

**Responsorial Psalm Response**

Ps 23:7-10 R. v 8

Who if this king of glory?  
It is the Lord!**Gospel Acclamation****Alleluia, Alleluia!**This is the light of revelation to the nations,  
and the glory of your people, Israel.  
**Alleluia!****WEEKEND MASSES**

<b>Epping</b>	<b>5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm</b>					
<b>Carlingford</b>	<b>6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am</b>					
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thur.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>
<b>EPPING</b>	No Mass	12:15pm	9:15am	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am
<b>CARLINGFORD</b>	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	10:00am	9:30am	No Mass
<b>HEALING MASS</b>	<b>Carlingford</b> —1st Thursday,			<b>Epping</b> — 3rd Wednesday		
<b>EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping</b> Saturday 9:45-10:15am, <b>Carlingford</b> , 4th Thursday 10:00am						
<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping</b> Saturday 9:45-10:15am <b>Carlingford</b> Saturday 5:00—5:30pm OR BY APPOINTMENT						
<b>BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: BY APPOINTMENT</b>						
<b>PARISH OFFICE:</b> 29 Oxford Street, Epping NSW 2121 <b>PH:</b> 9876 2853 <b>Email:</b> parish@eppcarl.org.au						
<b>ST GERARD MAJELLA PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH:</b> 9871 1633 <b>Email:</b> sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au						
<b>OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTANS PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH:</b> 9868 3322 <b>Email:</b> 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:** Geoffrey Ranson, Rod Michie, Peter Balint, Soon Sik Choi, Margaret Collins, Peter Baker (Son-in-law of Margaret & Gordon Floyd), Erna Fischer,**Anniversaries:** John Noakes & Norma Barlow, Esperinia Soria, Michael Coonan,**Also for:** Elizabeth Pedemont, Hubert Pedemont, Ivan & Edity Almeida, Richard Barry, Mark Hillier, Elizabeth & John McEneaney, Noon & Jack Barry, Patricia & Donna Barr.**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, Dorothea Ellis, 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, 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.**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.

**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.



Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford	Admitted to Hospital
08/02/20	5:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd	6:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien	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.
09/02/20	8:30am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	7:45am	Fr Peter Dowd	
09/02/20	10:15am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	9:30am	Fr Peter Dowd	
09/02/20	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd			

**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**Parish Office: 02 9876 2853****Assistant Priest: Fr Bogdan Skupien****Ph.:** 9876 2853**Email:** Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au**Email:** parish@eppcarl.org.au**Parish Website:** www.bbcatholic.org.au/epppingcarlingford

**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****THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD****2-02-20****Malachi 3:1-4****Hebrews 2:14-18****Luke 2:22-40**

Dear sisters and brothers

Firstly a big welcome back to all our school students and teachers after the holiday break! I hope and pray the past six weeks or so have provided an opportunity for much-needed rest and refreshment. Our prayers and thoughts especially accompany the new students and staff who join our parish schools for 2020.

Secondly congratulations to Antony Burnett Smith who had begun his year placement as part of the Youth Mission Team in Melbourne. We pray that his ministry especially with the young people of the local diocese in Victoria, will be one of great blessing for him and those he ministers to. If anyone would be interested in financially assisting Antony and the work of the Youth Mission team please go to [www.ymt.com.au](http://www.ymt.com.au).

Thirdly thank you for all your generous assistance towards the Vinnies Bushfire appeal last weekend. A total of over \$4000 was raised thanks to your usual incredible generosity. Thank you also for the response to assist the drought communities around Baradine through your donations of non-perishable goods. This weekend will be the final weekend for now when these items can be left in the containers at the entrances to our churches. Again, many thanks to all who have donated items especially as we have had so many appeals at this time....unfortunately, the timing of appeals is not always within my control.

Fourthly with Ash Wednesday drawing closer, I invite you to consider the various ways you can participate in this time of renewal and deepening our faith through opportunities such as Alpha, Lenten gatherings and our Tuesday evening Ecumenical gatherings. As we deepen our sense of what it means to be missionary disciples it is important we take these opportunities to nurture and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and grow as members of the Body of Christ by engaging more deeply with other parishioners. Please consider where you may be able to commit your time during this time of preparation for the coming feast of Easter.

Finally, I am deeply aware of the discomfort that is being felt due to the experience of the summer heat in both of our Churches. Indeed this has been a long-standing issue and I apologise for the length of time it is taking to resolve this matter. I will say more about this item as we move through this year especially when it comes to our church at Epping once we hopefully have the 'green light' from Council in coming months to proceed with the development of our parish site. As mentioned both in the parish consultations over the past four years and in bulletin updates the issue of providing appropriate options for heating and cooling of the Epping church will be addressed as part of the overall parish project. As there will be some renovation work needed within the church, I felt it important to ensure we not move forward with his item until we have more clarity about the overall project. Once this has been resolved I will invite parishioners to another consultation meeting at which items such as heating and cooling of the church and other proposed work can be addressed. With regard to Carlingford church, we are actively working on the provision of a replacement to the systems which are currently installed but are no longer able to be repaired adequately due to its age and condition. In coming months I will be in a position to provide further information on what will be required and when this year the work will take place. Thank you again for your patience but it is important we get the right machinery and systems required for this space.

Fr Peter

Along with Frs. Peter and Bogdan and our two School Principals. We congratulate the newly appointed Parish Pastoral Council:

Joan Sally	Genevieve Banks
Helen Barry	Jeremy Bowen
Geoff Childs	Joanna Mak
Louise McVittie	Trish O'Donnell
Kerry Paxton	Mark Smith
Paddy Watts	



**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.

**An Invitation to Join a Lenten Group**

Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Lenten Groups begin meeting from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Many of the Lenten Group leaders from last year met last week to prepare and pray for blessings on all who come to the Lenten Groups in March and April this year.

When you join a Lenten Group, you begin something new in your life. You join a circle of people who read the Sunday Gospels of Lent and listen to the message Jesus has for us. You hear how others understand Jesus in their lives. You come to know the people in your group and all you have in common as disciples or followers of Jesus. You grow in faith and friendships grow as well.

Remember that Jesus said, ***If two or three gather in My name, I will be there with them.***

The Lenten Group hosts and facilitators meet again this Wednesday evening at 7.30 beside the parish office in Epping. If you would like to learn more about Lenten Groups, you are very welcome to join us. If you want more information, please contact me ~

Denis McNamara *Supporting parishioners to become Missionary Disciples*

**Please pray for our Parish Alpha!**

Alpha begins on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** when we ask the question, ***Who is Jesus?***

Many have received grace and friendship through Alpha and now experience a new relationship with the Holy Spirit. Alpha is the work of the Holy Spirit.

In your times of prayer, please ask the Holy Spirit to move the hearts of those who are searching and those hoping to grow in their faith. Please pray that people will *come and see* and will discover *there is more to life*, with a personal relationship with Jesus.



**Morning Tea**  
Tea, coffee and a trip down memory lane was held at St Gerard's last Thursday 23rd January.

**Can you volunteer to help with any of the following ministries?**

Due to various people leaving these different ministries we would like to fill the following vacancies:

**St Gerard Majella Church**

- Helping with morning tea
- Greeters (handing out the bulletin when people to Mass on a Saturday/Sunday)
- Altar Society
- Bulletin Collating

**Our Lady Help of Christians' Church**

- Counting the collections
- Bulletin Collating
- Altar Society
- Polishing the brass (once a month)
- Washing of altar linen (5th Sunday only)
- Washing and ironing of albs.

If you feel you can help, please contact the parish office on 9876 2853 or email maree@eppcarl.org.au

**PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRE AND DROUGHT:**

Eternal God,  
In wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life.

We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our fire-ravaged and drought-stricken land, on our starving and displaced animals, on our failing crops and burning farms, towns and forests.

Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them. Strengthen and comfort the victims of the fires, those who have lost family, friends, property and stock. Protect our volunteer firefighters and all members of essential services.

In your loving providence, send abundant rain to quench the fires and to restore our parched earth.

Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son, in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life: Renew your faithful people; Renew the face of the earth.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians – Pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.

**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.

**The Truth Justice and Healing Council**  
www.thecouncil.org.au

**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.



**Awesome service. Amazing results.**

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

**McGrath**



**K6 TUTORING**  
Literacy | Maths | Naplan

Local tutor with 20 years experience teaching primary students.

CONTACT URSULA SIMPSON  
0409 366 063  
ursula@k6tutoring.com.au  
www.k6tutoring.com.au

**Pre-Marriage Course**

**Couples** before you officially say "I-Do", take this course to learn how to **build** a stronger foundation for your **marriage**.

Call **Cynthia**: 0404 488 238  
**E**: 3Rcounselling@gmail.com  
**www.3Rcounselling.com.au**



www.wnbull.com.au  
wnbull@wnbull.com

9519 5344

An Australian owned company

## Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel—Blood & Flesh

The last time the Feast of the Presentation took place on a Sunday was in 2014.\*

To present a firstborn child in Jesus' days meant the purification of the mother, which in turn demanded a sacrifice. The Book of Leviticus gives the prescription for purification: killing of a year-old lamb, or another animal. Poor people such as Joseph and Mary could not afford a first-born lamb, so they were allowed to sacrifice just a pigeon or a turtledove.\*\*

Sacrifice includes suffering and it includes death. Alright, then, what is a "sacrifice"? The word had many meanings in the times before Jesus' birth. On the Feast of the Presentation, here is an attempt to understand this somewhat difficult topic.

For much of history, the realm of the gods was considered something far off from the daily world of earth. In our world there was suffering, death, sin, warfare, uncleanness. In the godly realm there was none of this, or at least not much. So, might there be a way to disconnect something from here and send it somehow as a peace offering into heaven? The gift would have to be of high value, of course, so it should be the "first fruit," or the first born lamb, etc., which would mean it was "pure."

How was it sent to the heavenly realm? By putting it to death. This part of the ritual would release its final binding to our world and send it into the heavens. "Priests" were set aside from ordinary life to preside, separated, so they could be understood as disconnected from this world.

This notion of sacrifice developed through the ages, and it came to be applied to Jesus and to Christianity. Here is a sketch of the outcome.

God's self, his Word, came among us as a tiny human babe, the firstborn child of the Divine. If this firstborn were to grow up and become a sacrifice, then never again would anyone think that the doors to God were closed and locked, at least if they understood through faith who Jesus was. He, the Word of God, would participate in everything earthly (except sin). "Since the children share in blood and flesh, Jesus likewise shared in these things," St. Paul says in the Second Reading. His crucifixion could then be seen as the death prescribed in sacrifice.

In the temple, Simeon rejoices in the following beautiful scene from Sunday's Gospel:

My eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples:  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and glory for your people Israel.

A sacrifice.

Simeon hints at a further sacrifice to come. "This child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel," he says, "and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and, [speaking to Mary,] you yourself a sword will pierce."

Quite a piercing it would be. Sacrifice includes suffering and it includes death. But in the very act of dying Jesus would show that Godliness, in its essence—which is love—survives death. And that such a life can dwell within each of us.

The world today is crowded with grief and torment, starvation, warfare, killing, and "lives of quiet desperation." But in Jesus, God came to participate in all of it.

He took the whole bundle into his two arms and he embraced it and made it good.

John Foley, SJ

\* The Presentation of the Lord falls on 2 February, forty days (inclusive) after Christmas.

\*\*"When the days of her purifying are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a yearling lamb for a burnt offering and a pigeon or a turtledove for a purification offering." (Leviticus 12:6).

Fr. John Foley, SJ, is a composer and scholar at Saint Louis University.  
Copyright © 2020, John B. Foley, SJ All rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce for personal or parish use.



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February

Listen to the Migrants' Cries.  
We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters,  
victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

## PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
			Antioch speaking at all Masses
Sun.	02/02/20	9:30am	Children's Mass at St Gerard's—No Kidz Word
		10:15am	Kidz Word at OLHC Church
		6:00pm	PMR Carlingford Antioch meeting
Mon	03/02/20	9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP meeting
		7:30pm	Rosary Group at St Gerard's Church
Tue.	04/02/20	9:30am	PMR Carlingford Primary Catechists' Meeting
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		7:00pm	Adult Choir practice at St Gerard's Church
		7:30pm	SVdP Epping meeting in the shop
		7:30pm	PH Epping Parent Information Session for First Reconciliation
Wed.	05/02/20	9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's</b>
		11:00am	Mass at Rayward Nursing Home
		7:00pm	PMR Carlingford PPC meeting
		7:00pm	Adult Choir practice at OLHC Church
		7:30pm	Staff Room Lenten Group Formation meeting
Thur.	06/02/20	10:00am	Healing Mass at St Gerard's PMR followed by Morning tea
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		7:30pm	PH Epping Parent Information Session for First Reconciliation
Fri.	07/02/20	9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's</b>
		10:10am	PMR Carlingford Scripture Reflection
		12:15pm	<b>Beginning of School Year Mass OLHC Church</b>
		4:30pm	Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA meeting
Sat.	08/02/20	9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
		12:00pm	PH Epping Old OLMC Epping Girls 50th Reunion
		5:00pm	<b>Vigil Mass at OLHC Church</b>
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church
		6:00pm	<b>Vigil Mass at St Gerard's</b>

PH—Parish Hall, CH—Church, PMR— Parish Meeting Room

## THE SEASON OF LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY

As you may well know, Wednesday 26th February, is Ash Wednesday. Please be part of our Ash Wednesday celebrations of Mass as we enter into the time of Lent:

Carlingford 9:30am Mass we will be joined by the school  
7:30pm Mass

Epping 9:15am Mass we will be joined by the school  
Mass 7:00pm Mass

## 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](mailto:ppsecretary@eppcarl.org.au)

## LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES

A reminder that we will again have a weekly Ecumenical Service each Tuesday evening of Lent at 7:45pm.

The dates are as follows:  
3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 March  
please note the dates in your diary and help to make the Lenten season of renewal of time of building the bridges of Christian unity.

Venues will be given as soon as they are to hand.







### Children's Sacramental Journey First Reconciliation 2020

Enrolment for First Reconciliation closes this weekend on Sunday 2 February. Forms are available at the back of both churches and available for download on the parish website [www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford). Alternatively, please feel free to contact us and we will forward you the enrolment pack via email. All families whose child/children celebrated Confirmation at our parish in 2019, kindly note that an enrolment pack was forwarded to you on Monday 20 January by email.

The Parent Information Session will be held on Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th February in the parish hall at Our Lady Help of Christians' in Epping. We are looking forward to sharing the evening with all parents and request all attending to kindly be seated by 7:30pm. The evening encompasses aspects which are important to assist parents in the understanding of your child's faith journey and your partnership with the parish. Therefore it is important that at least one parent attend **one** of these evenings. We ask you to please make your own arrangements for childminding as we are regrettably unable to provide for that on the evening.

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.

Lynn Siau  
Sacramental Programme and Children's Ministries  
0407 255 593  
[lynn@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:lynn@eppcarl.org.au)

### Dads' Club

The monthly gathering of the parish Dads' Club (for all dads in both the Epping and Carlingford communities of the parish) takes place this **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February** at 7:30pm. For details contact Tim Paxton 9945 0151. Dads welcome for a relaxing and enjoyable evening.

### Monday Night Rosary – St Gerard's, Carlingford

Just a reminder that the Rosary is said at St Gerard's, Carlingford every Monday night at 7:30pm. For further information please call Ms Gallo 9872 5181.

**SCHOOL MASS** There will be a whole school Mass on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February** at **12:15pm** at **Our Lady Help of Christians' Church**.  
**Theme: "Beginning of School Year Mass"**. All Parents most welcome!

### The Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

will take place this **Wednesday 5th February** in the parish meeting room at Carlingford commencing at 7:00pm.

### CARLINGFORD HEALING MASS

Our monthly Healing Mass will take place **this Thursday, 6th February** at **10:00am** (no 9:30am Mass that day).



Please note the Mass will take place in Meeting Room, and morning tea will be served at the conclusion of Mass.

All are welcome to our monthly Healing Masses (on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at Carlingford and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Epping) as a time to pray for God's healing strength either for ourselves or those we know. Each third month (Mar, Jun, Sep and Dec) we also celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick (Anointing) within these Masses.

### HELP FOR THE DROUGHT AFFECTED FARMERS AND FAMILIES

This weekend 1/2 February your help would again be appreciated for our drought affected farmers and families. The drought has not eased, there is no water, and some areas have also been impacted by the fires as well. Fund raising for the fires has been vital but also seems to be bypassing our struggling farmers and their starving animals. Your help and prayers are urgently needed.

The CWA Baradine would be grateful for your assistance in helping to restock the "Drought Aid Pantry" which supports the communities of Baradine and beyond. Nothing that is donated is wasted. At the end of last year the CWA had been able to support 157 families with 4310 pantry visits by those families. Rainfall for the year was 282.6mm. All goods will be delivered to Melissa Turner, the Coordinator of Coasties Drought Aid, who will arrange transportation to Baradine.

As before, the communities would be grateful for non-perishable items, including tinned food suitable for salads, tinned fruit, long life milk, juice, Milo, tea, coffee, rice, pasta, sauces, cereals, biscuits, cake mixes, flour, sugar, toiletries and personal items for both men, women and children. Pet food, Aerogard, insect spray, sun screens, moisturisers, toilet rolls, paper towels, tissues, hand sanitisers, in fact, any items used in your own homes would be appreciated. Please, no chocolate due to the heat. Also, any new books, toys or gifts that can be used for Birthday gifts, etc. for the families throughout the year would also bring joy.

A large marked box will be at the entry of both churches for any donations. If possible, please leave items in bags or similar for ease of collection.

### National Catholic Safeguarding Standards:

Leadership, monitoring & improvement



Standard 1 – Committed leadership, governance and culture

Key Elements of Standard 1:

- A commitment to Safeguarding
- Promoting a Safeguarding Culture
- Safeguarding Policies
- Code of Conduct

## Youth Page

The Antioch Community is having its  
**Annual Outreach Weekend from**

**Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd Feb.2020**

The Antioch weekend is run for youth by youth and is filled with

**TALKS, DISCUSSIONS, MUSIC, FOOD , FRIENDS & FUN!**

It's a great chance to find out more about yourself, meet heaps of great young people from the parish, and grow closer to Jesus!

Venue: Parish Site at St Gerard's,  
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

**Registration Forms are available at the back of the church**

**More information Ring Joanne 0416 030 927**

*"It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians." – Acts 11:26*

### CANA: OUR Yr. 7-9 YOUTH GROUP

If you're in Years 7-9 come along for a night Jam-packed with **FUN & FAITH!** EVERY FRIDAY night of the School Term, 7:30 – 9pm, in the Parish hall at Carlingford.  
It's a great place to catch up with old friends, and meet some new ones!

Please remember that a small donation when you come to the meeting would really help out with the costs of the night. Thanks ☺

Further information call Joanna 0404 710 588

### Commentary on the Readings

Enlighten your life ~ discover the Light to the nations

Mary and Joseph present Jesus, just a baby, to God in the Temple in Jerusalem. How does something that simple suddenly become the centre of what we hear at Mass today? The Holy Spirit revealed who this child really was to Simeon and Anna. They recognised Jesus! Simeon said, **My eyes have seen the salvation which you, God, have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans.**

The letter to the Hebrews gives us this insight into what salvation means. *Christ by his death could take away the power of the devil who had power over death and set free (save) all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by fear of death.*

If you are curious to know more about Jesus and how he is the **Light to the nations**, ~ join us at Alpha. If your life is burdened by fear of death, you can discover how Christ sets us free from that power ~ join us at Alpha.

To all who have been to Alpha, Fr Peter asks you to **be a missionary disciple** and **invite one person you know to Alpha**. We begin on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in the parish hall in Epping.

Denis McNamara  
*Supporting parishioners to become Missionary Disciples*

**Invitation to St Benedict's Monastery** for Sundays: 16 February, 17 May, 16 August and 15 November, 2020.

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia on Sunday, 16 February.

Registration from 10.00am, 10:30am start, Presentations, Introduction to Meditation, period of Meditation for ongoing meditators, Book Display, BYO picnic lunch, tea and coffee provided, Mass, conclusion at 3.00pm.

Contact Br Terry: 0438 282 318 for possible accommodation in monastery guest house.

### Gerry's Playgroup

St Gerard's hosts a "Playgroup" for families in our community.

It is an informal session where parents, grandparents, carers, babies and children aged 0 to school age come together in a relaxed and friendly environment.



- Playgroup gives children an opportunity to have fun, make new friends and develop new skills through informal play.
- Playgroup provides parents and carers with an opportunity to meet other parents and carers, make friends and share ideas and experiences.
- St Gerard's playgroup is a great way to get to know other families in our school community.

The playgroup meets every Monday morning during the school term in the parish hall. Parking is available via Roselea Way in the car park behind the school. Access to the parish hall is via the gate at the back of the school.

### Welcoming the new enquirer

**Q What is the right time of the year for Inquiry (the period of Evangelisation and Precatechumenate)?**

**A** Whenever a person is awakened to the Spirit's presence in their life and chooses to respond, the initiation process begins (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 1*). The beginning is the first period of the process, the Period of Evangelisation and Precatechumenate, informally known as Inquiry.



So whenever a person is awakened and chooses to respond – that is the right time for inquiry.

The rite envisions that a parish would be ready to accompany any adult who approaches the parish.

Ideally, the Inquiry period goes on throughout the year.

*Gael Gensler OSF. © 2017 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Art by Steve Musgrave.*