourselves. Our inner garment is the image and likeness of God inside of us.

It is only if we realize this that our world can really change because it is only then that we can begin to stop demonizing each other, liberals and conservatives, pro-life and pro-choice, Catholics and Protestants, Jews and Arabs, Arabs and Christians, black people and white people, men and women, and people wounded in different ways, can begin to reach across to each other, begin to feel sympathy for each other, and begin, together, to build for a common good beyond our wounds and differences.

Sometimes in our better moments we already do that. Unfortunately, gener-

ally to have one of our better moments it usually takes a great sadness, a tragedy, or a death. Mostly it is only in the face of mutual helplessness and sorrow, at a funeral for instance, that we are capable of forgetting our differences, putting away our outer garments, and seeing each other as brothers and sisters.

It seems it has never been much different. In the biblical story of Job, we see that it is only when Job is completely down and out, when he is shorn of every outer thing that he can cling to, that he finally sheds his outer garment and utters the timeless line: "Naked I came from mother's womb, and naked I go back!"

We need to be careful what kind of clothing we put on so that the pain of Job is not required to remove it.

## 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



## Tage 7

## The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

## 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 Holv Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**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.

**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.sgcdbb.catholic.edu





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

## THE NICENE CREED

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

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

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

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

who has spoken through the prophets.

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

## 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.



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<b>Responsorial Psalm Response</b> Ps 24:4-9 R. v. 6 Remember your mercies, O Lord.		Page 8	<b>Gospel Acclamation!</b> Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!	
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 Vigil Mass 7:45 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 	Please adhere to within EPPING: Monda Tuesd Wedn Thurs Friday Satur CARLINGF Mond Tuesc Wedr Thurs Friday Satur Satur Satur	KDAY MAS note, we social dis the churd ay—No Mass ay—12:15 p esday—9:15 day—12:15 pm day—9:15 a FORD: ay—9:30 an day—9:30 an day—9:30 am day—9:30 am day—9:30 am day—9:30 am chardreft for the com- t of Recom Epping :45am—10: arlingford 5:00pm—5:3	must stancing ches. 5 5 5 6 7 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8	Parish Office: 29 Oxford Street, Epping NSW 2121 Tel: (02) 9876 2853 Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au St Gerard Majella Primary School Tel: 9871 1633 Email: sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School Tel: 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:** Bill Saul, Alex D'Costa, Catherine Lee, Helen Lee, Paul Wilkinson, Ken Harman (father of Jeanette Brady), Alfred (Alf) Sharpe, Michael White, Jean from Rayward Nursing Home, Rocco Mesiti.

Anniversaries: Terry Hoolahan, Roger & Jean-Claude Nina, Alice Andrade,

**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, 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, Irene De Nadi, Alf Sharpe, Fidela Frez, Alex Benjamin Zaragoza, Amarech Zewolde,

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

#### 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.

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
03/10/20	5:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
04/10/20	8:30am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	7:45am	Fr Peter Dowd
04/10/20	10:15am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	9:30am	Fr Peter Dowd
04/10/20	6:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien		

