# 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

### Email: parish@eppcarl.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.

	YEAR A	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	30-08-20
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Jeremiah 20:7-9

# Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 16:21-27

Parish Office: 9876 2853

### Social Justice Sunday, 30 August

Sunday, 30 August marks Social Justice Sunday. The Social Justice Statement 2020-21, *To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today*, encourages faith communities, governments and individuals to make mental health a priority.

Parishes and local communities are called to be places of welcome and inclusion, overcoming the barriers and stigma often faced by people experiencing mental ill-health. It demands the commitment of governments and policymakers to prevent so many people falling through the cracks of the mental health system.

It also calls for the nation's commitment to address those policies that exacerbate the already precarious circumstances of First Australians and refugees and asylum-seekers.

For a copy of the full text please go to: https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/wp-content/ uploads/2020/07/Social-Justice-Statement-2020-WEB.pdf

# Safeguarding Awareness Month– Promoting the Rights of the Child – September 2020

The theme for this year's Safeguarding Awareness Month is "Promoting the Rights of the Child". It has been 30 years since Australia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is also 30 years since Australia started celebrating Child Protection Week. The purpose of Safeguarding Month 2020 is to raise awareness about the Rights of the Child. An initiative the Diocese has undertaken in 2020 to celebrate this milestone is the production of the Diocesan Rights of the Child Framework. The Framework will be launched on, Monday 14 September 2020, the day after Catholic Church Child Protection Sunday. **Finally** ......as a parish we are particularly blessed to have the ministry of two St Vincent de Paul conferences. Recently Christine Espitalier-Noel completed her term as President of the Epping conference. Christine has provided outstanding leadership and given generously of her time and efforts not only to conference members but to the wider community seeking assistance. We are deeply appreciative of her term as President.

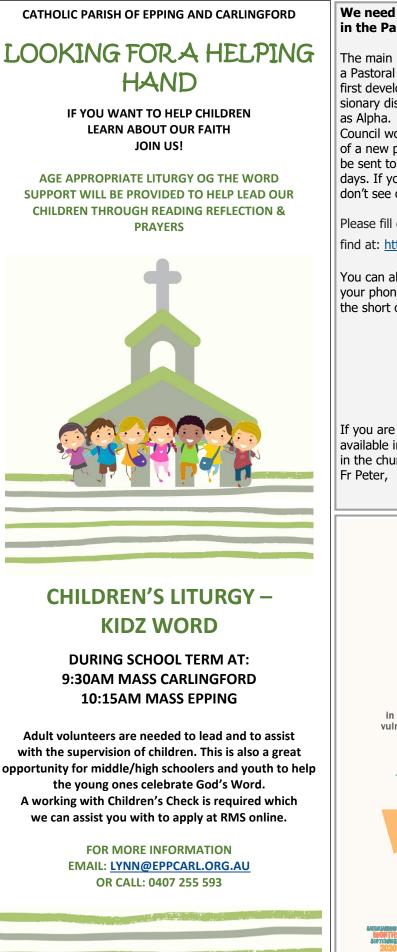
I am pleased to announce that Ted Green will now be taking up the position as President of Epping SVDP. Congratulations Ted and thanks for your generosity in accepting this position. Our prayers and gratitude will accompany you over the coming years!

Fr Peter

P.S. From Wednesday I will be on leave from the parish returning on Friday 18th September. During that time I won't be checking my parish emails so please contact Fr Bogdan or the parish office if the matter is urgent. **Thank you!** 



The Parish Website address is: www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford



# We need your thoughts and ideas. Please participate in the Parish Survey!

The main role of the Parish Pastoral Council is to develop a Pastoral Plan for the parish. Our current plan, which was first developed in 2017, included the development of missionary discipleship within the parish, and initiatives such as Alpha. The plan expires at the end of this year and the Council would really like your input into the development of a new plan. A short, anonymous online survey email will be sent to parishioners on our email list in the next few days. If you normally receive emails from the parish and don't see one, please check your junk mail.

Please fill out the short anonymous online survey you will

find at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TWZFZFR

You can also use this QR code. Just open the camera on your phone and focus on the code. It will give you a link to the short online survey.



If you are not electronically minded, paper surveys are available in the churches and can be returned to the boxes in the churches.

r, Joan Sally, Parish Pastoral Council Chair.



### Liturgy of Lament

All are invited to gather to pray together in acknowledging the suffering caused to our most vulnerable and to give public expression to our sorrow.



Parish	DIARY	FOR	THIS	WEEK	
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Day	Date	Time	Event			
Sun.	30/08/20	7:45am	Mass at St Gerard's Church			
		8:30am	Mass at OLHC Church			
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church			
		10:15am	Mass at OLHC Church			
		6:00pm	Mass at OLHC Church			
		6:00pm	PMR Carlingford Antioch Meeting			
Mon.	31/08/20	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church			
Tue.	01/09/20	12:15pm	Mass at OLHC Church			
Wed.	02/09/20	9:15am	Communion Service at OLHC Churc			
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church			
Thur.	03/09/20	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church			
		12:15pm	Mass at OLHC Church			
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford PFC Meeting			
		8:00pm	PMR Epping Men of St Joseph			
Fri.	04/09/20	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church			
		12:15pm	Mass at OLHC Church			
Sat.	05/09/20	9:15am	Mass at OLHC Church			
		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—Pa	rish Hall, Cl	H—Church,	PMR- Parish Meeting Room			

### **MARY MACKILLOP - an iBOOK**

My book, *God Will take Care of Us All: A Spirituality of Mary MacKillop,* has now been published as an iBook. It was specially aimed at being published to coincide with the feast of Mary MacKillop by St Pauls Publications. It is available on both Amazon kindle and apple iBooks and the retail price is AUD \$9.95.

Pauline Wicks rsj

### Blessing of Crosses and Crucifixes . . .



As you know we try to tap into our Church's tradition of punctuating the rhythm of the year with feasts and festivals by observing some of those feasts in a special way so that they might help to relate our faith to the living of our lives.

One of those feast days will soon be upon us. The **Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, Monday 14th September**, celebrates the victory over sin and death that

comes through the Cross of Jesus. It is an especially appropriate day each year to bless the cross or crucifix in our sacred space at home.

Please bring along your cross or crucifix from your sacred space at home – these will be blessed at the 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's. There is no Mass at Epping on a Monday.

#### 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

#### **CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL**

The second CWF Appeal for this Financial Year will commence the weekend of the 5/6 September in both our churches.

Donations can be made online at www.givenow.com.au/ cwf and will support our Parish quota.

Envelopes can be obtained from the Parish Office, or at the back of each church.

# **Prayer Requests**

Do you have a prayer request - especially during the difficult times each of us is facing.



If you would like to pray for any special intention

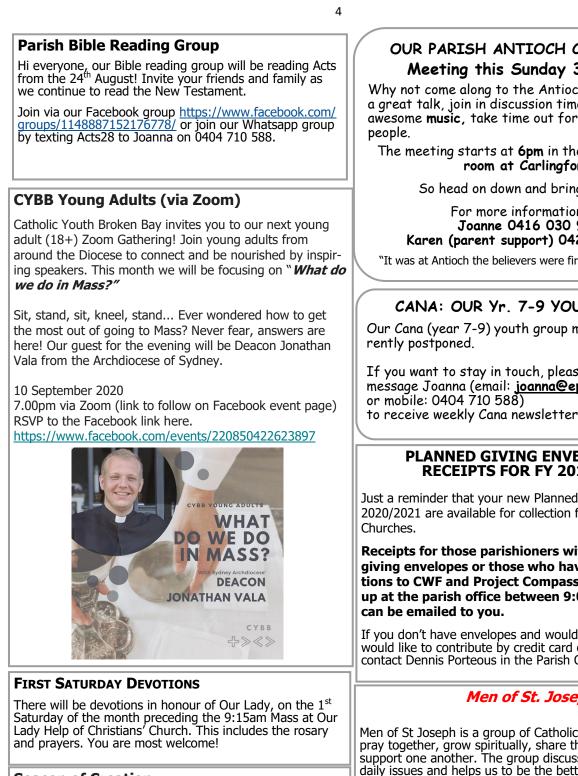
Send your request to:

Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au or Facebook link: https://form.jotform.com/201323501410837

We are more than happy to pray for you!

#### Celebrations this Week Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

03/9 Thursday: Memoria St Gregory the Great, pope



# Season of Creation

#### Catholic Earthcare NSW Invites you to celebrate Season of Creation 2020- 1 September - 4 October

Season of Creation is an annual celebration of prayer and action for our common home. During this season, all are called to enter a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, that requires radically new ways of living with creation.

Season of Creation starts with the World Day of Prayer for Creation on 1 September and ends with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October.

Visit https://seasonofcreation.org/ or click here for a practical guide on how to engage with the Season of Creation.

# OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY Meeting this Sunday 30 August

Why not come along to the Antioch meeting to hear a great talk, join in discussion time get into some awesome music, take time out for prayer and meet

The meeting starts at **6pm** in the **parish meeting** room at Carlingford.

So head on down and bring a friend.

For more information call Joanne 0416 030 927 Karen (parent support) 0421 506 577

"It was at Antioch the believers were first called Christians."

# CANA: OUR Yr. 7-9 YOUTH GROUP

Our Cana (year 7-9) youth group meetings is cur-

If you want to stay in touch, please email or message Joanna (email: joanna@eppcarl.org.au to receive weekly Cana newsletters and updates.

# PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES AND **RECEIPTS FOR FY 2019/2020**

Just a reminder that your new Planned Giving Envelopes for 2020/2021 are available for collection from the back of the

Receipts for those parishioners with planned giving envelopes or those who have made contributions to CWF and Project Compassion may be picked up at the parish office between 9:00am—4:00pm or

If you don't have envelopes and would like a pack, or if you would like to contribute by credit card or direct debit please contact Dennis Porteous in the Parish Office.

# 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.

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

Fr Bogdan

### A Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel

The *Word of the Lord* is God speaking to us. *Our prayer* to God *to follow Jesus* is our response.

Before the Gospel, between the Alleluias, we acclaim ~ May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ **enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see...** What do we want to see? Paul says this is what God wants

What do we want to see? Paul says this is what God wants for us, to **See how great is the hope to which we are called**. (1 Eph 1:17) Can you think for a moment "What great hope are you called to?"

In the second reading (Rm 12:1-2) Paul tells us ~ "Think of God's mercy, in a way that is **worthy of thinking beings.** Offer your living bodies as a holy sacrifice truly pleasing to God." Verse 2 can be our prayer.

#### Help us, so our behaviour changes.

Show us *the will of God, so we know what is good, what God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.* Save us from *the behaviour of the world around us*.

In the Gospel (Mt 16: 21-27) we hear *Jesus made this clear* to his disciples. He was **destined to go to Jerusalem**, to **suffer grievously, to be put to death, to be raised up**. Peter's response ~ This must not happen to you. Jesus turned and said to Peter **The way you think is not God's way**. Jesus tells his disciples.

**Renounce yourself. Take up your cross. Follow me.** For anyone who **loses his or her life for my sake will** find it.

Then the promise that puts life into perspective. We have great hope for we have a destiny. We will be judged, and our reward will be to be with our God forever.

The Son of Man is coming in the glory of his Father with his angels.

*He will reward each one according to his or her behaviour.* 

In the Psalm (63:2-9) we pray these words will become our prayer as a disciple following Jesus. *My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.* O God, you

are my God, for you I long. Your love is better than life. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet. My mouth shall praise you with joy. For you have been my help; I rejoice.

In the first reading, Jeremiah (20: 7-9) could not stop for **There seemed to be a fire burning in my heart.** To become a missionary disciple, we pray for what God wants, to think God's way, to take up our cross and follow. We ask **Come Holy Spirit, be the fire burning in our hearts and the hearts of all your faithful**.

Denis McNamara

Supporting Missionary Disciples

# 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* 





The Bishop has asked me to convey a sincere "thank you" for the wonderfully warm reception he received in the parish last weekend. In particular special thanks to Helen, Betty, and Maree for the splendid lunch that was provided for him, Fr Bogdan, and myself.

Fr Peter

Position Vacant—Catechist Coordinator, Lower North Shore Parish - Casual Role 4-10 hpw

The successful applicant should be enthusiastic for the work of an SRE, and be able to inspire and direct the catechists in their implementation of classroom programs and the organisation of activities beyond the classroom, in the spirit of the Parish Pastoral Plan.

For a position description or more information, please email recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au or call Jackie Hanson (Chancery HR) on 8379 1667.

Applications close: Monday 31st August 2020.

The successful must be eligible to work in Australia; hold a current unrestricted driver's licence; and will be required to undertake a pre-employment National Police History Check and WWCC.

### Position Vacant—Administrative Assistant, The Lakes Parish

The Lakes Catholic Parish is looking to employ a Parish Administrator Assistant to provide general administration assistance as well as specific administrative support for the Sacramental Programs ministry within the Parish.

The position is for 21 hpw, Wednesday—Friday and also covers Parish Secretary leave as required which will increase the role at times to 5 days per week.

View the full advertisement and details on how to apply on the Diocesan website:

https://www.bbcatholic.org.au or phone Jackie Hanson (Chancery HR) on 8379 1667.

Applications close on Monday 14th September.

The successful must be eligible to work in Australia; hold a current unrestricted driver's licence; and will be required to undertake a pre-employment National Police History Check and WWCC.

> And anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.



Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it



John Thornhill SM

# Reflection on the Sunday's Gospel...

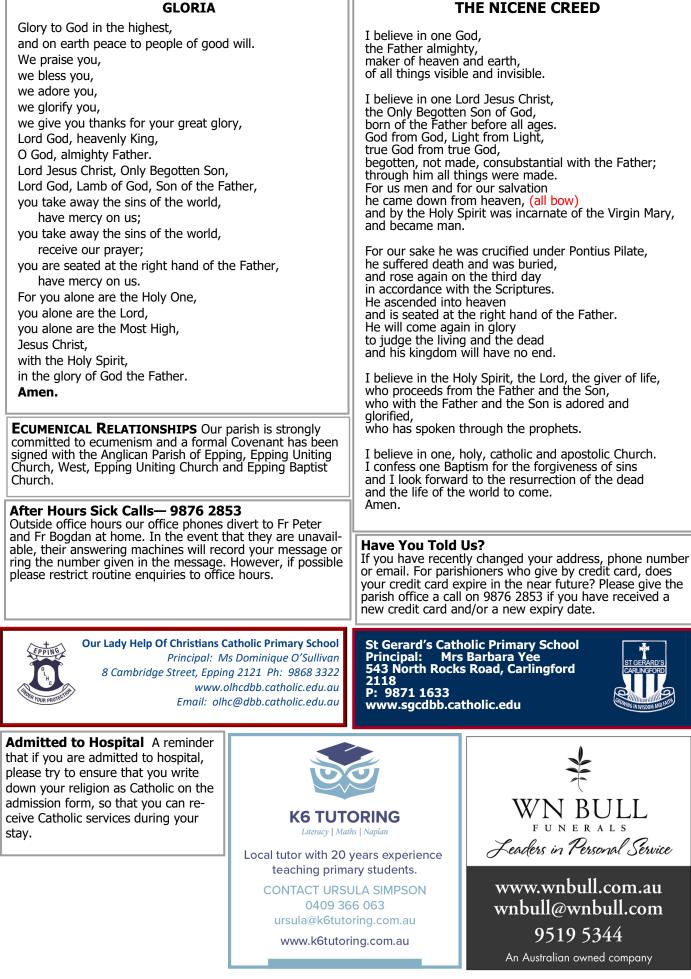
In last week's gospel reading, Matthew celebrated Peter's commission as the guardian of unity in the Church. The continuation of that passage, in today's reading, recalls the rebuke Peter received from Jesus after his confession. It was the mission of Jesus, to fulfil all the expectations of the Old Testament. In the questions put to the disciples that led to Peter's confession, Jesus speaks of himself as the 'Son of Man', and he repeats this reference in the concluding words of today's reading. The 'Son of Man' was the triumphant figure of the book of Daniel who was to come on the clouds to establish God's universal reign. Now, in the first of three predictions of his passion, he identifies himself with the Servant' of the Isaian writings who, by his sufferings, would lead God's people to the fulfilment of their God-given destiny. These references would have been treasured by Matthew's community, as they recalled their great theme that the life and death of the Saviour took place 'to fulfil the scriptures'. In Peter's condescending response to Jesus' prediction of the outcome of his rejection by the leaders in Jerusalem - 'This must not happen to you' - we glimpse something of the trusting relationship Jesus maintained with his disciples. But the sharp reaction of Jesus makes clear the seriousness of Peter's mistake. There is a great irony in the rebuke of Jesus: the 'rock' is told that he is a 'stumbling block'.

Jesus is forming his disciples, we remember. And now he challenges them to begin to come to terms with the mystery of the Cross - his reconciling and healing of a shattered world. Though Jesus was aware that his conflict with the Jerusalem authorities was a matter of life and death - 'the elders, chief priests and scribes' were the three groups of leaders who made up the Sanhedrin that was to condemn him - his words do not necessarily involve a miraculous foreknowledge of his fate. 'Taking up the cross' was a proverbial way of referring to the bearing of adversity and suffering. Under Roman rule, crucifixion - with its prelude of the criminal's bearing of the heavy crossbeam to the place of execution - was a familiar reality. Those who wish to be his followers, Jesus declares, must be warned that this means a readiness to bear the burden of suffering. The community, from a Jewish background, that Matthew is writing for have been filled with wonder and gratitude, as they recalled the Isaian description of the Suffering Servant: 'He was being wounded for our rebellions ... the punishment reconciling us fell on him, and we have been healed by his bruises' (Is 53). Now they recall the words of Jesus inviting them to enter into this mystery of reconciliation: 'Anyone who wants to save his life will lose it' - a reference to the martyrdom that has already been the fate of some of their fellow Christians; 'Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it'. These words of Jesus imply an astounding claim. 'For my sake', Jesus says. For Old Testament faith, it is only God who deserves to be loved with all one's 'heart, soul and mind' (Deut 16); now Jesus is claiming the same absolute allegiance for himself. For Jesus, this taking up of the cross is a daily, life-long calling. The other readings of today's liturgy help us to reflect upon what this call involves in practical everyday terms. Jeremiah's heroic faithfulness was to become a source of blessings and encouragement for God's people of every age. Today's passage from Paul to the Romans can serve as a commentary on the call of Jesus. We can offer our faithfulness as a 'living sacrifice', uniting our offering to the Saviour's gift of himself for the sake of the world. It is the mystery of the Eucharist that makes this possible.

John Thornhill sm

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### THE NICENE CREED



Responsorial Psalm Response Alleluia, alleluia! Gospel Acclamation   Ps 62:2-6.8-9 R. v. 2 May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,   My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. Gospel Acclamation							
WEEKEND MASSES   Please note, we must adhere to social distancing within the churches.							
EPPING	5:00PM V	IGIL, 8:30	AM, 10:15	AM, 6:00PI	М		
CARLINGFORD	6:00PM V	IGIL, 7:45	AM, 9:30A	М			
WEEKDAY MASSES	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	No Mass	12:15pm	9:15am	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	
HEALING MASSES	ТВА				1	1	
EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Saturday 12:30pm -1:00pm, Carlingford, 4th Thursday 10:00am							
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Saturday 9:45—10:15am Carlingford Saturday 5:00pm—5:30pm OR BY APPOINTMENT							
BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: 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: Carol Walker, Maree Dore, Bill Saul, Alex D'Costa, Catherine Lee, Helen Lee,							
Anniversaries: Felipe Yu Soria Sr,							
Also for: 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, Carole Wilson, Alison Deane, 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. <i>Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the family.</i>							
Chun Wong, Heather St		•		• •		-	-

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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.

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
05/09/20	5:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien	6:00pm	Fr Terence Bell
06/09/20	8:30am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	7:45am	Fr John Frauenfelder
06/09/20	10:15am	Fr Bogdan Skupien	9:30am	Fr Andrew Murray
06/09/20	6:00pm	Fr Bogdan Skupien		