

Responsorial Psalm Response Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.		Gospel Acclamation Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ!					
<u>WEEKEND MASSES</u>							
Epping	5pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm						
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am						
<u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u>	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur	Fri	Sat.	
EPPING	No Mass	12:15pm	9:15am	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	10:00am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	
HEALING MASS	Carlingford —1st Thursday, Epping — 3rd Wednesday						
EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Saturday 9:45-10:15am, Carlingford , 4th Thursday 10:00am							
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Saturday 9:45-10:15am Carlingford Saturday 5:00—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: Fr Leo Donnelly, Pat Tay, Rolando L'Olive, Maria Jacinta Hernandez, <i>We pray for Norm Bampton who died last week.</i> <i>The Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday 2nd April at 1:30pm at St Gerard's Church.</i>							
Anniversaries: Chris Buttner, Roger & Claude Nina, Patrick Murphy,							
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, Rose Prior, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Ron Jenkins, Dorothea Ellis, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Walter Souhrada, Stephen Last, Kathy Noonan, Alice Eng Peck Quah, Dorothy Bonocorso, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Pam Taig, Elaine Hunt, Arnold Day, Maureen Carlon, Fr Adrian Borst, Ausustine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Kath McCarthy, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Joyce Fewtrell, Patricia Muschalik, Ernest Lau, Delma Soria, Sr Atanasia Lee, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave, Fara Vargas, Kathy Walsh, Theo Stevens, Wai Chun Wong.							
<i>Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.</i>							

You are invited to the Chrism Mass!

Come and join together with our clergy and people across Broken Bay for the Blessing and consecration of the Holy Oils for our parishes. Mass begins at 7:30pm on Tuesday 16th April 2019.

Soup and bread will be served in the courtyard from 6:00pm with tea and coffee afterwards.

If you would like to join the choir to lead the congregation in prayerful song, please send an email to cathedral@bbcatholic.org.au and on the subject line type "Choir RSVP."

Rehearsal on the day in the Cathedral from 6:00pm for 7:30pm Mass start.

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
06/04/19	5:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
07/04/19	8:30am	Fr Peter Dowd	7:45am	Fr Peter Dowd
07/04/19	10:15am	Fr Peter Dowd	9:30am	Fr Peter Dowd
07/04/19	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd		

McFixit Handyman

Free quotes.

Ring Mike

0434 878 160



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 Joey Frez
Ph.: 9872 3400
Email: joseph@eppcarl.org.au

Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au

Parish Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford

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 C FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT—LAETARE (REJOICE) SUNDAY 31-03-19

Joshua 5:9-12

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-3.11-32

DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING MINISTRIES

Last week in the bulletin we spoke of our parish plan. One area identified for a particular focus this year is "Developing and supporting Parish Liturgical Ministries." The ministries identified are those of reader, serving, music and hospitality.

The first of such ministries that we will focus on is the ministry of reader (Lector). The lector proclaims God's Word at Mass in such a way that God becomes present in the hearts and lives of God's people.

I would like everyone to consider whether God may be calling you to serve as a reader (lector) at Mass for your brothers and sisters. All the necessary training and preparation will be provided.

If you would like to assist or find out more about this ministry could you leave your details on the sheet of paper entitled "Ministry of Reader" near the main entrances to each of our churches or email Fr Peter at peter@eppcarl.org.au



HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

On Tuesday of Holy Week, **16th April** the **Mass of Chrism** will be celebrated Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 23 Yardley Ave, Waitara at **7:30pm**. At this Mass the oils for Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination and Anointing of the sick are blessed.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

From Holy Thursday evening to Holy Saturday Morning Prayer inclusive we will, as usual, have a celebration of each of the liturgies below in **BOTH** our churches at the same time as set out below:

HOLY THURSDAY – 18th APRIL

NO MORNING MASS

EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: 7:30pm NIGHT PRAYER at 10:30pm

After Mass, if you would like to remain or return later in the evening, there will be prayer before the Eucharist at the chapel of Repose – in the Meeting Room under the Church at Epping and in the Parish Hall at Carlingford. This will conclude with Please try to come for some of this vigil of prayer – to spend some time with the Lord 'in the Garden of Gethsemane.'

GOOD FRIDAY – 19th APRIL

NO MORNING MASS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 10am SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION: 3pm

HOLY SATURDAY – 20th APRIL

NO MORNING MASS

Holy Saturday is traditionally a day of solemn vigil [and fast], in preparation for the resurrection. Mass and the sacraments are not celebrated on this day. However, to spend some of this vigil of prayer together, there will be:

MORNING PRAYER: 10am

MASS OF THE EASTER VIGIL

THE CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION: 7pm at St Gerard Majella's Church, Carlingford [only]

There is **NO** Holy Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church, Epping on Holy Saturday.

Everyone is encouraged to gather at St Gerard's as one parish on this most important evening of the Churches year. If you require transport please leave your details at the parish office 9876 2853.

EASTER SUNDAY – 21st APRIL

7:45am & 9:30am Masses at St Gerard Majella's Carlingford
8:30am & 10:15am Masses at OLHC Epping

N.B. NO 6pm Mass on Easter Sunday evening.

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.

March 2019 Safeguarding Message

A culture of Safeguarding values SERVANT LEADERSHIP....."Like good stewards of the manifold of grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." - 1 Peter 4:10

2019 EASTER VIGIL CHOIR

We will once again celebrate the Easter Vigil 2019 as one parish at St Gerard's Church, Carlingford on Holy Saturday 20th April at 7:00pm.

We would like to invite parishioners from both churches to join our Parish Easter Vigil Choir to celebrate this most important Mass of the year.

Practices at St Gerard's Church at 7:30pm:

Wednesdays—27/3, 10/04 and the 17/4 is to be confirmed.

Rehearsal at St Gerard's Church at 2:00pm

Saturday 13th April

Parking at the rear of the Church.

To indicate your interest, please email

Elizabeth on dneasti@optusnet.com.au
Fran on francunneen@optusnet.com.au

Be part of this special music group to celebrate this pinnacle point of our liturgical calendar!



Stations of the Cross—Fridays during Lent

Stations of the Cross will commence at 6:30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church, Epping. The Stations of the Cross will continue each Friday during Lent.



'The Light is On for You' will begin at 7:00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Epping. This is an exciting initiative for Lent, that seeks to welcome people to our churches in the Diocese for quiet time, prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This initiative will continue each Friday night at Epping during Lent.

Palm Sunday at Epping An Ecumenical Entry to Holy Week



We will gather together with the community from St Alban's Anglican Church and Epping Uniting Church for a common blessing of palms, before our principal Sunday morning celebration of Palm Sunday, 14th April.

The arrangements will be, that we will gather at **10:00am** (note the change in time) for the blessing of palms in the grounds of Our Lady Help of Christians' Church; after the blessing, we will then move out into Cambridge Street, processing up Oxford Street to our church for the celebration of Mass.

Members of the St Gerard's community who would like to be part of this ecumenical entry into Holy Week are of course welcome to come to Epping that day. Palm Sunday is the threshold to Holy Week and this gathering will give us a wonderful opportunity to come together to begin that most sacred time of our common Church year.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS— GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

For Holy Thursday we would again like to create a beautiful 'Garden of Gethsemane' around the Altar of Repose for both our communities. To do this we need a loan of lots (and lots) of medium and large pot plants (or LARGE cuttings from trees if you're doing some pruning). They can be dropped off to:

Carlingford Hall – Please place plants/cuttings inside the hall or just outside the main door before 10am on Thursday morning (18th April).

Epping—Parish Meeting Room on Wednesday night 17th April (take inside the PMR) or before 10am on Holy Thursday 18th April (take inside the PMR). Pot plants can be collected again on Good Friday. We also need helpers on Holy Thursday 18th April to set up the 'Garden of Gethsemane': at Epping at 10am (in the Parish Meeting Room) and at Carlingford at 12 noon (in the hall) Please don't leave it to others – but come along and give a hand.

LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES

A reminder that we will again have a weekly Ecumenical Service each Tuesday evening of Lent at 7:45pm. Everyone is welcome! Please help to make the Lenten session of renewal a time for building bridges of Christian unity.

- 2/4 **West Epping Uniting Church**
Cnr Orchard & Carlingford Rds, Epping
Preacher: Rev Paul Weaver
- 9/4 **Epping Uniting Church**
Cnr Chester & Oxford Sts, Epping
Preacher: Rev Howard Bennett



Our Lenten dinner which took place in the PMR Epping last Saturday 23rd March.



Ecumenical Service last Tuesday evening. Bishop Ross Nicholson preaching at the Epping Baptist Church.

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.

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.

AFTER HOURS SICK CALLS— 9876 2853

Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Peter and Fr Joey 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

The Truth Justice and Healing Council

www.thecouncil.org.au Ph.: 6234 0900

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

will take place this **Wednesday 3rd April** in the parish meeting room at Carlingford commencing at 7:00pm.

CARLINGFORD HEALING MASS Our monthly Healing Mass will take place **this Thursday, 4th April at 10:00am** (no 9:30am Mass that day). Please note the Mass will take place in Meeting Room, and morning

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 5th April at 7:30pm**. For details contact Tim Paxton 9945 0151. Dads welcome for a relaxing and enjoy-

Talk Around the Parish Table (TAPT)

Our next communal dinner will take place on **Saturday 27th April at 6:00pm** after the 5pm Mass in the Parish Meeting Room at Epping.

If you are coming along, could we invite you to bring a plate of meat, salad or vegetables. No desserts or finger food.

For further information please contact Trish Harrison on 9869 2489 or 0490 912 747.

Rosary for the Intentions of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The rosary for the intentions of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be recited every Friday afternoon at 4:30pm in Our Lady Help of Christians' Church.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Weekend relationship enrichment for married couples 26th – 28th April at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW Bookings online at www.wmme.org.au or Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adran.janet1@bigpond.com

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, *[all bow.]*
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

BEYOND OUR PARISH

Association of the Miraculous Medal:

The monthly AMM Mass and Novena will be celebrated in Saint Anthony's Church, Marsfield, on Saturday, 6th April, 2019

Pray For Cheltenham Girls' and Epping Boys' High Schools

A group of people from local churches meets together for one hour, once a term, to pray for Cheltenham Girls' and Epping Boys' High Schools to support the students, staff, chaplains and Scripture program. Please join us on Thursday 4 April from 8-9pm at 9 Gloucester Road Epping. We will finish promptly. Enquiries: Katrina Collins 0400 488 459 / ckjsge@gmail.com

Catalyst for Renewal Reflection Morning

Unfortunately, due to ill health, **Bishop Geoffrey Robinson** is unable to lead our April Reflection Morning. Please keep Bishop Geoff in your prayers. Sr Jan Barnett rsj has kindly agreed to lead our reflection on Saturday April 6th. To be held in the parish hall of Hunters Hill, cnr of Gladesville Road and Mary Street. 9.30 AM – 12.30 PM. No need to book. Tea & coffee available. Enquiries: Carole Wilson 9869 1036. *All welcome. A time to be still in peaceful surroundings. We warmly invite you: "Come and See."*



WN BULL
FUNERALS

Leaders in Personal Service

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

9519 5344

An Australian owned company

Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel—The Prodigal Son's Brother

Recently, while giving a series of lectures, I was confronted by a rather angry man who accused me of being soft on hell, God's judgment and God's justice.

Though angry, he was, in his own way, a good man, one who had given his life in duty to his family, his church, his country and his God.

"I cannot accept what you say," he shouted at me. "There is so much evil in the world and so many people are suffering from other people's sins that there must be, after this life, some retribution, some justice.

"Don't tell me that all these people who are doing these things—from molesting children to ignoring all morality—are going to be in heaven when we get there! What does that say about God's justice?"

His lament is, in fact, quite an old one. The prophet Isaiah had the same kind of wish. For him it was not enough that the Messiah should usher in a time of peace and freedom for good people. Along with rewards for the good, he felt, there needed to be too a "day of vengeance" on the bad (Isaiah 61:2).

Interestingly, in a curious omission, when Jesus quotes this text to define his own ministry, he leaves out the part about vengeance (Luke 4:18).

There are too many of us in the church and the world today, in both conservative and liberal camps, who like this man, have the same burning need. We want to see misfortune fall upon the wicked. It is not enough that eventually the good should have their day. The bad must be positively punished.

If we are conservative, we wish this especially on those who neglect their religious duties or do not follow the sixth commandment. If we are liberal, we want God's vengeance on the perpetrators of injustice.

All ecclesial camps today agree that justice demands that sin and wickedness be positively punished. We only disagree on what constitute sin and wickedness.

To my mind, this desire for justice (as we call it) is, at its root, unhealthy and speaks volumes about the bitterness within our own lives. All these worries that somebody might be getting away with something and all these wishes that God better be an exacting judge, suggest that we, like the older brother of the prodigal son, might be doing things right, but real love, forgiveness and celebration have long gone out of our hearts.

We are bitter as slaves and are quite outside the circle of the dance.

Julian of Norwich once described God in this way:

Completely relaxed and courteous, he himself was the happiness and peace of his dear friends, his beautiful face radiating measureless love like a marvellous symphony.

This is one of the best descriptions of God ever written. I often meditate on it and, to be honest, most times it makes for a painful meditation. Far from basking in gratitude in the beautiful symphony of relaxed, measureless love and infinite forgiveness that makes up heaven, I feel instead the bitterness, self-pity, anger and incapacity to let go and dance that was felt by the older brother of the prodigal son.

I am sitting in the banquet room, amongst all that radiance and joy, pouting, waiting for the Father to come and try to coax me beyond my sense of having been cheated. Such is my feeling. ... I am not happy in the presence of messianic celebration, but, given that life is unfair, I have every right to be unhappy! Such too is most people's feeling!

Alice Miller, the great Swiss psychologist, suggests that the primary task of the second half of life is that of grieving. We need to grieve, she says, or the bitterness and anger that come from our wounds, disappointments, bad choices and broken dreams will overwhelm us with the sense of life's unfairness.

Her solution is simple: Life is unfair. Don't try to protect yourself from its hurts—you've already been hurt! Accept that, grieve it and move on to rejoice the dance.

In the end, it is because we are wounded and bitter that we worry about God's justice, worry that it might be too lenient, worry that the bad will not be fully punished, worry that there might not be a hell.

But we should worry less about those things and more about our own incapacity to forgive, to let go of our own hurts, to take delight in life, to give others the sheer gaze of admiration, to celebrate and to truly join in the dance. To be fit for heaven we must let go of our bitterness.

Like the older brother, our problem is ultimately not the excessive love that is seemingly shown someone else. Our problem is that we have never fully heard or understood God's words: "My child, you have always been with me and all I have is yours, but we, you and I, should be happy and dance because your younger brother who was dead has come back to life!"

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.

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	31/03/19		Caritas speaking at 7:45am + 9:30am Masses
			Caritas speaking at 8:30am + 10am Masses
		9:30am	Kidz Word at St Gerard's Church
		10:15am	Kidz Word at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		2:00pm	Happy Family Chinese Lenten Group
		6:0pm	PMR Carlingford Antioch Meeting
Mon	01/04/19	9:00am	No Little Engines Playgroup at the moment
		9:30am	PH Carlingford Gerry's playgroup
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's
		10:15am	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		7:30pm	PMR SVdP Conference meeting
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford Rosary Group
Tue.	02/004/19	12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		7:30pm	SVdP Epping meeting at the shop
		7:30pm	PH Epping First Eucharist Information Evening
		7:45pm	Ecumenical Lenten Service—West Epp. Uniting Church
Wed.	03/04/19	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's
		10:00am	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		11:00am	Mass at Rayward Nursing Home
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		7:00pm	PMR Epping PPC Meeting
		7:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir Practice
Thur.	04/04/19	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:10am	St Gerard's School Reconciliation 5/6M
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		7:00pm	PMR Epping Lenten Group
		7:00pm	PMR Carlingford Antioch Lenten Group
		7:30pm	PH Epping First Eucharist Parent Information Evening
		7:30pm	Rm 2 RCIA Lenten Group
Fri.	05/04/19	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:10am	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		4:30pm	CH Epping Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		6:30pm	The Light is On—Stations and Reconciliation
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA Group
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford—Dads' Club
Sat.	06/04/19	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
		12:30pm	PH Carlingford Prayer Group M Senger
		5:00pm	Vigil Mass at Epping
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's
		6:00pm	Vigil Mass at St Gerard's

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

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: kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

Sacramental Programme Assistant:
Marcella Letteri
Ph.: 0407 255 593

Pastoral Support Worker (PSW) Youth:
Joanna Mak
Ph.: 0423 717 550
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
ppcsecretary@eppcarl.org.au

Discernment Evenings

Every Christian has a vocation, a special invitation from God to become holy and whole, to walk a unique, earthly path that leads ultimately to heaven. Samuel Group participants are encouraged to bring their unique questions, desires, strengths and weaknesses to God, and to learn to respond to His loving voice.

This discernment event is for young adults, who meet together once a month in order to pray, ask questions and discover their individual vocations or lifetime call from God.

We invite you to set aside a few hours on Wednesday evening 27th March in order to learn more about God and yourself and investigate your vocation, a special call from God, to leave a mark in this world.

Date: 29 May, 24 July, 18 September, 20 November.

Time: 5:30 – 7:30

Where: Holy Name Parish, 5 Billyard Ave Wahroonga- The Priory

THE PARISH WEBSITE
www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford contains a complete directory of parish life and downloads of important documents.



Children's Sacramental Journey - First Eucharist 2019

Enrolment for First Eucharist will close this Sunday 31st March. In our Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, undergone preparation for Reconciliation and who are currently in Year 3 or above are invited to enrol.

Our Sacramental Programme is advertised through the parish website, bulletins, announcements at Mass, both parish school newsletters, catechists and word-of-mouth. If you know of anyone who may wish to enrol their children, please feel free to spread the word for us. Enrolment brochure, information and forms are available at the back of both Churches and available for download from the parish website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/sacraments/childrens-sacraments>. Alternatively, please feel free to email us and we will forward you an Enrolment Pack.

We always like to hear from you and look forward to building a fruitful relationship. If you have any queries or would like more information regarding your child's sacramental journey within our parish, please send an email to kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 4th Sunday of Lent

Children's Liturgy (Kidz Word) is an age-appropriate Liturgy of the Word offered at the 9:30am Sunday Mass at Carlingford and the 10:15am Mass at Epping during school terms. The presiding Priest calls forward the authorised adult leaders and children just after the Collect (Opening Prayer) and the children are invited to go with the leaders to the parish meeting room.

During Kidz Word, the leaders lead the children through prayers, songs/mimes and readings. The children reflect on the same Scripture readings as the rest of the assembly. They are taught a simplified message of the readings and are encouraged to share that message with their family and friends after Mass.

This week, Kidz Word reminds the children we are half-way through Lent and it is getting close to Easter. The children will look at the Gospel story, The Prodigal Son. Many times we are like the younger son wanting to have our way without regard for the consequences or the feelings of others around us. The children learn that God is like the loving father in the story always ready to forgive us and welcome us home.

Adult volunteers are needed to lead Kidz Word each week, as well as to assist with the supervision of the children. This is a great opportunity for adults and middle/high school youth to help these eager youngsters celebrate God's Word. A Working with Children's Check will be required, which we can assist you with.



If you would like to help bring this meaningful ministry to life so God's Word can reach the hearts of our young children, please contact the parish office on 9876 2853 or email me at lynn@eppcarl.org.au We look forward to hearing from you!

Children's Mass - Carlingford

There will be a Children's Mass at 9:30am at St. Gerard's Church, Carlingford on Sunday 7th April.

The children can be involved in hospitality, readings, prayers and processions. We invite your children to participate! Please email me for more information.

Lynn Siau
Sacramental Programmes
& Children's Ministries
0407 255 593
lynn@eppcarl.org.au



Catechist (SRE) News:

Our Parish Catechists have been enthusiastically sharing their faith with 100s of children across 9 schools in our Parish for almost a term and are now busy preparing Easter lessons that will assist the children in understanding the great depth of Jesus' love for us. Those who joined us late last year are learning much through the Diocesan courses and discovering the great joy & satisfaction of sharing their knowledge about God with the children.

Welcome to Catherine Sullivan, Claudia Susanto, Connie Flores & Ovila D Souza who have recently joined the Ministry.

Please continue to pray for our Catechists (SRE Teachers) & contact **Mary or Katherine** to discover more about this wonderful ministry & how you can assist.

Catechists and Helpers for Primary State Schools

We are in need of new catechists and helpers to teach and assist during school terms for :

Roselea (Wednesday) 12:00-12:30, 12:30-13:00

Epping North (Thursday) 9:10-9:40, 9:40-10:10

Epping Heights (Friday) 9:10-9:40

If you are interested and would like to have more details, please contact Katherine Tam on 218catechists.ps@gmail.com or via Parish Office on 9876 2853.

Jesus said **"Let the little children come to me" - Mt 19:14**

But the children need you to be there to tell them all about Jesus, his love & the love of God for us all! So please contact Katherine or Mary today.

Could all retired Primary School Catechists (& current ones) please check their files, cupboards, nooks & crannies for the Music CDs that belong to the WWJPD programme. They are no longer being made so the CDs need to be returned urgently so current Teachers can use them!

Please contact
Mary O'Byrne (High Schools) on 9871 2120 or mfobyne@gmail.com
or Katherine Tam (Primary Schools) on
218catechists.ps@gmail.com
or via the Parish on 9876 2853
with any enquiries or offers to assist in this exciting & rewarding Ministry

YOUTH PAGE

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

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 parish!

The meeting starts at 6pm, in the Parish meeting room @ Carlingford, so head on down and bring a friend.

All young people from Yr. 10 to age 22 are

VERY WELCOME



For more information
Joanne—0416 030 927

Letting the Gospel come alive ~ Lenten Groups & 21 Challenge

Could this be one of the greatest stories ever told? "There was a man who had two sons." Could the story be true? There is such a Father. "While he, the younger son was still far off his father saw him and was filled with compassion." Could Jesus be telling us his Heavenly Father is such a compassionate God?

Those in Lenten Groups would have looked into the story and seen and heard so much more. The sharing of thoughts and insights reveals more than we could have realised alone. We experience the Holy Spirit present, within us and among us for we have gathered in Jesus Name.

This week will be the second last meeting of our Lenten Groups before Palm Sunday when we enter Jerusalem with Jesus to follow him as he suffers and dies on Good Friday. May your journey together as a group, support you to be there in hope on Easter Sunday, believing in his Resurrection. His Heavenly Father has raised Jesus and we are witnesses to others that *Jesus is Alive. He saves us from death for we too can be resurrected in Him. Jesus is Our Lord of the living.*

21 Challenge ~ for many not able to be in a Lenten Group

More than 25 in our parish are reading a chapter a day of the Gospel of John. This Sunday they are reading Chapter 9 which begins, "As they walked along, he (Jesus) saw a man blind from birth. (John 9:1) On Monday, they read, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10.10)

Food for Sydney's Refugees Many of the Sydney refugees depend on **FOODBANK** supplied by the Jesuit Refugee Service in Parramatta for their staple diet. **The Jesuit Refugee Service** is asking for donations on weekly basis during the following six weeks' of Lent. The require the following:

Week 4 Canned Tomatoes (preferably chopped)

Week 5 Chick peas (canned)

Week 6 Kidney beans (canned)

The food will be taken to the Jesuit Refugee Service and then given to FOODBANK for distribution to the refugees. There will be marked boxes located in both Churches. Thank you for the anticipated support. For further information please contact Trish on 0425 270 215.

CANA: OUR yrs. 6-9 YOUTH GROUP

Cana is on this Friday, 5th April from 7:30-9pm in the St Gerard's Parish Hall.

It will be an Easter special with an Easter Egg Hunt!

Anyone between year 6 to 9 is welcome to come and bring a friend or two!

As part of Lent, Epping and Carlingford Parish are hosting a Taizé worship night on the 12th April, from 6:45pm to 8pm at OLHC Church.

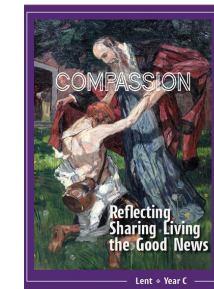
Taizé involves reflective music, meditation, prayer and silence as a way to have a deep encounter with God.

Adoration and Benediction will also be a part of this night. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available during this time as part of the Light is On for You.

If you have any questions, please contact The Parish Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on joanna@epping.org.au or 0423 717 550



Those who are reading John each day have been sharing their reflections with others in this virtual group. Their insights are inspiring. It is not too late to join, and it is not too much to read the previous 8 chapters to catch up.



Alpha begins again at Epping in May

Before we can begin planning, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, to guide the calling of people to join the team, then to empower us to invite those the Spirit is calling to come to Alpha.

Please join together in praying that those in our parish will "Come and See" and that those in our parish will invite their family, their friends and their neighbours to, **Come with me to Alpha.**

Denis McNamara—Missionary Discipleship Co-ordinator