

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: John F Feld, Lalitha Janet, Joe Calleija, Lalitha Janet, Doo Hwan Ji, Lizeth Albornoza Gonzales, Joan Rideout, Lizabeth Gonzales,

Anniversaries: Basil Connors, Patrick Flanagan,

Also for: Young Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Seo, Maria Hur, D Choi,

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, 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, Joe Younis, 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.

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.

SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR EASTER 2020

CHOCOLATE PASCHAL LAMBS
Made from Cadbury Chocolate
Selling price: \$8.00



The lambs are a special symbol of Easter and a good way to raise funds for the Missions in Papua New Guinea.

For more information please contact Fr Bogdan

OR the parish office

CANA: OUR Yr. 7-9 YOUTH GROUP

WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE

All enquiries to Joanna
0404 710 588



OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

ANTIOCH IS CURRENTLY POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



For more information call
Joanne 0416 030 927



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

29-3-20

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Dear sisters and brothers,

For everyone in our Diocese who would normally celebrate the Sunday Eucharist in one of our Churches, last weekend must have felt somewhat surreal. For those, I met at the Church door their shock, bewilderment and in some cases even tears were palpable and a sign of the impact which the Covid-19 is having on all aspects of our lives. From a personal point of view, I must admit one of the events which brought me personally great sadness was having to close the doors of our parish churches last Monday. Never had I imagined that in my lifetime this would ever occur. Clarification has been received from the government that all churches must be closed, even to private prayer. Bishops and priests can still celebrate Mass "privately", and the NSW government has confirmed that they may use their (closed) Cathedral or parish church for that purpose and record/livestream the Mass. **I am pleased to announce that from this Saturday evening Sunday Mass from one of our parish churches will be available each Sunday on YouTube.** This week we will be celebrating Mass from St Gerard's at Carlingford. The link will be sent by email to everyone on our list and will be available on our parish website late Saturday afternoon. For those who prefer the good old TV, "Mass for you at Home" is broadcast on Channel 10 each Sunday from 6am.

Weddings and funerals may still be celebrated within our parish churches however the numbers attending are severely restricted.

Please be assured that where funerals take place during these weeks and months that lie ahead, often in a much simpler form, there will always be the opportunity for a larger "Memorial" Mass once we are able to reopen our Church doors should a family so wish. Regarding **baptisms**, I would ask that all requests come to me personally.

Reconciliation (Confession) is still available by appointment and I am exploring a number of other possibilities outside of the church buildings. Of course, any such arrangements will fully comply with all applicable government regulations. Your priests are also available for the **Sacrament of the Sick** when required. Please know that both Fr Bogdan and I are not "downing tools" over these weeks and are still here with you and available as your pastors. Please feel free to contact us either by phone 9876 2853 or our individual parish email address printed underneath our names in the parish bulletin.

Also, this weekend I am writing to all families who are involved in our regular Children's Sacramental programme that **this year's celebrations of First Holy Communion (and possibly Confirmation) will need to be postponed** to either later in this year or sometime next year depending on when we are able to celebrate Eucharist publicly again. I have asked Lynn Siau our Sacramental Coordinator to provide several resources to those who would still like to assist their children to grow in faith over the coming weeks and months in their homes in preparation for the eventual celebration of these Sacraments.

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Parish Website

Please use our parish website to access information regarding COVID-19 and the latest information, also a link will be placed on that page for access to Masses which will be streamed in our parish churches. Parish website:
www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford



Facebook

For all the latest parish news, check out Facebook on our parish website.

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.

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If you would like to receive these resources, please contact Lynn via her email address.

While the Church must and, without any exception, should cooperate with public health authorities to ensure the safety of everyone, we must continue to remain connected socially and spiritually with one another even with physical separation/isolation.

To that end, Maree, one of our wonderful parish secretaries, is compiling a full list of parishioner email addresses for our parish to continue to be able to communicate with one another so **if we haven't got your email address please let Maree know at maree@eppcarl.org.au**. Information will also be available on the **Parish Website** and **Facebook page** and I intend to increase the online visual content by which myself, Fr Bogdan and others within the parish can be available on our YouTube channel with a link provided on our parish website. **Please be patient if all the promised technology here isn't fully available as promised this weekend. There will be I imagine a lot of trial and error before we are fully able to embrace our new virtual reality!**

Prayer is essential as we seek to navigate these days especially given the temptation to give in to fear and panic. It is often said that the biggest causality of fear can be charity! We only need to see some of the less charitable human behaviour occurring in our supermarkets over a roll of toilet paper! Prayer can help us to tap into that most important resource of love and inner peace which can assist us to stay connected with ourselves, God and each other. If you find prayer a struggle, as many people do, I recommend <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> which offers a 10-15 minute reflection and meditation each day upon the daily scripture readings, and some great prayers for particular circumstances such as loneliness, grief and depression. In coming weeks, we will continue to suggest other resources for prayer and growing in faith.

I am also keen to explore ways we can assist one another both within the parish and the wider community in some of the challenges which will confront us with day to day living on a very practical level. Sadly, many have and will continue to lose their jobs and other sources of income and the stresses that this places on many of you will be immense. **Can I suggest one very simple way we can support one another is by a commitment to phone regularly** (not just email or text as good as that is!) and check in on how our circle of close friends and others especially within our parish family are travelling? Sometimes the provision of a simple listening ear can provide the best remedy for what might be a difficult day in the life of that person at that moment. It also is a profound way of giving witness to Jesus' greatest commandment, **"Love one another as I have loved you"!**

May we all continue to hold each other in hope and prayer!

Fr Peter

Coronavirus and the Eucharist (Thomas O'Loughlin writes)...

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

"All Masses Cancelled"

That sign has just gone up outside my local church. Who could have imagined it just a couple of weeks ago?

Large gatherings are just what we do not want at the moment. The loving thing right now is to keep our distance lest we catch and transmit the coronavirus.

But in every parish there are Catholics who do not like the idea of "missing Mass" and wonder could they not "get Mass" even if they did not gather?

In a more worrying vein, I have heard at least two priests say that they will not have the State—imagined as the Church's enemy—telling them to close.

They want to take the high ground of defending the freedom of religion. But if they go ahead and "provide Mass" - note the phrase—they may actually be endangering the very people they are claiming to serve.

But the fact that many regular Mass-goers will not be in a church this weekend—and maybe not even over Easter—might actually help us to broaden our understanding of the Eucharist and deepen our spirituality.

To be continued...

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
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Email: lynn@eppcarl.org.au

Sacramental Programme Assistant:
Lisha Abraham
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Email: kids.Sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

Pastoral Support Worker (PSW) Youth:
Joanna Mak
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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.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND LENT

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available by appointment with either of our priests by contacting them directly via email or phone the parish office on 9876 2853.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Follow our Facebook page 'Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford' and keep updated on what's happening in our parish. We will be posting prayers and readings to keep us united as a community.

A beautiful message from Holy Father Pope Francis:

he says, "Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you." Let us all remember then that every changing colour of a leaf is beautiful and every changing situation of life is meaningful, both need very clear vision. So do not grumble or complain, let us instead remember that Pain is a sign that we are alive, Problems are a sign that we are strong and Prayer is a sign we are not alone!! If we can acknowledge these truths and condition our hearts and minds, our lives will be more meaningful, different and worthwhile!!

Resources for Nourishing our Life as Disciples at this time:

New resources and links will be continually added to the Parish Website www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford They can be found by clicking on the COVID-19 tile on the home page.

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 Account

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.



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

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

Principal: Mrs Barbara Yee

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford 2118 P: 9871 1633

www.sgcdbb.catholic.edu E: sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au

