

<b>Responsorial Psalm Response</b> The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.	<b>Gospel Acclamation</b> <b>Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!</b> With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. <b>Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!</b>
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**WEEKEND MASSES**

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

<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thur</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat.</b>
<b>EPPING</b>	No Mass	12:15pm	9:15am	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am
<b>CARLINGFORD</b>	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:** Fr Leo Donnelly, Pat Tay, Rolando L'Olive, Maria Jacinta Hernandez, Norm Bampton, Terry Mooney,

*We pray for Joyce Fewtrell who died last week.*

*The Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday 9th April at 11:00am at OLHC Church, Epping*

**Anniversaries:** Basil Connors, Patrick Flanagan, Fernalina Alarcon, Laurie Scully, Edward John Saad, Joseph Nirmala Thilagarani,

**Also for:** Santan Fernandes, Margaret Utami,

**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, 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, 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, Monica Weeden.

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

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
13/04/19	5:00pm	Fr Joey Frez	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd
14/04/19	8:30am	Fr Joey Frez	7:45am	Fr Peter Dowd
14/04/19	10:15am	Fr Joey Frez	9:30am	Fr Peter Dowd
14/04/19	6:00pm	Fr Joey Frez		
<b>Holy Thurs.</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Fr Peter Dowd 18/4</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Fr Joey Frez</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Fr Joey Frez 19/4</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Fr Peter Dowd</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Fr Joey Frez 19/4</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Fr Peter Dowd</b>

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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

**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

**YEAR C**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**7-04-19**

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

**Philippians 3:8-14**

**John 8:1-11**

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The horrific incident in New Zealand a few weeks ago reminds us that extreme forms of intolerance and hate must always be called out and rejected. Sadly, though not with the same consequences, we have seen an example of such hatred in our own backyard. You may be aware of a disturbing episode of white-supremacy graffiti which appeared in our local neighbourhood last week, as reported by the Northern District Times (28.3.19). The graffiti, which included swastikas and racist slurs—particularly targeting Jews, Asians and offensive to all cultural and religious groups in our community—appeared on the walls of The Thai Place restaurant in Epping. If you have friends and neighbours who are targeted by such hateful messages, reassure them of your support and concern. Better still, find a way to put your concern into action, such as a letter to the local paper, a note of solidarity to a Jewish community, patronising Asian businesses in the area affected, or using the incident as a 'teachable moment' with your children. Prayer and everyday acts of kindness also go a long way to counteract hate and to build a life-giving community where all feel safe and welcome."

On a more positive note, the parish continues its journey to Easter with only one week to go till Palm Sunday. With over 160 parishioners reflecting and praying together over the Lenten scriptures, gatherings for Friday celebrations of Stations of the Cross and the sacrament of reconciliation, chat groups discussing John's Gospel as part of the "21 Day Challenge" there is much spiritual energy in the parish as we head towards Easter. In particular, I would like to draw your attention to next Friday evening where instead of praying the Stations of the Cross we will be holding a Taizé evening of music, adoration, and reflection, along with two priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in preparation for Easter. A reminder that this will be the last scheduled evening time for this sacrament apart from our usual week-end schedules before Easter so I encourage as many of you as possible to avail yourself of this opportunity. My special thanks to our youth minister Joanna and the youth of our parish for assisting in the preparations for this evening.

*Blessings to you all!  
Fr Peter*



### **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** 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 own 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.

### 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.

### April 2019 Safeguarding Message

A culture of Safeguarding values COMMITMENT....."Speak out and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

### 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.

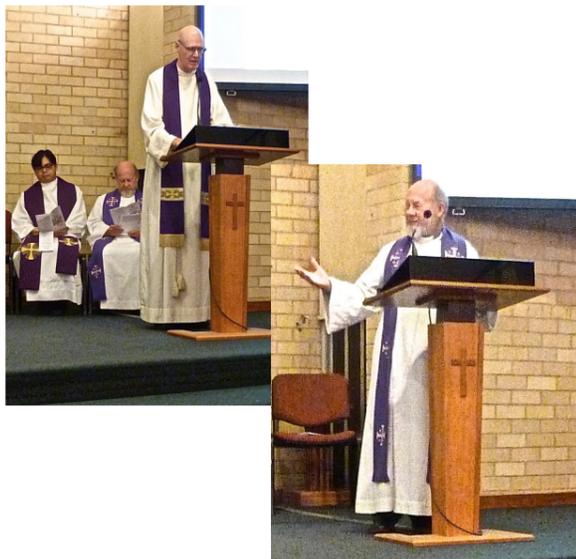
**Practices at St Gerard's Church at 7:30pm:**  
Wednesdays—27/3, 10/04 and the 17/4 is to be confirmed.

**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 dneausti@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!



Last Tuesday's Ecumenical Service which was held at West Epping Uniting Church. Our last Ecumenical Service for Lent will take place this Tuesday at Epping Uniting Church.

### 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 NIGHT PRAYER at 10:30pm. 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.**

### LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES

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

9/4 **Epping Uniting Church**  
Cnr Chester & Oxford Sts, Epping  
Preacher: Rev Howard Bennett

### 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

### 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.

### Positions Vacant - Catholic Parish of Epping Carlingford— Sacramental Programme Assistant, Part-Time

The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford is seeking a highly personable assistant to be part of a team in providing support for the implementation of the parish Sacramental Programme where families are welcomed and nurtured in the sacramental life of our Catholic faith.

The successful applicant will work closely with the parish Sacramental Coordinator by providing primarily general administrative support for the programme and occasional facilitation of groups when necessary.

Please email your CV to parish@eppcarl.org.au by Friday, 26th April 2019.

A Working with Children Check will be required for this post.

A copy of the job description is available from the Parish Office 9876 2853.

### 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.



### Stations of the Cross—Fridays during Lent

There will be no Stations of the Cross this coming Friday 12th April.

Instead see page 5 of the bulletin, for more information concerning the Taizé evening.

Adoration and Benediction will also be part of this night.

### 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.

### MASS IN HONOUR OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS

The monthly Mass in honour of St Mary of the Cross will be celebrated in St Mary's Chapel at Carlingford this **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April** at the **9:30am** Mass.



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### Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel— Caught!

It is a scene from a nightmare.

Yet it turns out well.

Pretend that you are the woman in Sunday's Gospel. You have been "caught in adultery." The officials shove you into a mob of people.

They see your hot shame and how it burns. They recite the ancient law of Moses: "The sacred law says you must be stoned to death for your crime."

Stoned to death! Humiliation would be bad enough! The sin is bad enough. Stoned! No!

There is a man everyone calls the "Teacher." He has been captivating the crowd just before you were dragged in. Now you (= the woman) have become the center of attention.

So the nightmare gets worse. By means of your humiliation the accusers want to trap the Teacher and disgrace him! They are using you for this purpose. Now you see that your devastation is only a mere tool!

Their motto is hatred not love. They want death to happen. They question the Teacher. Doesn't he agree that you should be stoned to death? They have him in a snare, this "teacher," this dreamer, who always preaches about forgiveness and love. If he defends you for the sake of his so-called love, he will break the law of Moses! If he rejects his law of love, he must then follow Moses' law, pick up a stone and throw it.

This teacher leans down, scratching absent-mindedly in the dirt. People hold their breath. The accusers fear. Why is he silent and what will he say? Now they themselves become nervous.

Let us figure out Jesus' answer. Could it be that "the Teacher" is thinking something like the following:

"My Abba has loved each of them through all ages, no matter whether they were sinners or not. 'Be my people,' Abba always begged them. 'Love one another. I love you, and I forgive your sins.'"

But their motto is hatred not love. They want death to happen.

For "Father" Jesus uses an Arabic word that expresses both familiarity and respect, "Abba."

They shout again. "What is your answer? Shall we follow the law and stone this sinful woman?" Remember, reader, you are that woman, and you stand in humiliation, cheeks hot and tears falling. Your heart says in terror, "the accusers are right!"

But teacher lifts his head from the scratchings. He utters a sentence that sums up the Gospel and all of Lent:

"Let the one among you who is without sin throw the first stone." (Gospel)

The crowd creeps away, silently, sunk in their own hidden sins. Now you stand alone before this quiet Teacher, and your terror has gone. There is something about him that supports you, brings you out to solid ground.

"Well, where are they?" he asks. "Has no one condemned you?" You reply, "No one, sir." Maybe he also asks, "Do you condemn yourself?"

You, the woman, spend a long time on this answer because the question is so very hard. Finally you whisper, "I do not wish to condemn myself, Teacher."

"Neither do I condemn you," Jesus answers. "Go and sin no more."

This scene could refashion the whole earth. If we could each accept our own sinfulness and the forgiveness that surrounds it. We would have peace. We would drink compassion from God, who has been there all along, tracing in the sand.

You stammer at last, "I believe, Lord.

"Help my unbelief."

John Foley, SJ  
Father Foley can be reached at: Fr. John Foley, SJ Facebook Twitter Email

Fr. John Foley, SJ, is a composer and scholar at Saint Louis University.  
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**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – relationship enrichment for married couples 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW Bookings online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or [adrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.janet1@bigpond.com)**



### PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	07/04/19	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
		4:00pm	CH Epping—Antioch practice
		6:00pm	PMR Carlingford—Antioch meeting
Mon	08/04/19		Holy Week activities in both schools
		9:00am	No Little Engines at the moment
		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 Conference meeting
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford Rosary Group
Tue.	09/04/19	12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church</b>
		5:00pm	CH Epping Antioch practice
		7:00pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir practice
		7:45pm	Lenten Ecumenical Service—Epping Uniting Church
		9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
Wed.	10/04/19	9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:00am	PMR Carlingford Lenten Group
		6:30pm	CH Carlingford Adult Choir practice
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford Easter Vigil Choir practice
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
Thur.	11/04/19	10:15am	PMR Carlingford First Aid presentation
		11:00am	Mass at the Poplars
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		7:00pm	PMR Epping Lenten Group
		7:00pm	PMR Carlingford Antioch Lenten Group
Fri.	12/04/19	7:30pm	Rm 2 RCIA Lenten Group
		9:30am	<b>Mass at St Gerard's Church</b>
		10:10am	PMR Carlingford—Lenten Group
		12:15pm	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		4:30pm	CH Epping Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sat.	13/04/19	6:45am	Taizé, Adoration and Benediction with Reconciliation being avail during this time as part of the Light in On.
		7:00pm	CANA is on a break, next meeting is on 3rd May.
		9:15am	<b>Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church</b>
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
		1:30pm	CH Carlingford Easter Vigil music practice
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church

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



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Betty Ockerlander  
[bettyockerlander@mcgrath.com.au](mailto:bettyockerlander@mcgrath.com.au)  
0408 505 080

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### PARISH STAFF

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Email: [maree@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:maree@eppcarl.org.au)

**Pastoral Care Assistant:**  
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Email: [maree@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:maree@eppcarl.org.au)

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**Pastoral Support Worker (PSW) Youth:**  
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**Missionary Discipleship Coordinator:**  
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**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](mailto:ppcsecretary@eppcarl.org.au)

### Taizé Worship Night

As part of Lent, Epping and Carlingford Parish is hosting a Taizé worship night on the 12th April, from 6:45pm to 8:00 pm at OLHC church, Epping.

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@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:joanna@eppcarl.org.au) or 0423 717 550.

**THE PARISH WEBSITE**  
[www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford) contains a complete directory of parish life and downloads of important documents.



### Children's Sacramental Journey - First Eucharist 2019

The Parent Information Evening was held on Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th April in the parish hall at Our Lady Help of Christians' in Epping. We always look forward to sharing the evening with parents. The evening encompasses aspects of First Eucharist which are important to assist parents in the understanding of their child's faith journey and their partnership with the parish. It was a lovely gathering with interesting input from parents as they recalled their own First Communion journeys!

The Rite of Enrolment for the children will be held on the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> April (including the Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April Vigil Masses). Group facilitator briefing and preparation sessions for First Eucharist will begin after the school holidays.

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](mailto:kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au)

### Children's Liturgy of the Word – 5th 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 explores the Gospel story on Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The children learn that even if there are times when someone has made a poor choice and not lived according to how God wants, we must learn to pray for and not judge him/her. God always forgives and keeps a promise to love us all of our lives. There is an activity sheet of a picture of a rainbow to remind us of God's promise to us.

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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lynn@eppcarl.org.au)



### Through Lent to Easter

To all who are at Mass and all who read the Bulletin, Lent is preparing us for Holy Week to go with Jesus, through his dying on Good Friday to his rising on Easter Sunday. We are following Jesus. We are learning about Jesus, learning from Jesus what life is about and learning to live "life to the full" in Jesus. (Jn 10:10)  
At Mass we learn that Jesus came "not to judge, but to save" (Jn12:47). We see this in what Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees "Let anyone among you who is without sin, be the first to throw a stone at her" - the woman condemned by the law of Moses. Then he said, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? Neither do I condemn you." (Jn 8:11)  
In all of this, we are being called and becoming more like his disciples.

### To those meeting in Lenten Groups

This week we reflect on the "Passion", which is the Latin word for suffering that is used to describe the horrific pain inflicted by crucifixion. Our journey from Good Friday to Easter Sunday takes us through the desolation of death and gifts us with this amazing surprise ~ *Jesus came back to life! Jesus is alive!*  
Jesus has been raised from the dead. This is what we believe. We follow Jesus and we know that we too, with all our loved ones will be raised to new life with him and in him. This is what he has promised, life with him and life that lasts forever.

This week will be the last gathering of your group for this Lent. I encourage you to recall the moments that were special for you in your group. Can you hold onto the experiences that were precious for you? Please, bring those gifts of awareness to share with your Lenten group. Their presence and their sharing gifted you, as your presence and sharing gifted them. May the Holy Spirit give you the words to express your awareness. It could be your sense of how Jesus has been with you and your Lenten group over these six weeks. It could be your connection with the people and your growing love for them. What ever has moved or enriched your heart is a valuable gift to those you have been with. Blessings on your sharing with one another.

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### OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY

#### Meeting this Sunday 7th April

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

### Antioch is hosting a Parish Trivia Night and we would like to invite you all to come along!

**Date:** 25th May, Saturday **Time:** 7-10pm

**Location:** St Gerard's Parish Hall, 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford .

We are fundraising for our youth who will be attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Perth in December this year. This event happens once every two years and calls together young people from all around Australia to join together and celebrate their faith. The theme is 'Listen to what the Spirit is Saying' and some of the events being hosted include workshops, music, prayer, Mass, Adoration and a Pilgrimage walk.

We are also in need of people to donate gifts for trivia prizes. If you can help, please drop them off at either Church before the 19th of May. All your support and prayers are greatly appreciated!

Please RSVP yourself or your group of 8-10 people to this email address: [joanna@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:joanna@eppcarl.org.au).  
Entry price is \$10 per person or \$80 for a team of 8-10 people. The latest date to RSVP is the 19th of May. If you have any questions, please email [joanna@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:joanna@eppcarl.org.au) or contact the Parish Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0423 717

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### To those reading John's Gospel

This weekend we read Chapters 15 and 16 where Jesus shares his promises at the Last Supper. So much comes together in the remaining chapters till we read Chapter 21 and complete the 21 day challenge. It is wonderful how time set aside each day has become a routine of reading, reflecting and receiving new insight. May the remaining chapters from the Last Supper inspire us to grow in a stronger relationship with Jesus, His Father and the Holy Spirit.

Denis McNamara ~ Supporting Disciples

### CANA: OUR yrs. 6-9 YOUTH GROUP



**Cana is on a break  
until Term 2.**

Our next gathering will be on the **3rd May 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 the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on [joanna@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:joanna@eppcarl.org.au) or 0423 717 550

### 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 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.

### 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.

Children most welcome!

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

### Pre-Marriage Course

**Couples** before you officially say "I-Do", take this course to learn how to **build** a stronger foundation for your **marriage**.

Call **Cynthia:** 0404 488 238  
**E:** [3Rcounselling@gmail.com](mailto:3Rcounselling@gmail.com)  
**www.3Rcounselling.com.au**