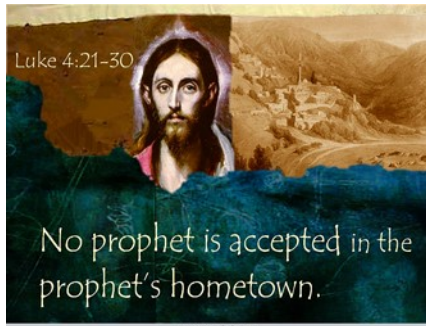


Responsorial Psalm Response I will sing of your salvation.		Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring the Good News to the poor, and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!					
<u>WEEKEND MASSES</u>							
Epping	5pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm						
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 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	9:30am	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: William Atkinson, Stephen Tamone, Francesco (Frank) Nicita, Joan Byrnes, Valda Ellison, Ming Cheung Yeung, Chan Chee Keong, <u>Seah</u> Khung Img (Auntie of Lynn Siau), Mieke Van Werdt, Alicia Doyle. Anniversaries: Michael Coonan, Roger & Jean-Claude Nina, Norma Barlow Melinda Harrison. Also for (deceased persons): Mary Anne, Anthony & Hugh Mulligan, Maria Hur, Young Hwan Ho, Young Seok Seo, Yong Min Ho, Soo Woog Jin, Im Ho Lee, Deceased members of the Harrison and Hanlin families. Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsys, 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, Tammy Birch, Dorothea Ellis, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, 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, Sn Atanasia Lee, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave, Fara Vargas, Kathy Walsh, Theo Stevens. <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>							

Celebrations this Week
Third Week in Ordinary Time

Tuesday: St Agatha, Memoria
 Wednesday: St Paul Miki and companions, Memoria

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
07/02/19	5:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd	6:00pm	Fr Joey Frez
08/02/19	8:30am	Fr Peter Dowd	7:45am	Fr Joey Frez
08/02/19	10:15am	Fr Peter Dowd	9:30am	Fr Joey Frez
08/02/19	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

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

Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au **Parish Website:** www.eppcarl.org.au **Parish Office:** 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 C **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **3-02-19**

Jeremiah 1:4-5.17-19 **1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13** **Luke 4:21-30**

Dear parishioners,

Once again a warm "welcome back" to all our staff and students especially those attending our two parish schools! I hope that the school holidays provided much rest and refreshment for the coming year. In particular, a special welcome to our new Principal at St Gerard's, Mrs Barbara Yee. Having worked with Barbara previously, I know Barbara brings a wealth of experience and passion for learning as well as a strong commitment to ensuring the Catholic ethos is central to all we do within our Catholic schools. I look forward to celebrating the Beginning of School Year Masses and welcoming especially the new students and families over the coming weeks.

Most importantly, next weekend we have our annual Antioch weekend taking place at St Gerard's. As always a lot of hard work has gone into preparing for the weekend especially on the part of team members and parent support personnel. In particular, I wish to thank the school community at St Gerard's especially our new Principal Barbara Yee for making the school premises available as generously and willingly as they so often do....not all parishes enjoy this sort of cooperation!

Antioch continues to provide a wonderful way of assisting young people to grow in their faith and connect with the Church community in a way that is meaningful and supportive. Please keep all those participating on the weekend in your prayers!

Fr Peter



**We would like to wish a
Happy Lunar (Chinese)
New Year to our parish-
ioners!!**

恭喜发财

2019 ~ a year of opportunity

Our year of 2019 has certainly begun with new beginnings at the school and in the parish.

In the presence of the Holy Spirit, the members of this Parish Pastoral Council will promote and support the evangelizing mission of our parish, and as Missionary Disciples effectively respond to the spiritual and pastoral needs of God's people in the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford (Parish Vision Statement)

The parish will offer many opportunities to promote and support the evangelizing mission of our parish. We will invite you and want to involve you, so you can grow in faith and grow as Missionary Disciples. With that experience we will be guided by the Holy Spirit to go out to others to share Christ's love and healing.

In February we invite you to join in a discussion about Jesus and see how the Lenten scriptures relate to our lives within a Lenten Group where we will listen to the Gospel readings for each Sunday in Lent. We ask you to encourage and invite those you know and those you know of to come and join in. The journey to Easter is offered for those who want to learn more about being a disciple of Jesus and become more part of our parish community.

In March, Ash Wednesday introduces us to Lent and as disciples we follow the Lenten discipline of journeying with Jesus to Jerusalem and preparing to follow him closely through his last days. We do this through our Lenten Groups and Lenten fast and Lenten giving.

In April, Easter Sunday is the day of hope for Jesus is risen. His tragic death turns into Good Friday when Jesus the "Lamb of God" brings about our salvation and shows us the depth of His love.

In May we prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which means *50 days* later or 7 weeks after Easter. A new season of Alpha will be offered and, for those who have done Alpha, there will be a chance to stay in touch through "Connect Groups" (more information on what these are will be given in future bulletin updates).

For parents who want their children to deepen their experience of Christ within the life of our Catholic community, the Sacramental Program continues with Confirmation ~ the gifting and celebration of the Holy Spirit who is given to us in baptism, drawing us into a deeper communion with Jesus and the Church through the Eucharist.

Next weekend, more information on Lenten groups for 2019 and we invite you, along with members of your family, to come to Lenten group.

Denis McNamara, Missionary Discipleship Coordinator

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.

The Role of the Catechist

All Christians are called to spread the joy of the Gospel. Pope Francis says we are to be "missionary disciples" in the world, telling people about Jesus Christ and his message of salvation, and bringing them into union with Christ in his Church. The catechist plays an important role in this evangelising work of the Church.

Pope John Paul II wrote, "Among the laity who become evangelisers, catechists have a place of honour" (Redemptoris missio, 73). Indeed, the Second Vatican Council praises the "army of catechists" who continue the Church's missionary work among the nations (Ad gentes, 17). As they spread the Catholic faith, through strenuous effort, they bring the joy of Christ to people who hunger for meaning in their lives, who desire forgiveness and healing, and yearn to know the truth about God and themselves.

Every baptised person has the right and a duty to become catechised in the Catholic faith. Catechesis is not just information about the Catholic faith; rather it involves a deepening of one's personal conversion to the Person of Jesus Christ and developing a deeper understanding of the various elements of the Christian faith. This enables one to fully live the Christian life, bearing witness to Christ and the Gospel in the world. It enables us to explain to people why we Christians live the way we do. As Scripture says, we must "Always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you" (1 Pet 3:15). St Francis reportedly said: "Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."

As you may expect, this requires a catechist to give clear instruction in the Catholic faith, while the one being instructed reflects upon what is heard and incorporates it into his or her own life. For instance, catechists are able to explain the connections between the Trinity and the Incarnation of Christ, and how a Jesus brings us close to our Heavenly Father. Catechists are able to explain why life issues such as contraception and euthanasia are contrary to gospel living, and in fact attack the dignity of married love and the human person. Catechists explain how Christians seek to develop the virtues and mould their moral lives to imitate Jesus Christ, always seeking to unite their sufferings to those of Christ.

If you interested in learning more about your Catholic faith, or becoming a catechist, please contact the parish office for further information on 9876 2853.

Parish Bulletin

The cut-off date for articles etc. for the Parish Bulletin is Wednesday at 12 midday.

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.

Children's Liturgy of the Word-Kidz Word

We Need Your Help!!

Children's Liturgy of the Word (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.

During the Mass the celebrant calls forward the authorised adult leaders and children just after the Collect (Opening Prayer). These children are invited to go with the Catechists from the church to the parish meeting room. During this special time, the leaders will lead the children through prayers, songs and readings that are simplified for the children.

During this time 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 parents after Mass.

Volunteers are needed to lead the liturgies 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.

For more information please contact the parish office on 9876 2853.



Alpha Team Training

Alpha training will be offered on **16 February 2019**.

All Alpha teams are encouraged to come along for a refresher with any new leaders joining the team in 2019.

If you are new to Alpha, you are most welcome to attend, in particular to the 'Come and See' session in the evening, which includes a 'taste' of Alpha with a meal, video and discussion.

Alpha Team Training:
Saturday, 16 February at Caroline Chisholm Centre,
From: 9.00am – 4.30pm

Alpha "Come and See":
Saturday, 16 February at Caroline Chisholm Centre,
From: 6.15pm – 8.30pm



GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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

E-Bulletin

If you would like to receive the bulletin by email, please send an email with e-bulletin as the subject title to: maree@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.

Mick's Fixit

Handyman

Receive no-obligation quotes.

Mobile: 0434 878 160

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,
At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', 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 Ph.: 6234 0900




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Reflection on this Sunday’s Gospel - God's Unconditional Love

Recently I had lunch with a former student of mine, a very idealistic young man who teaches religion in a Catholic High School. He shared with me about his struggles in trying to teach young people about God. One of the major problems, as he sees it, is that his students' idea of God invariably contains too much of the notion that God is a petty tyrant, that God can easily be offended, that God is threatened by our joys and successes, and especially that somehow we have to earn God’s love by being good.

We can, like Satan, live in bitterness and unhappiness right within love itself and we can deeply hurt others.

He, for his part, tries to correct these notions by presenting a picture of God as a God whose essential countenance is that of blessing and not of frowning, a God who is an extravagant, unconditional lover, the father of prodigal son, who cannot be put off by human infidelity. Among other things, he likes presenting Julian of Norwich's picture of God as “sitting in heaven, smiling, completely relaxed, his face looking like a marvelous symphony.” However, when he tries to present this idea of God the response of his students is inevitably something to this effect: “then why be good? If God loves us no matter what we do, then why keep the commandments? If we are not to be punished or rewarded for our efforts, then why make sacrifices?”

Why indeed? Why be good and try to keep the commandments if God loves us anyway? Simply put, we don't try to be good so that God loves and rewards us. God loves us no matter what we do and heaven is never a reward for a good life. Are these glib statements? No. God's love, as Jesus assures us, is always both unmerited and unconditional, nothing we do can ever make God love us, just as nothing we do can ever stop God from loving us. God loves just as God does everything else, perfectly. God loves everything and everybody perfectly. In fact, part of Christian belief (a dogma in fact), is that God's love is what keeps everything in existence. If God stopped loving anything, it would cease to be. This (as the American theologian, Michael Hines, is fond of pointing out) raises an interesting question: If God loves everything and everyone perfectly, does God then also love Satan? Indeed, does God love Satan as much as he loves Jesus’ mother, Mary?

The answer can only be “yes,” God loves Satan as much as God loves Mary. The difference is not in how God loves them, but in how they, each in turn, love God. God loves each of them in the same way, namely, perfectly. But obviously Mary's response is very different from Satan’s. In that difference we see what creates hell, a certain attitude in the face of love. However notice that in neither case is the love either merited or deflected. God just loves us, pure and simple. God's love cannot be driven away. God does not reward or punish us on the basis of whether we have been good or bad. God simply loves us.

Then why be good? Why keep the commandments? What difference does our response make?

Our response makes a big difference, but not in terms of driving God away, or making God punish or reward us. It makes a difference in how we stand and feel in the face of love. We cannot offend against God, but we can offend against others and ourselves. We can, like Satan, live in bitterness and unhappiness right within love itself and we can deeply hurt others. The spiritual and moral precepts of the faith, all of them, including the ten commandments, are therefore meant to do a couple of things:

First, for anyone who is mature in the faith, living out what faith and morality asks of us is in fact a natural response of gratitude for being loved and a natural expression of sensitivity to others. The desire to be good and to keep the commandments, as Martin Luther once said, follows from genuine faith and love the way smoke follows fire. The intent is never to earn love or reward, but to respond properly to them.

This is true in the case of mature love and faith. However, for those of us who are still struggling to be mature, the spiritual and moral precepts of the faith are meant as a discipline—precisely as a discipleship—that helps teach us what it means to be a spiritual and a sensitive human being. Trying to be still good should not be an attempt to somehow earn love or heaven, but rather an acknowledgement, a humble one, that one still needs a lot of help in knowing how to live in the face of love.

Why be good if God loves us anyway? For the same reason that an artist doesn't deface a masterpiece and a lover doesn't violate his or her beloved. Ethics follow naturally when truth, beauty, and love are properly appropriated.

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.

St Josephine Bakhita—The international Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking was observed for the first time on the feast of St Josephine Bakhita in 2015.

Each year, around 2.5 million people are victims of trafficking and slavery. Sixty per cent of them are women and children. Pope Francis has strongly denounced trafficking of human beings, calling it ‘a crime against humanity’ and calling on all to fight and care for its victims.

St Josephine Bakhita was born into slavery but was brought to Italy, where she lived most of her life with the Carnossianl Sisters. She was canonised in 2000, and her feast day has been named as the World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking. Born in Southern Sudan in 1869, kidnapped from her family and village, sold into slavery, tortured mercilessly, she was resold several times. Bought in 1883 by the Italian consul in Khartoum...she returned with his family to Italy where she became nanny to the daughter of one of his colleagues. It was in this capacity that she made the acquaintance of the Canossian Sisters who were instrumental in having an Italian Court establish her status as a person free to determine her own destiny...[She] joined the Carnossianl Sisters in 1893 and...was noted for her life of contemplative intimacy with God, the warmth of her connection with many people and her resolve to free girls and women from oppression and violence. In the latter part of her life she was asked to write her memoirs and her life was powerful testimony to so many of her contemporaries of the reality of her human and spiritual transformation.

St Josephine's life is an inspiration, particularly, for women who have been trafficked or enslaved and for those who work with them in the often long slow, painful journey of healing and rehabilitation.

Ann Tormey rsm

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	03/02/19		Antioch speaking at Masses
		9:30am	Children’s Mass at St Gerard’s Church No Kidz Word
		10:15am	Kidz Word at OLHC Church
		6:00pm	PMR Carlingford Antioch Meeting
Mon	04/02/19	9:00pm	PH Epping Little Engines Playgroup
		9:30am	PH Carlingford Gerry’s Playgroup
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard’s
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford—Rosary Group
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP Meeting
Tue.	05/02/19	10:00am	PMR Carlingford SREs meeting - primary Schools
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church
		7:30pm	SVdP Meeting in the shop at Epping
		7:30pm	PH Epping Parent Information Evening
Wed.	06/02/19	9:15am	Mass at OLHC Church
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard’s Church
		11:00am	Mass at Rayward Nursing Home
		7:00pm	PMR Carlingford PPC Meeting
Thur.	07/02/19	10:00am	Healing Mass at St Gerard’s in the PMR
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians’ Church
		7:30pm	PH Epping Parent Information Evening
Fri.	08/02/19	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard’s Church
		10:00am	PMR Carlingford—Scripture Reflection
		12:15pm	Whole School Mass OLHC Mass
		4:30pm	CH Epping Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		5:00pm	Commencement of the Antioch Weekend
		7:00pm	No CANA Group due to Antioch Weekend
Sat.	09/02/19		Antioch Weekend continued
		9:15am	Mass at OLHC Church
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
		5:00pm	OLHC Vigil Mass
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard’s
		6:00pm	Mass at St Gerard’s
PH—Parish Hall, CH—Church, PMR– Parish Meeting Room			

THE SEASON OF LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday falls on **Wednesday 6th March.**

Please be part of our Ash Wednesday celebrations of Mass as we enter into the time of Lent:

Epping
9:15am (we will be joined by the OLHC Primary School for this Mass).
7: 30pm Evening Mass

Carlingford
9:30am (we will be joined by St Gerard’s School for this Mass).
7:30pm Evening Mass

PARISH STAFF

Parish Secretary:
Dennis Porteous Ph.: 9876 2853
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Asst. Parish Secretary:
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Parish Support Worker (PSW)
Sacramental Programmes and Children’s Ministries
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Sacramental Programme Assistant:
Marcella Letteri
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Pastoral Support Worker (PSW) Youth:
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Missionary Discipleship:
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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.

Safeguarding Message
A culture of Safeguarding values COMPASSION....“Finally all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart and a humble mind” - 1 Peter 3:8.

LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES

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

The dates for these liturgies are as follows:

Tuesday 12th March
Tuesday 19th March
Tuesday 26th March
Tuesday 2nd April
Tuesday 9th April

Venue and Preacher to be announced in due course



Children's Sacramental Journey First Reconciliation 2019

Enrolment for First Reconciliation is now open and will close on Sunday 3 February. Forms are available at the back of both churches and available for download on the parish website www.eppcarl.org.au. Alternatively, please feel free to contact either Marcel-la or myself and we will forward you the enrolment kit via email when enrolment opens.

In our Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have been baptised and confirmed are invited to prepare for the celebration of this sacrament. Our Sacramental Programme is advertised through the parish web-site, bulletins, announcements at Mass, both parish school newsletters, catechists and word-of-mouth. If you do know of anyone whose children are eligible to enrol, please feel free to spread the word for us.

Children enrolled in this sacrament's preparation are required to attend a group session once a week with their parent over 4 weeks. The group sessions are family-centred and encourage parent-child interaction with activities to help children explore the key concepts of the sacrament in an age-appropriate and fun way.

We always like to hear from you! 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 Programmes & Children's Ministries
0407 255 593
kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

SCHOOL MASS There will be a whole school Mass on **Friday 8th February** at **12:15pm** at **Our Lady Help of Christians' Church** theme is "Beginning of School Mass.". All Parents most welcome!

Memorial Wall Plaque—St Gerard's

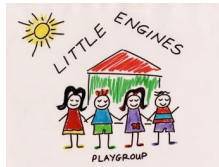
A memorial wall plaque has now been placed in position at St Gerard's for Judy Wright.

Judy was a long serving parishioner in the St Gerard's community

The Parish Playgroup – Little Engines

is made up of parents from the parish and school who bring their pre-school children, toddlers and babies together on a Monday morning for free play in our school hall during the school term. Attendance cost for the playgroup per week is a \$2 donation per family.

We hope that you are able to bring your children to these 9-10.30 sessions. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 9876 2853.



Administrative Assistant to the Primary School SRE (Catechist) Coordinator for the Parish of Epping and Carlingford Voluntary Position

Role:

To assist the SRE Coordinator in performing administrative work and providing support to activities with the catechists.

Responsibilities (partner with the SRE Coordinator): Assist in the preparation for the new SRE school year .

- Assist with annual activities
 - Combined state schools mass
 - Recruitment drive etc.
- Assist with organising such things as
 - Catechists general meetings and
 - Maintenance of contact details

Skills:

- Good communication capability in both speaking and writing.
- Good working knowledge of tools such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Email.
- Good capability to plan, commit and deliver.
- Able to work independently and to work well with people.

Please contact Katherine Tam on 218catechists.ps@gmail.com or call the Parish Office on 9876 2853 for more information

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.

Thank You Card

Jan Doherty is now a resident of McQuoin Park Nursing Home. You will find a THANK YOU CARD at the back of St Gerard's Church and if you would like to sign it and send Jan a message please do so. Jan is coming back to St Gerard's for the 7th February Healing Mass and we will present her with all your messages of love and friendship, something we know she will treasure.

Thank You

Year of Youth 2019

CANA: OUR yrs 7-9 YOUTH GROUP WE'RE BACK FOR 2019!!

**NO CANA on Friday 8th February
due to Antioch Weekend**

If you're in Years 7-9 come along for a night Jam-packed with FUN & FAITH!

CANA is on **EVERY FRIDAY night of the School Term, 7:30 – 9pm, in the Carlingford Parish hall.**

It's a great place to catch up with old friends, and meet some new ones!

Email Joanna – joanna@eppcarl.org.au

Catholic Youth Broken Bay

Our WYD2019 pilgrims have had a wonderful experience over the last two weeks, culminating in the Vigil Mass and sleepout and final Mass over the weekend. They are now on their final journey, heading to Houston tonight our time, then on to Sydney, where they will arrive on Thursday morning.

In his Welcome to World Youth Day, Pope Francis spoke to the pilgrims and the youth of the world about joyful hope:

"Peter and the Church walk with you, and we want to tell you not to be afraid, to go forward with the same fresh energy and restlessness that helps make us happier and more available, better witnesses to the Gospel. To go forward, not to create a parallel Church that would be more "fun" or "cool" thanks to a fancy youth event, as if that were all you needed or wanted. That way of thinking would not respect either you or everything that the Spirit is saying through you.

Not at all! With you, we want to rediscover and reawaken the Church's constant freshness and youth, opening ourselves to a new Pentecost (cf. SYNOD ON YOUNG PEOPLE, Final Document, 60). As we experienced at the Synod, this can only happen if, by our listening and sharing, we encourage each other to keep walking and to bear witness by proclaiming the Lord through service to our brothers and sisters, and concrete service at that."

Let us always walk together....



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. You are most welcome!



The Antioch Community is having its Annual Outreach Weekend Friday 8th – Sunday 10th February 2019

The Antioch weekend is run for youth, by youth and is filled with, **TALKS & DISCUSSIONS, MUSIC, FOOD, FRIENDS**, and **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! Anyone in year 10 – Age 22 is invited to come along (and bring a friend!) for an awesome weekend away from the hassles of everyday life.

Email Joanne for information or call Joanne on **0416 030 927**

Registration Forms for the Antioch Weekend can be found at the back of both Church.

ANTIOCH WEEKEND:

Calling all generous parishioners for your help Antioch is once again calling on your generous parishioners from Epping and Carlingford to offer their homes for sleep groups for our upcoming weekend. On Friday and Saturday nights, the 8th and 9th February we would only require you to provide transport to pick us up from the Carlingford meeting room, a space on your floor for us to sleep, and a return trip to the school the next morning. We would also appreciate any help in the kitchen from both men and women. There are posters at the back of each church for you to fill in your details for sleep groups and food as well as a timetable to write your name for kitchen help. As always, we need your help to make our weekend a success. Thank you for your prayers and anticipated help.

Hosted by Laura & Rory

Prayer for a New Bishop

Heavenly Father and Eternal Shepherd, you watch over and govern your flock with vigilance and concern.

In your immense love, grant to your Church a pastor who will please you by his holiness and aid us with his unfailing care.

In your time, grant us the joy of welcoming a shepherd formed after your own heart. May he be an example of virtue to your people and, imbued with the power of the Holy spirit, fill their minds with the truth and beauty of the Gospel. Grant wisdom, O Lord, to those now discerning your holy will in the selection of our new bishop.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and through the intercession of our mother, Mary Star of the Sea. Amen.