

Responsorial Psalm Response The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.	Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. 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: Philip Ting (father of John Ting), Mary Ellis, Frankie Fernandes (brother of Irene Fernandes), Patricia Amy, Anna Ortner, Mary Anne, Anthony & Hugh Mulligan, Frank Holmes, Sr. Agnes Chong ocd, Robert Tan, Eddie Tam.

Anniversaries: Roger & Jean-Claude Nina,

Also for: Joan Munday,

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, Cooper Rundell, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard Stieger, Fred Saad, Ron Jenkins, Mike Van Werdt, Tammy Birch, Dorothea Ellis, Veronica Hartwich, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Jan Doherty, Brian Walsh, 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, Martin Sill, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Rob Neil, Josie Scully, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Kath McCarthy, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Joyce Fewtrell, Patricia Muschalik, Ernest Lau, Sr. Pauline Wicks rsj, Delma Soria, Sn Atanasia Lee.

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

BAPTISM IN THE PARISH THIS SUNDAY

Welcome to:
Lucy May Hannaford



Please hold this child and her family in your prayers.

Date	Mass	Epping	Mass	Carlingford
15/12/18	5:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd	6:00pm	Fr Joey Frez
16/12/18	8:30am	Fr Peter Dowd	7:45am	Fr Joey Frez
16/12/18	10:15am	Fr Peter Dowd	9:30am	Fr Joey Frez
16/12/18	6:00pm	Fr Peter Dowd		

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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

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

09-12-18

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:3-6.8-11

Luke 3:1-6

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



Christmas Eve Evening, 24th December

Christmas Vigil Mass

5:00pm at St Gerard's
6:00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians
These are both Children's Masses. If possible the children are invited to bring a small gift to place under the tree. We invite you to provide your child with a gift wrapped card containing a small monetary donation towards the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.

The children will be invited to place their gifts under the tree during the procession of gifts in the middle of the Mass.

St Gerard's, Carlingford

Night Mass: 10:00pm Mass
Preceded by Carols at 9:30pm

Our Lady Help of Christians, Epping

Midnight Mass
Preceded by Carols at 11:30pm.

Christmas Day 25th December

St Gerard's Carlingford

7:45am, 9:30am

Our Lady Help of Christians' Epping

8:30am, 10:15am **NO** 6:00pm Mass

COMBINED CHURCHES EVENT - CAROLS IN THE PARK SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2018 — AT BORONIA PARK, EPPING

Come along to "Carols in the Park," and join with the people of Epping and Carlingford for an evening of fun and festivity, as we celebrate the heart of Christmas together as a community. **From 5pm** there will be an array of stalls from charities to food vendors. Come early to see how you can support local efforts, grab a bite and save yourself a good seat! **From 7:15pm** Carols Programme. **From 9:00pm** Fireworks! What else needs to be said.



Advent -The Sacrament of Reconciliation:



RECONCILIATION

In preparation for Christmas there will be a celebration of the Second Rite of Reconciliation for both our communities at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church at Epping on Wednesday 19th December at 7:30pm.

Please make this a priority as a number of priests will be available.

Our December Healing & Anointing Mass and Christmas Luncheon:



Epping:
the Mass will be celebrated in the Church on **Wednesday, 19th December** at 11am. To be followed by a light Christmas luncheon in the parish meeting room. Could both catering teams help out. Thank you!

All are welcome - and we especially invite all our senior parishioners to this end of year gathering.



CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASSES

All children are invited to take part in the Christmas Vigil Masses (5 pm at St Gerard's and 6 pm at OLHC on Christmas Eve in both churches.) We would like volunteers for many roles. We also need parent volunteers to assist at the practices, during the Mass and with supper.

The children participating in the Mass will be required to attend practices.
Parent helpers will also be required to attend.

Carlingford:
Parent Run-through & mime learning Saturday 15th December 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Dress Rehearsal Thursday 20th December 10:15am- 11:15am
Epping:
Parent run-through & dress rehearsals Thursday 13th December & 20th December 4:00 - 5.00pm .
Any questions? Please email:
Lynn for Carlingford stgchildrensmass@gmail.com and
Therese for Epping olhcchildrensmass@gmail.com

Please detach and place the slip in the box at the back of the Church of scan in and email to parish@eppcarl.org.au by the 8th December Epping / Carlingford
(Please circle which church you will be attending)

Please provide order of preference for each child for roles

Child's Name	Age	Role

from Gospel mime, readings and processions. Although we try to give everyone his or her first preference, it is not always possible.

Parents: I am/am not able to assist with practices & during Mass.

I am/am not able to assist with packing away supper after Mass

Parent's name: _____

Email Contact: _____



The Ribbon of Celebration and Gratitude

Let's celebrate 2018! This is a fun technique to do as an individual, a family or a team, to reflect on the **Happy, encouraging and meaningful moments from the year.** A good exercise for Christmas or New Year's!

Material Needed

- For you, individually
 - ◊ 1 piece of ribbon* at least 5cm wide and 20-30 cm in length. Choose a colour you like
- For team or family:
 - ◊ A long piece of ribbon at least 5cm wide, that all members of the team/family can write on. Allow at least 20-30 cm in length for each participant. If there are several groups, cut more of the same lengths (perhaps using different coloured ribbons) for each group.
 - ◊ Scissors.
- Thin permanent markers. Make sure the colour is visible on the ribbon. *You can find ribbon at 2 Dollar stores or Spotlight

Directions

Preparations:
Allow (only) happy, encouraging memories and moments of 2018 to come to mind.

Procedure:

For You, individually -

- Write as many memories that come to mind on the Ribbon of Celebration. Recount the time and place and the names of the people who were with you. Also write down the "message" that each happy memory imprinted on your heart.
- Hang your Ribbon of Celebration on the Christmas tree and/or use it as a bookmark.

For Family or Team -

- As a family or team (or in groups for larger teams) gather around the Ribbon of Celebration. Give each person time to record his/her happy, encouraging memory from the year onto the ribbon. There is no limit to the number of happy memories to write down, as long as there is space.
- Once everyone in the team/family has recorded their memory/moment, you may like to hang the Ribbon(s) of Celebration on the Christmas tree. Alternatively, the ribbon(s) can be cut (on an angle) into equal lengths and distributed randomly to participants. Once receiving a section of the ribbon, people write their name and date on it, and keep it as a memento or use it as a bookmark.

You may like to repeat the exercise, this time writing down your New Year's resolutions, hopes and dreams for the coming year.

*Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, And working together is a success
Henry Ford*

This technique was created by Dr. Carlos A. Raimundo, and is based on the *Pillars of Life* technique from Relationship Capital. Feel free to forward this technique to your friends!

Dr Carlos A. Raimundo
relationship capital

WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS

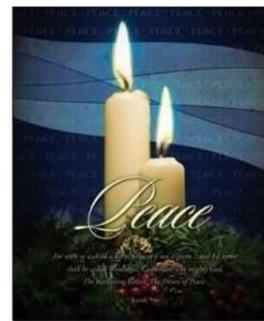
Be on the alert for symptoms of inner HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of the Advent Virus:

- ☐ A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- ☐ An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- ☐ A loss of interest in judging other people.
- ☐ A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others. ☐ A loss of interest in conflict.
- ☐ A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- ☐ Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- ☐ Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- ☐ Frequent attacks of smiling.
- ☐ An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- ☐ An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this warning to all your friends. This virus has affected many systems - some systems have been completely cleaned/transformed because of it. (With thanks to Church Resources)

The Truth Justice and Healing Council
www.thecouncil.org.au Ph.: 6234 0900



Together as One...A Mass to remember, love and pray with our children who have died. The Mass was held last Thursday at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church, Epping. The beautiful prayer space was created by Rachel Murphy before the Mass.

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.



PIETY STORE St. Gerard's Church

come and browse

- *2019 Daily Missals commencing Advent
- *Christmas Cards
- *2019 Columban Calendars
- *Christmas gifts for all ages



Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel—Advent: Preparing for the Sublime

Some years ago, Robert Waller published a book that became a runaway bestseller and an immensely popular movie. Entitled, *The Bridges of Madison County*, it stirred the romantic imagination in a way that few other stories have in recent times, especially as it was played out in its film version by Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep. The story runs this way:

A photographer for National Geographic magazine is sent out to photograph a series of old bridges in Madison county. Lost, he stops at a farmhouse to ask for directions. As chance would have it, the man of the house has just left for a cattle show. His wife is home alone and she and the photographer instantly sense a deep connection and fall violently in love. Karma, soul-mates, mysticism, whatever, they experience a rare and powerful affinity. Within hours they are in bed with each other, triggering a love-affair that leaves them both sacramentally scarred for the rest of their lives.

Only the really mature can truly burst into flame within community. The rest of us are still too self-contained, too green, too selfish, too damp.

What the viewer of the movie or reader of this book is asked to believe is that something truly sublime has taken place, a masterpiece of love has been painted, and a noble thing worth more than life itself has just occurred. But can this be so? Can anyone paint a masterpiece in a couple of hours? Can a doctoral thesis be completed in two hours? Can sex with someone you met just two hours before be sublime?

To answer those questions, I suggest you watch another film which, ironically, was playing in theatres at nearly the same time. It's a version of Jane Austin's, *Sense and Sensibility*, and tells the story of a young woman who has to carry a very painful tension (one that includes the same feelings found in *Bridges of Madison County*) for a long time. But unlike the characters in *Bridges of Madison County*, she doesn't move quickly to resolve it. Nobody is in bed with each other within a couple of hours. She carries the tension for a long time, years, and then finally when it is resolved there is true sublimity. Why? Because something can only be sublime if first there has been some sublimation (and for more than two hours!)

In essence, this expresses the meaning of Advent: for something to be sublime there must first be sublimation; fasting is the necessary prelude to feasting; greatness of soul is contingent on first nobly carrying tension; great joy is not experienced if one is not first properly prepared; and what's truly divine can only appear after a certain kind of gestation. Advent is about proper waiting.

It should therefore not be confused with lent. The crimson-purple of advent is not the black-purple of lent. The former symbolizes yearning and longing, the latter repentance. The spirituality of advent is not about repentance, but about carrying tension without prematurely resolving it so that what's born in us and in our world does not short-circuit the fullness that comes from respecting love's rhythms.

What is the connection here? How does carrying tension help lead to the sublime? It does it by helping to produce the heat required for generativity. An image might be helpful here. John of the Cross, in his book, *The Living Flame of Love*, compares our pre-advent selves to green logs that have been thrown into a fire, the fire of love. Green logs, as we know, do not immediately burst into flame. Rather, being young and full of moisture, they sizzle for a long time before they reach kindling temperature and can take into themselves the fire that is around them so as to participate in it. So too the rhythm of love: Only the really mature can truly burst into flame within community. The rest of us are still too self-contained, too green, too selfish, too damp. We don't burst into flame when love surrounds us. Rather our dampness helps extinguish the communal flame.

What helps change this is precisely the tension in our lives. In carrying properly our unfulfilled desires we sizzle and slowly let go of the dampness of selfishness. In carrying tension we come to kindling temperature and are made ready for love. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, as a scientist, noticed that sometimes when you put two chemicals into a test-tube they do not automatically unite. They only merge at a higher temperature. They must first be heated to bring about unity. There's an entire anthropology and psychology of love in that image. In order to love we must first be brought to a higher psychic temperature. What brings us there? Sizzling in tension, not resolving things prematurely, not sleeping with the bride before the wedding, not trying to have the complete symphony within two hours.

The sublime has to be waited for. Only when there is first enough heat will there be unity. To give birth to what's divine requires the slow patience of gestation. In shorthand, that's the algebra of Advent.

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.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious God, you call us, your disciples in Broken Bay to be the face of Jesus to the world, to care and evangelise in his name.

Through your Spirit, you call us all, to serve you in many forms of Christian discipleship.

We ask you particularly at this time to call forth individual believers to serve your disciples in Broken Bay in our lay ecclesial ministries, in religious life, in diaconate and in priesthood.

May we be a Church where generosity, dedication and passion are called forth and nurtured.

May we be a Church where we can listen for your voice in a noisy world, and respond with faith and hope.

We ask you this through the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep, Christ, our Lord. Amen

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun.	09/12/18	9:30am	Kidz Liturgy at St Gerard's Church
		10:15am	Kidz Liturgy at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		6:00pm	Antioch on a break until the 13th January
Mon.	10/12/18	9:09am	PH Epping Little Engines Playgroup
		9:30am	PH Carlingford Gerry's Playgroup
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		7:30pm	PMR Carlingford SVdP Meeting
		7:30pm	CH Carlingford Rosary Group
Tue.	11/12/18	12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
Wed.	12/12/18	9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		6:00pm	OLHC Yr. 6 Graduation Mass
Thur.	13/12/18	9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
		11:00am	Mass at the Poplars Nursing Home
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		6:00pm	St Gerard's School Yr. 6 Graduation Mass
		9:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church
Fri.	14/12/18	10:00am	PMR Carlingford Scripture Reflection
		12:15pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		4:30pm	CH Epping Rosary for the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		7:00pm	PH Carlingford CANA Youth Group
		9:15am	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		9:45am	Exposition and Reconciliation
		10:15am	Benediction
3:30pm	CH C'ford parent run-through Children's Christmas Mass		
Sat.	15/12/18	5:00pm	Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church
		5:00pm	Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church
		5:45pm	PMR Carlingford—Chinese Group
		6:00pm	Mass at St Gerard's Church

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

To celebrate Ann Milling's 11 years of leadership as Principal at St Gerard's Catholic School, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be held on Wednesday, 19th December at 9.30am St Gerard's Church, Carlingford

NEW YEAR'S DAY – the Blessing of Our Images of Our Lady

One of the special feast days of this Christmas Season is the greatest and most ancient of the feasts of Mary – 1st January, New Year's Day: (the solemnity of Mary as Mother of God) – we highlight it by annually inviting everyone to bring their images of Mary to be blessed during the 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's and the 12:15pm Mass at Epping. New Year's Day is the Octave Day of Christmas and celebrates Mary's role in our salvation: that it was through her acceptance of God's call and placing herself at the service of God that the Word was made flesh in and through her. As such this feast celebrates Mary as our model as she challenges us likewise to be 'mother of God' bringing Jesus to birth in our world through our own lives.



PARISH STAFF

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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.

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.

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.

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.

Safeguarding Message

During this Advent Season let us be reminded that every child is held in God's infinite tenderness, and God is present in each of their lives (Envangelii Gaudium)

Children's Sacramental Journey Within Our Parish



Here at the Epping and Carlingford Parish, the preparation of children for the completion of the Sacraments of Initiation – Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is parish-based and family-centred. We hope to encourage and nurture parents in the preparation of their children through group sessions. The group sessions

facilitate parent-child interaction utilising activities to help children explore the key concepts of the sacraments in an age-appropriate and fun way. Parents' companionship and witness speak volumes to the children as they pass down their faith to their children.

In our Diocese of Broken Bay, the order of the Sacraments for children after Baptism, begins with Confirmation, then First Reconciliation, followed by receiving First Holy Communion to complete their initiation into the Church.

Our 2019 Sacramental Programme brochure is now available at the back of both churches and on our parish website, eppcarl.org.au. This brochure outlines the key dates of the celebration of Sacraments for children in 2019.

Please take note of the next enrolment period in January 2019 for First Reconciliation. We will begin advertising closer to the date.

In the meanwhile, if you are wanting to find out more about your child's sacramental journey within our parish, please feel free to contact me.

Lynn Siau
Children's Sacramental Co-ordinator
0407 255 593
kids.sacrament@eppcarl.org.au

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL

The Parish has now met its quota for this Charitable Works Fund Appeal.
Thank you for your generosity in supporting this Appeal.

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!



CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are available near the bulletin boxes in both our churches.

The contributions via the Christmas Offering supplements the funds raised via the First Collection for the support and upkeep of priests. The fund it goes to depends very much on these special contributions at Christmas and Easter, without which it struggles to meet its commitments.

This diocesan fund not only provides the living allowance and household costs for the priests of the parish, but also provides funds for health care for priests and maintains priests in their retirement. Please support the Christmas Offerings. The envelopes can be placed on either plate.

A Plenary Council Christmas opportunity!

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

It is essential for ALL Catholics to respond to this question for the future of our Church. There will be an opportunity at the Christmas Masses for family or friends who have not 'Had their Say' to write their response on one of the Christmas message cards on the seats. It can then be placed in the Plenary Council box in the Church or posted at their convenience.

If you would like to contribute or ask questions you too can place your response in one of the boxes or
Contact:

Lynne Slocombe 0407138992 or Email lynne.slocombe@gmail.com

Carole Wilson 9869 1036 or Email carole.wilson@optusnet.com.au

For further information visit the Plenary Council website and explore:

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say



2018 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Commencing 8th December

Make this a Christmas Filled With Joy. We need your help.

Our Lady Help of Christians Epping: Envelopes on the pews and at Church entrances to be returned to the paper table or placed on the second collection.

St. Gerard Majella Carlingford: Envelopes on the pews to be returned to the Piety Store or on the second collection.

Receipts will be available for tax purposes.

Your Gift Could Change Lives

School Graduation Masses

There will be two Year 6 School Graduation Masses: Our Lady Help of Christians on Wednesday 12th December at 6:00pm.

St Gerard's on Thursday 13th December at 6:00pm



Year of Youth 2018

CANA YOUTH GROUP



Next CANA Meeting Friday 7 December

If you're in Yrs. 7-9

Come along for a night jam-packed with **FUN & FAITH! EVERY FRIDAY** night of school term **7:30pm-9:00pm** in the parish hall @ Carlingford.

It's a great place to catch up with friends and meet some new ones! Please remember that a small donation when you come to the meeting would really help out with the cost of the night! Thanks :)

Any questions call Ashleigh 0430 120 015

Alpha

Belonging, Believing and Behaving

Welcome to Mass today. Everyone who comes brings a gift, for each of us is a gift. Your presence adds something special. You are a 'blessing' for God's Spirit is in you.

When families with young children come to Mass, we all know that took a special effort to get them ready. It is a joy to see them. Then there are times we may wonder "Why don't others come? Why don't a particular group, like young adults or families come to Mass?" This is not a judgment, but a question ~ "Can you help me understand, *Why some people come to Mass and some do not come?*"

Becoming a Catholic is a personal journey that usually begins with a sense of belonging. When we think of ourselves, we have a sense of belonging to the Catholic Church and we are definitely NOT another religion and not a member of another church. Belonging to the Catholic Church could have been part of our growing up and almost be something we took for granted. Many people put in the Census that they are Catholic for they know that is where they belong. When we come to Mass, we just know, "**We belong!**"

If we are coming to Mass regularly this sense of belonging has grown stronger in us because we took another step. What was this important step? We began to pray.

What happens when we pray? We ask God for help. We trust God to help us and we talk to God. We know God as Jesus and with Jesus we call God "Our Father". Our relationship grows, and we say "Thank you" to God. We realise the mystery of our life is beyond us. We are cared for by a loving God and there is life in Jesus after we die. Our gratitude grows into praise. "**We believe!**"

There is another step, another stage that calls for greater commitment. Because we believe, we are called to behave in a way that is pleasing to God who loves us. As people we please those we love and those who love us by not doing anything to hurt them and by doing all we can to show our care and grow in our love for them.

Something similar happens in our friendship with God. We see Jesus as the ideal loving and forgiving and committed human person. We see God in Jesus. We want to be our best self and grow to be more loving and forgiving. We ask for help. *Jesus help us to stop doing what stresses those we love and strengthen us to be committed.* Jesus gives us His Holy Spirit, so we have the power to be loving, to be forgiving, to live with integrity, to be true to our commitments. "**We behave!**" differently.

OUR PARISH ANTIOCH COMMUNITY:

We are on a break and will resume on 13th January 2019.

We would like to thank everyone for your support throughout the year.

Wishing everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year!



Joanne—0416 030 927

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

Antioch Fundraiser

"Antioch is fundraising for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) Perth, 2019. We will be selling Christmas wrapping paper for \$2 a piece; at all Masses at Carlingford this weekend.

Any purchases, donations and kind words are appreciated, and thanks for the support so far!

We will at all Masses at St Gerard's this weekend.

Antioch Parent Support

Once again I ask for parishioners to seriously consider assisting in the parent role essential to the continuation of Antioch in our parish. If, as many of you have said on numerous occasions, the parish needs to be serious about youth being a priority and support the growth in faith of our young people, then it is up to you, the parishioners to provide the ministry required.

Anyone interested in finding our more information please contact Fr Peter via the parish office on 9876 2853



From belonging, we receive grace to believe and with the Holy Spirit we receive power to behave like Jesus. In our Catholic parish we want to support those at Mass to grow in their belonging as a community of believers. May each of us be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to behave like Jesus. He came *that we might have life and have it to the full.*

If you want to **experience belonging** in our Catholic community ~ **Try Alpha.** You will be welcomed. You will meet people and they will become your friends.

If you want to **grow as a believer** in our Catholic faith ~ **Try Alpha.** You will understand your relationship with Jesus and be inspired by the faith of others.

If you want to **behave more as a follower of Jesus**, living a life of loving and forgiving, you will need the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower you. **Join us at Alpha**, starting next year.

Is there more to life than this

