

Responsorial Psalm Response

Ps 111:4-9 R. v. 4

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Gospel Acclamation**Alleluia, Alleluia!**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me will have the light of life.
Alleluia!**WEEKEND MASSES**

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Epping | 5:00pm 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 | 10:00am | 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:** Geoffrey Ranson, Rod Michie, Peter Balint, Soon Sik Choi, Margaret Collins, Peter Baker (Son-in-law of Margaret & Gordon Floyd), Erna Fischer, Fr Denis Callahan,*Please pray for Dorothea Ellis who died last week,
The funeral Mass was held at St Gerard's last Thursday 6th Feb.***Anniversaries:** John Rigney,**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, 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, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Stella Nathan, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Arnold Day, 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, Elizabeth Barton.*Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the ifamily.***THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 09 FEBRUARY 2020**On the first show back for the Journey in 2020 we have a stellar lineup for you, including Trish McCarthy with a wonderful piece called *Rest* and Mother Hilda Scott with another sensation *Godspot*. Go to WWW.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email – for free. If you love the show, let your local radio station know that you'd like to hear it broadcast locally each week.**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

| Date | Mass | Epping | Mass | Carlingford | Admitted to Hospital |
|----------|---------|-------------------|--------|---------------|--|
| 15/02/20 | 5:00pm | Fr Bogdan Skupien | 6:00pm | Fr Peter Dowd | 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. |
| 16/02/20 | 8:30am | Fr Bogdan Skupien | 7:45am | Fr Peter Dowd | |
| 16/02/20 | 10:15am | Fr Bogdan Skupien | 9:30am | Fr Peter Dowd | |
| 16/02/20 | 6:00pm | Fr Bogdan Skupien | | | |

**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 Bogdan Skupien****Ph.:** 9876 2853**Email:** Bogdan.Skupien@bbcatholic.org.au**Email:** parish@eppcarl.org.au**Parish Website:** www.bbcatholic.org.au/epppingcarlingford**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****5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME****9-02-20****Isaiah 58:7-10****1 Corinthians 2:1-5****Matthew 5:13-16****An Invitation to Join a Lenten Group**Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday
on 26th Feb.Lenten Groups begin meeting from Monday 24th Feb.

At Mass this weekend you are invited to join a Lenten Group.

Some homegroups are being set up.

These groups are listed at the entrance to the churches.

You can join one of these, by adding your name to a group.

Forms will be available in the pews
and can also be found at the entrance of the church
Please complete and place in the boxes provided
at the entrance to the churches.You can join a group that meets in the parish meeting
rooms, by circling that group on the form.If you prefer another day/time,
Please tick the time/day of the week

For further information on Lenten Groups see pg. 2

Denis McNamara

*Supporting parishioners to become Missionary Disciples***Please pray for our Parish Alpha!****We have our 'Come and See' evening on
Tuesday 25th February**

then

Alpha begins on **Tuesday 3rd March**
when we ask the question, *Who is Jesus?*Many have received grace and friendship through
Alpha and now experience a new relationship with the Holy
Spirit. Alpha is the work of the Holy Spirit.In your times of prayer, please ask the Holy Spirit to move
the hearts of those who are searching and those hoping to
grow in their faith. Please pray that people will *'Come and
See'* and will discover *there is more to life*, with a personal
relationship with Jesus.

Further information on pg. 2

Date: Tue 25th February Come and See then
Tue 3rd March Alpha commences**Time:** 7:30 pm**Venue:** Parish Hall Epping**Parking:** School grounds—enter via Cambridge Street or
walk down to the hall from Oxford Street.**Come and See****Tuesday 25 Feb 7pm for Dinner**
Drive in 8 Cambridge Street or
31 Oxford Street Epping
Catholic Parish Hall
Let us know for catering onContact: Maree 9876 2853 or
maree@eppcarl.org.au**Is there more to life?****Try Alpha**

Learn More



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.

Grow in your faith by joining a Lenten Group

Lenten offers the followers of Jesus, the chance to do something Jesus actually did himself. Spend time listening and learning from God speaking to us. We listen to the Sunday Gospel and hear it explained. We learn what it means to others. Anytime is a good time for this, but the forty days of Lent have a unique 'feel'. These six weeks are also filled with the emotions of the Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. This weekend you are invited to join with others. Part of the success of Alpha has been the way people come together in groups, to share good food, drink and friendship. We can continue to grow as 'lifelong learners' or "disciples" of Jesus and have conversations with other parishioners.

People in Lenten groups last year rated the Lenten program as very good, thought provoking and an excellent preparation for Easter. They liked the books which many treasured and formed closer ties with those in their group.

What happens?

Lenten groups meet for just over an hour with five or more people once a week for the weeks of Lent and for a session after Easter. It is amazing how the Gospel incidents in Jesus' life can be so relevant to our lives. Jesus becomes a real person. People rediscover their faith and their relationship with the Church. The friendships formed in Lenten Groups often continue because people see each other at Mass and stay in touch.

Meetings can be in one of our Leader's homes or the Parish meeting rooms. We have small groups at different times throughout the week. All receive the Lenten book, **Be Opened, a journey to a new life**, with the Sunday Gospel and explanation, so you will understand what will be discussed in your group.

Denis McNamara

Supporting parishioners to become disciples

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.

You can invite Guests to Alpha Tuesday 25 February at 7 pm in Epping

Being a missionary disciple is to invite others to know Jesus. After Andrew met Jesus, he said to his brother Peter ~ **Come and See**. After we have met Jesus it is our turn to simply ask ~ **Come and See**. As you think about **Who should I invite?** listen to the Holy Spirit guiding you to those the Spirit is calling.

People are waiting to be invited. People who have little or no contact with a church are curious. They come because they trust you and they come to see for themselves.

Who do I already know?

You have a network of friends, family, neighbours and co-workers.

Who do I know on a first name basis? Who do I talk look forward to seeing?

Who seems likely to respond to an invitation from me?

Who does not seem to understand what Christianity is all about?

When would I mention Alpha?

Simply trust that the Spirit is calling others to know Jesus and you are one person they could respond to. It happens. The Spirit is present when talking with other. It can happen with strangers. A simple prayer ~ *God if you are calling this person, help me make the most of this moment.*

How should I invite them?

Tell them your experience of Alpha in a sentence. Ask them, would you think about coming. *We can go to the Alpha dinner. It's free! You can see for yourself what it is about. I would love you to come.*

Let them see and hear what Alpha meant for you. *I think you would enjoy Alpha!*

Can you connect Alpha to something they may have discussed. "You mentioned that you find it hard to understand something about life, or God or the Catholic Church."

It is easy. Just come to the introduction. Join us for a meal, watch a video then hear what people talk about. Here is the information. We have dinner at 7 on Tuesday 25th February. Getting there is easy. You can drive into the school grounds at 8 Cambridge Street, Epping. You will see the lights on in the hall. If you have any questions, we can talk more. I could pick you up or meet you there and introduce you to others over the meal. Alpha is for everyone.

Denis McNamara

Supporting disciples with the mission to invite

DROUGHT RELIEF FOOD DRIVE

Approximately 200 boxes and bags have been packed ready to take to Melissa Turner at Coasties Drought Aid for delivery out west. Your support for our drought relief appeals has been overwhelming and so greatly appreciated by those in need.

The situation is so critical that another three "Pantries" at Narromine, Mendooran and Tooraweenah have been opened. In addition, Coasties Drought Aid are also offering support to the townships of Neilrex, Premer and Leadville. Families in those areas, as well as Baradine, will now also be benefiting from your generosity and kindness.

Until our drought stricken lands receive abundant rain, the hardship will not ease so please continue to pray for rain and for the families affected. Many thanks again, not only for your donations but for extending a helping hand to our needy Aussies.



PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRE AND DROUGHT:

Eternal God,
In wisdom and love you created our earth
to sustain us and give us life.

We turn to you now in faith, hope and love,
asking you to look with favour
on our fire-ravaged and drought-stricken land,
on our starving and displaced animals,
on our failing crops and burning
farms, towns and forests.

Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers
and to all who are affected by drought;
be with those who support them.
Strengthen and comfort the victims of the fires,
those who have lost family, friends, property and stock.
Protect our volunteer firefighters and all members
of essential services.

In your loving providence,
send abundant rain to quench the fires
and to restore our parched earth.

Father of all compassion,
hear our prayer through
Jesus Christ your Son,
in whom the promise of new life has dawned,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
the Lord the giver of life:
Renew your faithful people;
Renew the face of the earth.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross,
Mary, help of Christians –
Pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop –
Pray for us.

The Truth Justice and Healing Council

www.thecouncil.org.au

Marriage Enrichment Weekend :

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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, **(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.



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Reflection on the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's gospel reading continues the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes of Matthew ended with a reference to the 'abuse' and 'persecution' that will be the lot of those who heed the call of Jesus – no doubt reflecting the situation of a community of Jewish converts that have been expelled from the synagogue. Against this background, we can understand why Matthew now incorporates two parables of Jesus concerning the witness that is expected from his followers.

These brief but powerful parables put us in the presence of Jesus the teacher who made such an impression, as he appealed to the basic things of life familiar to all his hearers. Salt is a commodity prized by all peoples for its flavouring and preservative qualities. Though pure salt is very stable, the salt of common use, referred to by Jesus, was far from pure and could easily become useless. Light is such an eloquent symbol that all the world's religious traditions have appealed to it. As today's first reading reminds us, the prophets made use of this image. In the Isaian writings, God's people had not only found the light, they were called to be bearers of the light – 'I shall make you a light to the nations, so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth' (Is 49:6). This great theme finds its ultimate expression in the Church, the final People of God - through our union with the Saviour, whose life is 'the light of all people' (Jn 1:4). For Matthew, therefore, the words of Jesus, 'You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world', are addressed to the members of a community in the midst of rejection and difficulties, and in danger of losing heart. And for the Church down through the ages, as it has proclaimed the Sermon on the Mount, the words of Jesus are addressed to the Church as it faces similar situations. In the present moment of history, when the tide seems to be running strongly against the things the Saviour stands for, we know the temptation to lose heart before the task of evangelisation. But, as we hear the brave words of Jesus we should recognise their realism – as if Jesus anticipates these misgivings. The magnificent light that has been entrusted to us, bringing us life and hope, must not be 'put under a tub'. The Church community must offer its light to a desperate and struggling world, like a beautiful city built on a hilltop. If we have received this charge from him, we can rely upon the help that only he can give.

Even the great Paul, whose witness to faith in Christ has proved so fundamental in the life of the Church since the beginning, came to recognise – as we are reminded in today's second reading - that the sharing of his faith did not depend upon brilliant oratory or argumentation. Instead, the 'power of the Spirit' was made manifest through the sincerity of his simple faith in 'the crucified Christ'. And so, while Jesus tells us that we must be evangelisers, he also gives us practical advice as to how we are to give our 'witness' to the Good News he brings. Our light should 'shine', first and foremost, through the 'good works' that make it clear that we are true offspring of our 'Father in heaven'. The quality of truly Christian lives can change the world.

John Thornhill sm

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Plenary Council 2020: Listen To What The Spirit Is Saying...

In October 2020, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Plenary Council to be held since the second Vatican Council. In 2018, the entire People of God in Australia began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God, by listening to one another's stories of faith.

More than 222,000 people participated in listening and dialogue encounters and contributed 17,457 submissions during the first stage of preparation for the Australian Plenary Council. The voices of the faithful help all of us to understand something of the historical experience and the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia. This gathered data also reveals some deeper hopes and questions, and the diverse yearnings, that we are now challenged to consider together. The National Themes for Discernment named below are inspired by the data and call us toward the future.

Now that we are in the Discernment phase, we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

This period for Listening and Discernment will be open indefinitely.

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is:

Missionary and evangelising
Inclusive, participatory and synodal
Prayerful and Eucharistic
Humble, healing and merciful
A joyful-hope-filled and servant community
Open to conversion, renewal and reform.

Discernment will begin in March 2020.

PARISH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

| Day | Date | Time | Event |
|-------|----------|---------|---|
| | | | Antioch & Alpha speaking at all Masses |
| Sun. | 09/02/20 | 9:30am | Kidz Word at St Gerard's |
| | | 10:15am | Kida Word at OLHC Epping |
| | | 6:00pm | PMR Carlingford—Antioch Meeting |
| Mon | 10/02/20 | 9:30am | Mass at St Gerard's Church |
| | | 7:30pm | PMR Carlingford SVdP meeting |
| | | 7:30pm | Rosary Group at St Gerard's Church |
| Tue. | 11/02/20 | 12:15pm | Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church |
| | | 7:30pm | PH Epping Alpha Team Formation meeting |
| | | 7:30pm | PMR Carlingford Facilitator briefing for First Reconciliation |
| Wed. | 12/02/20 | 9:15am | Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church |
| | | 9:30am | Mass at St Gerard's Church |
| | | 7:30pm | Meeting of new hosts in the Lenten Groups—Rm 2 |
| Thur. | 13/02/20 | 9:30am | Opening School Mass at St Gerard's |
| | | 11:00am | Mass at the Poplars Nursing Home |
| | | 1:15pm | PMR Carlingford Parent Information Session for First Reconciliation |
| | | 7:00pm | Staff Room Discernment Evening for Plenary Council Group |
| Fri. | 14/02/20 | 9:30am | Mass at St Gerard's Church |
| | | 10:10am | 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 |
| Sat. | 15/02/20 | 9:15am | Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church |
| | | 9:45am | Exposition and Reconciliation |
| | | 10:15am | Benediction |
| | | 5:00pm | Vigil Mass at OLHC Epping |
| | | 5:00pm | Reconciliation at St Gerard's Church |
| | | 5:45pm | PMR Carlingford Chinese Group |
| | | 6:00pm | Vigil Mass at St Gerard's Church |

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

THE SEASON OF LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY

As you may well know, Wednesday 26th February, is Ash Wednesday. Please be part of our Ash Wednesday celebrations of Mass as we enter into the time of Lent:

**Carlingford 9:30am Mass we will be joined by the school
7:30pm Mass**

**Epping 9:15am Mass we will be joined by the school
7:00pm Mass**

PARISH STAFF

Parish Secretary:
Dennis Porteous Ph.: 9876 2853
Email: dennis@eppcarl.org.au

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Missionary Discipleship Coordinator:
Denis McNamara
Ph.: 0410 041 944
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

LENTEN ECUMENICAL SERVICES

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

The dates are as follows:

3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 March

please note the dates in your diary and help to make the Lenten season of renewal of time of building the bridges of Christian unity.

Venues will be given as soon as they are to hand.





Children's Sacramental Journey First Reconciliation 2020

Parent Information Sessions were held this last week at both Epping and Carlingford. We always look forward to sharing these sessions with parents. The sessions encompass aspects of First Reconciliation 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 time for reflection on "The Peace of Christ", discussion on the Sacrament's evolution and the parents also enjoyed an Alpha video which gave them a peak into some good stuff!

The Group Facilitator training will be held on Tuesday, 11th February. All facilitators are required to attend this session at 7:30pm to 8:30pm in the Parish Meeting Room at St. Gerard's.

We always like to hear from you and look forward to building a fruitful relationship with all families! If you have any queries or would like more information regarding your child's sacramental journey within our parish, please feel free to drop me a line.

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

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL JOINT MEETING will take place next Monday 17th February at St Alban's Anglican Church, 3 Pembroke Street, Epping commencing at 7:00pm.

Relics of St Therese of Lisieux tour

The Relics of St Therese and her parents Ss Louis and Zelig Martin, will be visiting Hornsby Cathedral Parish, Broken Bay on Saturday 7 March at 9.15am – Sunday 8 March at 7.15am.

Parishioners and visitors will have an opportunity to spend time in groups of prayer welcoming these great saints. As we welcome them, we entrust our Families, Societies, Nation, and very specially the family of our Diocese of Broken Bay into their care.

St Therese 'Patron Saint of Missions', affectionately known as the 'little flower', teaches us to find God in the ordinary details of life. Her love for God was very simple and she called it her 'little way'.

The relics will visit **Hornsby parish on 7th March:**
- **9.30am** Mass at Cathedral

- **5pm** Vigil Mass at Cathedral followed by overnight Vigil.

To cover the whole day and night for prayers please contact the Hornsby parish office on 8379 1700.

Pall bearers (formally dressed) are also needed for Sunday 8th March 7.15am if you can help please call Hornsby parish office on 8379 1700.

Find out more about this significant event as Australia prepares for the Plenary Council by visiting: catholicmission.org.au/relics-of-saint-therese-of-lisieux



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 18th February**. The ceremony will take place after the 12:15 pm 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 week after. 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.



Youth Page

The Antioch Community is having its Annual Outreach Weekend from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd Feb.2020

The Antioch weekend is run for youth by youth and is filled with

TALKS, DISCUSSIONS, MUSIC, FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN!

It's a great chance to find out more about yourself, meet heaps of great young people from the parish, and grow closer to Jesus!

Venue: Parish Site at St Gerard's,
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

Registration Forms are available at the back of the church

More information Ring Joanne 0416 030 927

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

CANA: OUR Yr. 7-9 YOUTH GROUP

If you're in Years 7-9 come along for a night Jam-packed with FUN & FAITH! EVERY FRIDAY night of the School Term, 7:30 – 9pm, in the Parish hall at Carlingford. It's a great place to catch up with old friends, and meet some new ones!

Please remember that a small donation when you come to the meeting would really help out with the costs of the night. Thanks 😊

Further information call Joanna 0404 710 588

What does it mean to be a disciple?

Isaiah the prophet is very direct. **Share your bread with the hungry. Shelter the homeless poor. Clothe the man you see to be naked. Turn not from your own family.**

When you do this then something happens.

Your light will shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Is 58

What "wound" is the prophet talking about? It is more than a broken body. It is our wounded humanity that prevents us being who we were meant to be and who God wants us to be. It is by serving others and loving others the Spirit of God transforms us. It happens in our families, in our life in society and in our parish community. Your light shines and your wounded life is healed.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple? Jesus said to his disciples and says it to us who follow Jesus today.

**You are the salt of the earth.
You are the light of the world.**

Your light must shine, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven. Mat 5:13-16
When you heard of the four children walking on the footpath who were killed when a car drove into them, do you remember your reaction? What were your thoughts when the mother of three of the children said she had forgiven the driver? That mother was a light to us and to others to be forgiving like Jesus. At Mass today we pray to follow Jesus who leads us. **I am the light of the world,** says the Lord; the disciple *who follows me will have the light of life.* Jn 8:12

Denis McNamara
Supporting disciples to become missionary

SCHOOL MASS

There will be School Mass on **Friday, 13th February** at **9:30am** at St Gerard Majella's Church theme is "Opening School Mass for the School Year" All Parents most welcome!

Pope encourages a deeply troubled world not to lose hope

But Francis also offers a sober analysis of a number of global problems and challenges in annual address to ambassadors

Early in his pontificate Pope Francis acknowledged that an essential part of his mission as Bishop of Rome is to confirm his brothers and sisters not only in the faith, but also in love and unity.

And one of the more visible and high profile ways he does this is by making pastoral visits to countries around the world, following in the footsteps of his post-Vatican II predecessors.

But Francis' 32 trips abroad can be distinguished from those of Paul VI (9), John Paul II (104) and Benedict XVI (24) by two words or concepts: dialogue and encounter.

Over the nearly seven years he's been pope, he has continued to meet people where they are – not just geographically, but culturally, spiritually, socially and, in a word, existentially. He spends a lot of time listening to others of all walks of life.

At home and abroad, Francis does this most often in private settings without the prying eyes – or foreknowledge – of the media.

Some of these personal encounters and the topic of their discussions are occasionally made known, usually by the people who meet the pope. But others remain hidden or are merely the subject of speculation.

Francis made seven pastoral journeys in 2019 and he recalled each of them as a sort of springboard to highlight his concerns for the current state of the world, which he spells out at the beginning of each calendar year in a major address to ambassadors accredited to the Holy See.

BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH THIS SUNDAY

Welcome to:
Holliday Mae O'Brien
Jane Lee



Please hold these children and their families in your prayers.