

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MASSES ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: BY APPOINTMENT

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS: 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: Doo Hwan Ji, Lizeth Albornoz Gonzales, Joan Rideout, Lizabeth Gonzales, Margaret Beagle,

Anniversaries: Basil Connors, Patrick Flanagan, Patrick Murphy.

Also for:

Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsys, Residents of Wesley Rayward Nursing Home, Mark Di Palma, Anthony Conlon, Andrew Hannam, The Craig Family, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Alice Eng, Peck Quah, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Narelda & Alan Ryan, Kit Smith, Margaret Floyd, Bev Aliprandi, Barbara Madafiglio, John Lyons, Joe Younis, Howard, Carey, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Arnold Day, Marcia Power, Maureen Carlon, Fr Adrian Borst, Augustine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Patricia Muschalik, Delma Soria, Sr Abanasia Lee, Maria Belisario, Stella, Edwards, Fara Vargas, Theo Stevens, Monica Weeden, Thomas Woodward, Wai Chun Wong, Heather Stoodley, Agnes Wong, Irene Winardi.

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

Supporting our Parish Financially

A number of people have enquired as to how they can continue their financial support for the parish during this difficult time. We realise that this may not be possible in the light of growing unemployment and reductions in superannuation returns at the moment and **there is absolutely no pressure on anyone to contribute!**

The First Collection

Supports the needs of the priests of the parish, the retired priests of the diocese and the Bishop.

The Second Collection

Money from the Second Collection supports the running costs of the parish including the payment of staff.

If you are able to contribute, the Church account details are shown below:

Epping and Carlingford Parish Accounts for Internet Banking with the Commonwealth Bank

First Collection BSB 062 784 A/C No 858 8002

Second Collection BSB 062 784 A/C No 858 8001
Please note change in Second Collection BSB No

In order to record planned giving in the parish office, we would suggest the reference be planned giving number where applicable and surname.



SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR EASTER 2020
CHOCOLATE PASCHAL LAMBS
Made from Cadbury Chocolate
Selling price: \$8.00

The lambs are a special symbol of Easter and a good way to raise funds for the Missions in Papua New Guinea. For more information please contact Fr Bogdan.

FACE COVID

- F**ocus on what's in your control.
- A**cknowledge your thoughts and feelings.
- C**ome back into your body.
- E**ngage in what you're doing.
- C**ommitted action.
- V**alues.
- I**dentify resources.
- D**isinfect and distance.

Check out YouTube Dept of Health about COVID with Dr Russ Harris. The link is <https://youtu.be/BmvNCdpHUYM>


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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

Email: parish@eppcarl.org.au



Assistant Priest: Fr Bogdan Skupien
Ph.: 9876 2853
Email: Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Office: 02 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 A

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

5-4-20

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Dear sisters and brothers,

Greetings to you all!

On behalf of Fr Bogdan and myself, I hope you are managing as best as possible especially as the effects of the new restrictions on physical distancing and gatherings are being felt. As I said last week, the importance of following seriously the instructions surrounding hygiene and confinement arise, especially for those of us who profess to be Christians, as implications of following Jesus' "Great Commandment" of Love of God, oneself and others. To live charity is to understand that even the smallest gestures contribute to the common good. As Bill Gates recently wrote, (the COVID-19 virus) "is reminding us that we are all connected and something that affects one person has an effect on another. It is reminding us that the false borders that we have put up have little value as this virus does not need a passport. It is reminding us, by oppressing us for a short time, of those in this world whose life is spent in oppression." Perhaps as we move into this Holy Week and seek to be one with Jesus in His sufferings we might, as a result of this crisis, have a deeper empathy and compassion for all those experiencing various forms of oppression: the sick, those mourning the loss of loved ones, refugees and all those fleeing tyranny in various guises, the unemployed, etc. **ALL** these should have a special place in both our prayer and other forms of practical concern even with the current restrictions on physical movement.

Last Wednesday, thanks to the online platform Zoom, we were able to hold our monthly PPC meeting without the need to be all physically in the same room.

There were technical problems (largely caused by me!) and it will take a while before we adapt to the new technology but it was fantastic that we could still continue our principal work of discerning how God is calling us here at Epping and Carlingford to be Church in the **NOW**. Over coming weeks I would like to share some of the thinking and reflections that took place during our meeting but for now, could I invite you to create, as one of our parishioners recently put it, "**circles of friends**" amongst other parishioners as well as within the wider community. For example, already many of you are part of various parish groups/ministries or have attended various programmes within the parish. How about committing to contacting at least three of those people once a week as a way of keeping connected and offering a tangible sign of the supportive presence of Jesus during these days?

As I have already mentioned on a previous occasion, ensuring that the senior members of our community and others who may be unable to go outside their homes for any reason receive a phone call or a knock at the door to ensure they are safe and cared for is an essential part of our Christian outreach during these months in particular. At the PPC meeting we also discussed setting up a group of parishioners who would take on the ministry of phoning those who are living on their own and housebound to simply say "hi" and let them know they are not forgotten. **I am keen to see this ministry commence as soon as possible.** If you would like to join such a group or would like to receive an occasional phone call, could you please contact either our secretary Maree or myself directly and we will go from there.

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Parish Website

Please use our parish website to access information regarding COVID-19 and the latest information, also a link will be placed on that page for access to Masses which will be streamed in our parish churches. Parish website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford



FACEBOOK PAGE

Follow our Facebook page 'Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford' and keep updated on what's happening in our parish. We will be posting prayers and readings to keep us united as a community.

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.

Thank you also to all those who have given feedback on our 'Mass on Demand' at our new parish YouTube channel which is accessible either on YouTube directly or via the link in the parish bulletin. While there were a few hiccups last weekend, we are all learning "on the job" and hope to provide you with the best possible experience we can muster in the future. All you need is an internet connection. Also, we have a few tech savvy parishioners who have offered to assist parishioners who may have trouble using the internet and accessing the parish website. If you need such assistance, please let us know and we will see how best to help you. I cannot thank enough members of the parish Communications team and others who are providing the technical know-how needed to upload the Masses and other future parish activities.

Of course if anyone would like a physical copy of the bulletin posted or dropped off in your letterbox please let us know. As we enter **Holy Week**, we are organising to have the various Masses and ceremonies hopefully ready for you to view online around the times when they would normally be held in our parish churches. Therefore, the programme is as follows:

- **Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper from 7pm**
- **Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10am**
- **Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord 3pm and**
- **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord from 7pm on Holy Saturday evening.**

Please be patient in case some of these uploads take longer than anticipated or if we have any unforeseen technical problems. A link will also be provided on the parish Facebook page as well as the parish website.

As we enter this most Holy Week, I pray that we are in the midst of a highly teachable moment when it comes to God, ourselves and one another. As we walk this week with Jesus in His Passion, Death and Resurrection I pray that this experience will force our attention beyond ourselves to the sufferings of others in places and ways we perhaps have never experienced or been before. As Richard Rohr wrote, "Love always means going beyond yourself to others.....we must be stretched to an encounter with otherness, and only then do we know it is love.....Love alone overcomes fear and is the true foundation that lasts. (1COR 13:13)"

Blessings to you all as we approach the Easter Feast!

Fr Peter

The YouTube link for the parish Masses and Holy week is as follows:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_t43V_sQu1LK2LM_Q6akIA



...continued from last week

Coronavirus and the Eucharist Fr Thomas O'Loughlin writes

This crisis calls on us to care for one another and thank God at home

Object or action?

For far too long—some historians would say since the 7th century—Latin Christians had an attitude of thinking about the Eucharist as an object (something that happens due to the priest's work and they are in attendance) or as a commodity (and we behave like religious consumers).

The language we use is the giveaway. We talk about "getting Mass" and "attending Mass", and of "getting communion" and "taking communion". The image is that the Eucharists is "out there", and then we somehow obtain it or make it our own.

But the word "Eucharist" relates to a verb. It is something we, the whole People of God, *do*. It is *our activity* of thanking God the Father as a gathered community. And we offer this praise and thanks through Christ our Lord.

The focus is on thanking the Father. Access to the Father is provided to us in the Spirit through Jesus Christ. The prayers are led by the priest. It is our basic activity as Christians, not some "thing" that the priest does for us or makes for us.

PARISH STAFF

Parish Secretary:
Dennis Porteous Ph.: 9876 2853
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Asst. Parish Secretary:
Maree Balzulat Ph.: 9876 2853
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Pastoral Care Assistant:
Maree Balzulat Ph.: 9876 2853
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**Parish Support Worker (PSW)
Sacramental Programmes and
Children's Ministries**
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Email: joanna@eppcarl.org.au

Missionary Discipleship Coordinator:
Denis McNamara
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Email: denis.mcnamara@eppcarl.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council
If you have any questions, comments or feedback for the Parish Pastoral Council then please send an email to ppsecretary@eppcarl.org.au

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.

After Hours Sick Calls— 9876 2853
Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Peter and Fr Bogdan at home. In the event that they are unavailable, their answering machines will record your message or ring the number given in the message. However, if possible please restrict routine enquiries to office hours.

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

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.

Read the Digital Edition of the Catholic Weekly

As you know *The Catholic Weekly* has temporarily transitioned to a digital presence only due to the government's decision to close all Churches during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While it has brought challenges, I am pleased to inform you that we have adapted extremely well and are continuing to produce the paper in a **digital form** making it available to everyone online at www.catholicweekly.com.au

CANA: OUR Yr. 7-9 YOUTH GROUP

Our Cana (year 7-9) youth group meetings are currently postponed. If you want to stay in touch, please email or message Joanna (email: joanna@eppcarl.org.au or mobile: 0404 710 588) to receive weekly Cana newsletters and updates.

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

Antioch are meeting online (via zoom), 6pm Sundays from your own home! There will be talks, sharing, socialising and faith centred! To join, please message our parent support, Joanne (joanne_sin@hotmail.com) or youth minister, Joanna Mak (joanna@eppcarl.org.au or 0404710 588). Other initiatives our Antioch group are doing are
-weekly Monday night 8:30pm rosary group using Facebook video call
-daily bible reading group

The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Lent

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available by appointment with either of our priests by contacting them directly via email or phone the parish office on 9876 2853.

Notices

The Parish bulletin is emailed out to parishioners and is available on the parish website. If you did not receive a bulletin by email please let Maree know by emailing her on maree@eppcarl.org.au.

There are a few bulletins in a box near the parish office door at Epping; and on the wall outside the piety store at Carlingford.



Our Lady Help Of Christians Catholic Primary School

Principal: Ms Dominique O'Sullivan

8 Cambridge Street, Epping 2121 Ph: 9868 3322

www.olhcdbb.catholic.edu.au

Email: olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

Principal: Mrs Barbara Yee

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford 2118 P: 9871 1633

