

Responsorial Psalm Response Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.	Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!
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WEEKEND MASSES

Epping	5pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am, 6:00pm
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am

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 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: Bruce Laird, Peter Laird, Jose August da Rosa, Tammie Birch, Brian Walsh.

Anniversaries: Brian McCowage,

Also for: Deceased members of the Curry & Mulligan Families, Rodino Francisco, Carmel Emmett.

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, 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.

Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.

Our Parish Playgroup

Carlingford: Gerry's Playgroup meets on a Monday (during school term) at 9:30am in the parish hall.

For further information please contact Lisa Snow on 0413 666 007 or email lisasnow@optusnet.com.au

Epping: Little Engines Playgroup at Epping has not yet commenced for 2019. More information to come.



Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
09/03/19	5:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd	6:00pm	Fr Joey Frez
10/03/19	8:30am	Fr Peter Dowd	7:45am	Fr Joey Frez
10/03/19	10:15am	Fr Peter Dowd	9:30am	Fr Joey Frez
10/03/19	6:00pm			

Ash Wednesday

Is a day of Fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year, until the beginning of their 60th year, the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year.

Flowers & Lent

The General Instruction to the Missal of the Church is that there are to be no flowers in the church during Lent. This is a very visual reminder that we have embarked on a journey of sober reflection, preparation and conversion of heart. It means too that the contrast with the joy of Easter is all the more striking and soul-stirring.

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**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME****03-03-19****Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7****1 Corinthians 15:54-58****Luke 6:39-45**

Dear Parishioners,

I am sure we are all united together this weekend in deep sadness and shock at the events that have unfolded this week. As I am sure we all know by now, the County Court of Victoria this week lifted a suppression order on the reporting of the trials of Cardinal George Pell, revealing the Cardinal was found guilty on 11th December 2018 on charges of child sex abuse offences.

This news has and will continue to bring to the surface many different reactions and emotions within each of us, along with the wider Church and community in Australia. Indeed it is important that we are able to share our distress, confusion and hurt in a way which respects the gravity of what has occurred and is able to be placed in such a way that we are reassured and strengthened by our Christian hope that the Risen Christ is Master even of our confusion.

On hearing of the news, one of our parishioners sent me this message in an email and gave me permission to share it with you:

"Obviously, today has been – complicated may be the best way to put it. Friends asked how I was doing. My flatmate offered to skip the first stories on the news. I overheard others in the work kitchen let their feelings be known.

I thought about it for a while. And I've come to this conclusion. Faith is not pure. Any 'pure faith' is not tested, and faith not tested has no depth. Faith is battle scarred. It is tested and stretched and full of doubt and questions. It has been cut, shrunk, regrown and taken new paths. It is a plant that had to grow in ground that was hostile, fighting against others for water and light and food. And sometimes it's not strength that allows it to survive, but moment of sunlight, the drop of water, the bee that came by at the right time. So I pray that this week that hacks at those branches and leaves, that it will hopefully make the roots grow deeper, the branches spread to new areas."

Above all, let us bring before God, especially as we enter into this season of repentance this Ash Wednesday, all those so deeply affected, in so many different ways, by the crime of abuse in all its different manifestations and dimensions. Each time we are confronted with this reality we must reaffirm in words and deeds our commitment to ensure the safety of our children and vulnerable adults, a commitment which arises from our faith in Jesus Christ in whom the fundamental sanctity of every human person is affirmed and safeguarded.

Finally, I draw your attention to the statement from our Diocesan Administrator, Fr David Ranson which is inserted into his week's bulletin. Additional copies can also be found on the tables near the entrances to each of the churches.

Keeping you all in prayer.

Fr Peter

THE SEASON OF LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday falls on

Wednesday 6th March.

Please be part of our Ash Wednesday celebrations at 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: 00pm Evening Mass

Carlingford

9:30am (we will be joined by St Gerard's School for this Mass).

7:30pm Evening Mass



The 'Light is On' is an exciting initiative this year for Lent that seeks to welcome people to our churches for quiet time, prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Churches around the Diocese will be open on **Friday evenings in Lent, 8, 15, 22 & 29 March, and 5, 12 April.** The 'Light is On' will be here at the **Epping and Carlingford Parish.**

The opportunity for Reconciliation will occur after the Stations of the Cross at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church, Epping each Friday as shown above.

**Times: 6:30pm -7:00pm Stations of the Cross
7:00pm—8:00pm Quiet time & Reconciliation**

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

Being a disciple

The Gospel we hear today begins, "Jesus told a parable to his disciples." A parable is like a mind teaser that triggers questions. Jesus wants us to have insight. "Can one blind man guide another?" NO So if we can't see, we need a guide? YES . Jesus goes on. A disciple, a learner is above his teacher. NO A fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. YES.

So what is Jesus getting at? What is he telling us who are his disciples?

We are great at spotting others with poor sight, because "they have a splinter in their eye."

But we have no insight into our own blindness, because we have a "plank", which is a big piece of tree, in our own eye! (*Could that be true? Is Jesus talking about me?*)

Being a disciple is being a lifelong learner. We are always on L plates. Being a disciple, this Lent is being a follower, always listening and being guided by the wisest teacher. If we are to learn and grow wiser, these are some ways to do that this Lent.

A disciple has discipline

Where can you be more in control of your life? Our Catholic tradition going back to Jesus tells us that we fast, we give up things that distract us, so we can focus on Jesus. This fast includes food as well as fasting from other things that draw us away from seeing what is really worthwhile.

We fast to find insight.

So this Lent, where will you look to Jesus to learn more and to follow?

Lenten Options

While many have joined a group, there is still time. Please fill in the form "Join a Lenten Group" or contact the parish office at Epping.

1. If you are not able to commit to a weekly meeting of a group, come to the parish meeting rooms. Just turn up at 7:30pm for one hour ~Wednesday at Carlingford ~ Thursday at Epping. Come when you can, for the group will be meeting through Lent.
2. If you cannot participate in a group and would like to read and reflect during Lent using a copy of the Lenten Book ~ **Compassion**, please find copies near the parish notice boards or contact the parish office for a copy.
3. You can also download the Lenten Book in an **APP**— Search for '**Lent 2019 Compassion**.' You can read and reflect in the time you are fasting from "being entertained" by your phone or computer! (Cost \$1.99).
2. You can read on-line commentaries on the section of the Gospel read at Mass each day in Lent.

Here are two:

pray.com.au brings you reflections on the Gospel readings to help you connect with God in your life. You can also **Subscribe to Slow Lent Daily Email**

Bishop Baron the author of the DVDs *Catholicism* offers a commentary. Sign in

<https://dailycatholicgospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel>

If you would like to receive these links by email, please contact Maree at the Parish Office.

It is time to begin our pilgrimage to Easter Sunday morning to be amazed at the Resurrection.

Denis McNamara—Supporting Ministry Disciples

Ceremony of Burning Palms for Ash Wednesday



It has been an ancient custom of our Church that ashes for Ash Wednesday are prepared by burning remaining palms from the celebration of the previous year's Palm Sunday. There is a powerful symbolism in this:

In the first place it is a symbol of the ongoing cycle of the celebrations of our salvation – each Lent and Easter is connected to the

one preceding it.

But more importantly the palms represent the hollow welcome and honour that greeted Jesus on that first Palm Sunday. They are a symbol in a way of the futility that often would accompany ambition for worldly glory. The honour that Jesus received on the Palm Sunday rapidly became his rejection on Good Friday. The burning of the palms to produce the ashes that mark our Lenten commitment therefore can be a symbol of trying to let go of whatever is empty and hollow, lacking in depth and nobility, and re-committing ourselves to what is of depth and of lasting value.

A single celebration of the burning of palms for our two communities will take place on **Tuesday 5th March**. The ceremony will take place **after the 12:15pm Mass at Epping**.

At the conclusion of Mass we will process outside where the palms will be burnt with a prayer so that they may then be prepared for our Ash Wednesday celebrations the following morning. We would invite anyone from both our communities who would like to take part to bring your palm from last year to be burnt in this celebration of preparation for Lent.

Project Compassion

On Ash Wednesday, Caritas Australia, the international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church, launches its annual Project Compassion appeal—one of Australia's largest humanitarian fundraising and awareness raising campaigns. Project Compassion runs through the six weeks of Lent. It brings together communities across the country in solidarity with the world's poor to eradicate poverty and help build a world of hope. Money raised through Project Compassion goes towards Caritas Australia's humanitarian and long-term development programs in countries across Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Australia's First Peoples. In 2018, more than \$10.8 million was donated to Project Compassion.

Catechist Sunday

The Sunday before Ash Wednesday is traditionally Catechist Sunday in the Diocese and this year will be held on Sunday 3rd March. Catechist Sunday is an annual event in the CCD Calendar. Catechist Sunday originated in 1935 when the Vatican published a document 'On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education,' which acknowledged the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and asked every country to honour those catechists who serve within their Christian communities. We will be

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.

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.

Our Baptismal Fonts and Lent

From 6th March, Ash Wednesday/Lent the baptismal fonts in our two churches will remain empty as we await the refreshing waters of Easter. Holy water will continue to be available in both our churches in the old holy water stoops at the doors.

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

ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

A reminder that if you are admitted to hospital, please try to ensure that you write down your religion as Catholic on the admission form, so that you can receive Catholic services during your stay.



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Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel—Seeing

I once followed the Jesuit Larry Gillick, a blind person, in the literal dark. Neither of us fell into a pit. So, was Jesus wrong?

Larry lost his sight before his tenth birthday, but as an adult joined the Society of Jesus and became a marvelous spiritual director. On a retreat he and I were helping to direct, we went on a walk. It was after dark, quite so, and I was as good as blind when we got far enough from the retreat house, with no neighborhood around us? So, the blind following the blind.

As we went, he said to me, do you want to go on a trust walk?

Blindly (pun intended) I said, why, of course.

None of us will have perfect "vision," but we should seek continually to clarify what we do see.

First he had me do the famous "fall backwards" that some of my readers have done. I was to release control and tumble back into the arms of another person, in this case Larry. The only problem was that he could not see, and it was also too dark for me to make anything out.

I willed to fall back, and he caught me, and we were happy. I marveled at Larry's conquering of his malady. All was good.

Except ...

... except that there was a "next step." Quietly he announced that he, a person supposedly unable to find his way, would lead the way. With my hand on his shoulder and a scarf around my eyes—to make certain that I would not cheat—we went forth. Could we avoid a pit?

I avoided it and so did he. It was indeed a walk of trust. Even though I suspected that anything whatsoever could happen, it did not. I was relieved. Larry was so used to guiding people spiritually that was possibly not an act of trust on his part. For him, it did not mean walking blindly into the unknown, it meant going ahead with increasing confidence that we are accompanied by God, no matter what might come around the next dark bend in the road.

What was I myself supposed to learn? To trust recklessly with only sightless guidance? Larry Gillick has been my friend over the years and does not require any beatifying. But I do.

Well, maybe the point was that sightlessness is the only way to really see.

Jesus says in our Gospel that we have "wooden beams" in our eyes when we relate to others. Maybe we must close our eyes for a while in order to see around these. We should stop projecting on others our own blockages, and work on the much larger wooden beams in our own psyche instead. This seems to me a quite sound psychological insight.

Notice, this understanding does not imply that we should entirely give up helping with the faults of another person. Jesus is just saying that we need to clarify our own vision in order to help someone else. None of us will have perfect "vision," but we should seek continually to clarify what we do see.

That night I did not have anything like perfect vision. But the steady, blind guidance that Larry Gillick gave me was an act of seeing unlike most others I have known. As you and I begin Lent this coming week, I guess my advice is that we all close our eyes for a while and be guided.

John Foley, SJ

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Our Primary School Catechists met for the preparation of the new school year on 5th February. Fr Peter kindly led the prayer and reflection with our catechists. Joe Pulis from CCD provided guidance and response to our queries. We made our farewells to Sanchez-Bayo. We welcomed our new catechists who have begun their work in the schools with the help from our experienced catechists. A Safeguarding Children's Course was conducted right after the meeting for our new and in-service catechists. It was a full and productive day.

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	03/03/19		Blessing of the Catechists at all Masses
		9:30am	No Kids Word—Children's Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:15am	Kidz Word at OLHC Church
		3:00pm	PH Epping First Reconciliation Session 2
		6:00pm	PMR Carlingford Antioch Group meeting
Mon	04/03/19	9:00am	NO Little Engines Playgroup at Epping
		9:30am	PH Carlingford—Gerry's Playgroup
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:15am	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP Meeting
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford—Rosary Group
Tue.	05/03/19	12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		7:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir practice
Wed.	06/03/19	9:15am	Ash Wednesday Mass at OLHC Epping
		9:30am	Ash Wednesday Mass at St Gerard's
		10:00am	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group F Cunneen
		11:00am	Mass at Rayward Nursing Home
		11:30am	St Gerard's School Prayer and Ashes (Yrs. K-1)
		6:00pm	CH Epping Adult Choir
		6:50pm	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		7:00pm	PMR Epping—PPC Meeting
		7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Mass at OLHC Church
		7:30am	Ash Wednesday Mass at St Gerard's Church
Thur.	07/03/19	10:00am	Healing & Anointing Mass in the PMR C'ford followed by morning tea.
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		3:30pm	PMR Carlingford First Reconciliation Session 3
		6:50pm	PMR Epping Lenten Group
Fri.	08/03/19	9:30pm	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		10:00am	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
		7:00pm	PH CANA Youth Group
Sat.	09/03/19	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
		2:00pm	CH Epping Wedding
		3:00pm	PH Carlingford First Reconciliation Session 3
		5:00pm	Vigil Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
			Francesco (Frank) Nicita 2 month anniversary
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church
		6:00pm	Vigil Mass at St Gerard's

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

From L to R : Maria Thiruchinnappalli, Linsme Bejoy, Swapna Thomas, Clare Sa, Peter Crowley, Alice So, Leonie Hale, Fr Peter, Joe Pulis of CCD. We welcome all of them and also Rosarios Thurston and Loretta Ashton who are not present at the photo.

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

Our Lady Help of Christians' Catholic Primary School
8 Cambridge Street, Epping

Open Day
Wednesday 13th March
9:00am—11:00am



Meet the Principal,
Dominique O'Sullivan
Phone 9868 3322



Invitation to
St Gerard's Open Day
Wednesday 13 March 9.15am—11am
School Hall



Meet our New Catechists of the Primary Schools





Children's Sacramental Journey - First Reconciliation 2019

This week, we move into our second preparation session called Choices. God gives us the power and freedom to make choices. In this session, the concept of sin is introduced by way of loving choices vs poor choices, and the consequences of our actions. It aims to teach the children to view things not just from their perspective but also that of others and that sin leads to hurt; loving choices lead to peace.

We will discuss our Australian Saint, Mary MacKillop, how much love she gave to her community in choosing to use God's gifts by helping the poor and starting schools. This reminds the children they can call upon the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit they received at Confirmation to help them make loving choices to love and give.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read The Lost Sheep (15:3-7) where the children will understand if we are 'lost' due to the unloving choices we have made, Jesus, our Good Shepherd, will always come looking for us because he cares for us.

We also touch on another bible story, Jesus Faces Temptation, to assist the children in understanding even Jesus was tempted but he made a loving choice to love and serve so we should learn from that.

Upon completion of the four sessions, Candidates will celebrate their First Reconciliation in our parish on Saturday, 23rd March. Please remember to pray for them during this important time of preparation!

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 feel free to send an email to kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

Children's Mass - Carlingford



There will be a Children's Mass at 9:30am at St Gerard's Church on Sunday 3rd March.

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

CARLINGFORD HEALING MASS

Our monthly Healing Mass will take place *this Thursday, 7th March at 10:00am* (no 9:30am Mass that day). Please note the Mass will take place in Meeting Room, and morning tea will be served at the conclusion of Mass.

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

will take place this **Wednesday 6th March** in the parish meeting room at Epping commencing at 7:00pm.

Children's Liturgy of the Word - 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church, Kidz Word will explore Good Actions. We are able to do good things if we use the gifts God has given us. Jesus tells us good actions are like good fruit. Good fruit can only come from good trees. Good actions come from people who want to do well. Good actions show the love we have in our hearts.

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!

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



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!



SCHOOL MASS There will be a whole school Mass on **Wednesday 6th March at 9:15pm** at **Our Lady Help of Christians' Church** for "Ash Wednesday" Mass. All Parents most welcome!

SCHOOL MASS There will be School Mass on **Wednesday, 6th March at 9:30am** at St Gerard Majella's Church for "Ash Wednesday." All Parents most welcome!

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER AND ASHES There will be an Combined Infants Liturgy at St Gerard's School, for Yrs. K-1 **this Wednesday, 6th March at 11:30am**. All class families are welcome.

ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS - Next Saturday 9th March the Rosary will be offered for Vocations at St Gerard's, Carlingford commencing at 5:40pm just before the 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass. All most welcome!

CANA: OUR yrs. 6-9 YOUTH GROUP



Cana is on this Friday, 8th March from 7:30-9pm in the St Gerard's Parish Hall.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Mak on

joanna@eppcarl.org.au or 0423 717 550.

The Catechist Ministry in our Parish

The Catechist ministry reaches out to over 500 Primary School children and 230 Secondary school children. It is our privilege and our responsibility to provide Catholic scripture classes to these children.

The following schools require your urgent help:

- Cheltenham Girls High School** on Thursday mornings - Require 3 people
- Murray Farm** on Tuesdays Require 6 people
- Carlingford High School** on Friday mornings Require 4 people

Please contact Mary O'Byrne for all schools except Murray Farm at mfobyne@gmail.com and Katherine Tam for Murray Farm at 218catechists.ps@gmail.com

We Need Counters—Can You Help!?

The Collection Counter assists in the timely and accurate counting of weekly (Sunday morning) and special collections for the parish. The team must consist of at least three people. Confidentiality and discretion is imperative to the safety and security of the collection counters, staff and the parish.

To register, please contact Dennis Porteous, our Parish Secretary on 9876 2853 or email dennis@eppcarl.org.au



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.

Watch this space for rehearsal dates and times.



To indicate your interest, please email maree@eppcarl.org.au Be part of this special music group to celebrate this pinnacle point of our liturgical calendar!

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY This Sunday 3rd March

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 heaps of great young people from our 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

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



LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES

A reminder that we will again have a weekly Ecumenical Service each Tuesday evening of Lent at 7:45pm. Please note the dates in your diary and help to make the Lenten season of renewal a time of building the bridges of Christian unity.

The programme will be as follows: **Tuesdays @ 7:45pm**

If you are planning on coming along the St Gerard's service on Tuesday 19th March, **could we ask you to bring a plate to share for supper.**

Date	Church	Preacher
12 Mar.	St Alban's Anglican Church	Fr Peter Dowd
19 Mar.	St Gerard's Catholic Church	Rev Greg Woolnough
26 Mar.	Epping Baptist Church	Bishop Ross Nicholson
2 Apr.	West Epping Uniting Church	Rev Paul Weaver
9 Apr.	Epping Uniting Church	Preacher from Epping Baptist Church

BEYOND OUR PARISH

Join Us for a conversation with Fr Frank Brennan S.J., A.O.

Discussing a number of important issues facing the Church at this critical time in our history as well as sharing his insights on various social justice topics.

When: Sunday, 3rd March from 2:30pm to 5:15pm

Where: St Brigid's Hall in the Shirley Wallace Parish Centre, First Floor, above Holy Family Catholic, 2 Highfield Road, Lindfield (lift access inside foyer of church).

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/468555
Entry by gold coin donation