Diocese of Broken Bay

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Vincent Trung Nguyen <u>Vincent.Nguyen@bbcatholic.org.au</u>



The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford

Gaudete Sunday

Our Lady Help of Christians' 31 Oxford Street, Epping

St Gerard Majella's 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

Phone 02 9876 2853

Website bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford

Email parish@eppcarl.org.au

Single Donation

Click here for:

Weekend Mass Times Weekday Mass Times Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Christmas Mass Times



eadinas

11 DECEMBER 2022 Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

18 DECEMBER 2022 Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24



YEAR A

11 DECEMBER 2022 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18 DECEMBER 2022 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Mass Times

OLHC Epping

- Christmas Eve 5pm Family Mass
- Midnight Mass 12am (carols at 11:30pm)
- Christmas Day 8:30am & 10:15am

St Gerard's Carlingford

- Christmas Eve 6pm Family Mass & Christmas Vigil Mass - 9pm (carols at 8:30pm)
- Christmas Day 7:45am & 9:30am

There are no evening Masses on Christmas Day

Christmas volunteers: There is much preparation and practice already underway to make our Christmas Masses joyful, engaging and worshipful. There are a few additional roles at each Christmas Mass for which we need volunteers. If you can assist, please put your name on the list at the back of the church:

- **Communion Ministers:** With large numbers at Mass we will need up to 4 additional ministers for each Mass. Please assist if you are already or have been a designated Communion Minister
- **Welcomers:** St Gerard's needs several welcomers at each Mass so that we can greet the many people who only occasionally come to Mass with joy. OLHC has these already rostered.
- **Collection Wardens:** We will be taking up a cash collection during Mass, so several money collectors will be needed.
- Chair Wardens: We expect to need extra chairs at the 5pm OLHC vigil.

Christmas collections: We have not taken up cash collections at Mass since 2020, however, Christmas is a time when there are so many visitors we would like to give them the opportunity to contribute to the parish by doing a single collection at the preparation of the gifts time at each of our Christmas vigil and Christmas Day masses. The proceeds of this collection will be divided 50/50 between the Pastoral Revenue (1st collection) which supports the priests of the diocese and the Parish Account (2nd collection) which runs all of the ministries of the parish.

Christmas Invitations: Invite your neighbours to Christmas Mass with us. We're printing 10,000 Christmas postcards and **we need your help to deliver them to letter boxes** in your street. Pick up a bunch for delivery (it's great exercise!) from the back of the church and cross off the street you're delivering to so we don't do the same street twice.



RECONCILIATION TIMES DURING ADVENT

Many people use the season of Advent as an opportunity to do an end-of-year confession. Here are the times for the sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent:

- Mondays OLHC 6pm 7pm
- Saturdays OLHC 9.45am 10.15am
- Thursdays St Gerard's 10am 10.30am
- Saturdays St Gerard's 5.15pm 5.45pm
- Additionally:
- Wednesday 14th Dec 6.30pm OLHC (both priests)
- Thursday 15th Dec 7.30pm St Gerard's (both priests)
- Saturday 24th Dec 9.45am OLHC (both priests)

Thank you

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) farewells *Laxmi Thiruchinnapalli* and *Mark Smith* from its membership this year. We thank them for their contribution to the discernment of the parish's vision and mission. We also thank *Paddy Watts* for chairing the council and *Natasha Boswell* for being secretary this year. The new youth-led Mass, the 50th anniversary celebrations and the Faith at Home cards have been projects of the PPC this year. We now have the opportunity to invite two new members to join the PPC for 2023-24. We'd particularly like to have people who worship at OLHC Epping as a large part of the work of the PPC next year will be discerning what groups and ministries to run in the new Parish Centre which will be built at OLHC in 2024. Please contact Fr Jim if you are interested.

The Parish Finance Committee (PFC) farewells *Pat McArdle* and *Ram Sharma* from its membership this year. We thank them for their assistance with the financial and material governance of the parish. We also thank *Mario Rodrigues* who is stepping down as chair of the committee this year. We are now seeking two members to join the PFC for 2023-2025. The PFC provides advice to Fr Jim on a range of governance, finance, property and management issues and so we seek people who have expertise in any of these areas. A major project for the coming year will be preparing for the governance and management of the new Parish Centre and site at OLHC. Please contact Fr Jim if you are interested.

Thank you to *Therese Stanton* who for many years coordinated the 10.15am Children's Masses at OLHC. With her children now in high school she and Mark will shift their focus to building up youth involvement in at the 6pm Sunday night Mass at OLHC. This year's 5pm Christmas Eve Mass will be her last Children's Mass. We thank her for *her dedication* to children's ministry.



Thank you to the many people who have donated *so generously* in recent weeks to the diocesan Pastoral Works Fund appeal which supports catechists and hospital chaplains, to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, including Christmas hampers, and to the Angel trees providing gifts for children at Parramatta Womens Shelter and the children of women in prison.

LOOKING TO BUILD A TEAM FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AT OLHC

At OLHC we are constrained by the lack of a meeting space to have Children's Liturgy. This will be overcome in 2024 when the new parish centre is built, but until then, we still want to find ways to engage our primary school aged children at Mass, particularly at the 10.15am Mass. To do this we will **build a new children's ministry team in 2023**. We are looking for 4 volunteers (or pairs, or families) to take the lead one Sunday a month each so that we provide avenues for engagement every week. The children can be engaged in learning songs and actions to lead the congregation, in leading prayers of the faithful and the penitential rite, in entrance, gospel and offertory processions, in coming close to the altar during Mass, and other possible activities during special seasons or Feast Days. While OLHC School will still occasionally lead a year group Mass, most of our parish children are in our many state schools, and we want to engage all children, *no matter what school they attend*. Could you be part of this team? Contact **Fr Jim on 9876 2853** or **Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au**. Fr Jim and Children's Ministry Coordinator Lynn Siau will work with you in the new year to engage our children *as best as we can*.



Understand Your Catholic Faith with *The Catechism in a Year* Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

Starting January 1, 2023



By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

Get the FREE Reading Plan! Scan this QR code with your phone to learn more and get your free reading plan! www.ascensionpress.com/ciy



Our parish is excited to invite our parishioners and friends to join us in listening to **"The Catechism in a Year"** podcast, *starting January 1st*! This 365 day podcast will explain all the teachings of the Catholic Church, in a prayerful, engaging, and approachable way with Fr. Mike Schmitz.

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You can listen while driving to work, going on your daily walk, drinking your morning coffee, or however you like! Find it on any podcast app, on YouTube, use this link: <u>www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ciy-registration-parish</u> or via the QR code above from the hard copy.

You can also join others on this journey with us via our parish Facebook group using this link here: **www.facebook.com/groups/1148887152176778/** or find us using this QR code on the right if you have the hard copy of the bulletin.





We have a limited supply of World Youth Day Cookbooks. Click on **this link here** to buy online.



Parish Team

Parish Secretary Dennis Porteous Ph: 9876 2853 Email: <u>Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

Parish Facilities & Operations Coordinator Richard Houwing Ph: 9876 2853 Email: <u>Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

Admin. Assistant Michael Davies Ph: 9876 2853 Email: Michael.Davies@bbcatholic.org.au

Coordinator of Sacramental Programmes, Children's Ministries & Communications Lynn Siau Ph: 9876 2853 Email: Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

Youth Ministry Coordinator Joanna Mak Ph: 0404 710 588 Email: Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au

New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator - OLHC Serena Kozanic Ph: 0414 753 799 Email: <u>Serena.Kozanic@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator - St Gerard's Belinda Shi Ph: 0414 753 362 Email: <u>Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

> Bookkeeper: Karen Price Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Karen.Price@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council:

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

After Hours Sick Calls - 9876 2853

Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Jim and Fr Vincent. In the event that they are unavailable, please listen carefully to the instructions in the message recorded for you or ring the number given in the message.

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.



There are also some lovely items in our Piety Shop at St Gerard's that you could purchase as Christmas gifts. The shop is run by Vinnies volunteers and someone is usually available to help you after weekday morning Mass or weekend Mass.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



It's not too late to sign up!

Preparations for 2022 Christmas Eve Kidz Masses at both churches: All children are invited to take part in the Christmas Eve Masses (5pm at OLHC and 6pm at St Gerard's on Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve). We would love your children to participate in one of the many roles available:

- Reading the Welcome at the start
- Leading the Penitential Rite
- Various roles for the Gospel Mime of the Nativity we love seeing them dress up!
- Leading the Prayers
- Preparation of the Gifts and Gospel processions

We also need parent helpers to assist at the practices and during the Mass - otherwise imagine little shepherds and angels running in all directions without your guidance! Parent helpers and children participating in the Mass will be required to attend the following practices:

OLHC Epping - Saturday, 17th December

- 10:30am 11am Parent run-through and Gospel mime dress rehearsal
- 11am 11:30am Prayers, Gospel and Gifts procession

St Gerard's Carlingford - Saturday, 17th December

- 10:00am 11am Gospel mime learning
- <u>Friday, 23rd December</u> 10:30am 11am Readers, Gospel and Gifts processions



Definitely a cake celebration after!

It's great fun and we always look forward to catching up with you at this time! Please email ASAP and note contact details for each church:

- Therese Stanton for OLHC Epping olhcchildrensmass@gmail.com
- Lynn Siau for St Gerard's Carlingford Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au



See you in 2023!

A gentle reminder that our Playgroup for Term 4 2022 has concluded. We have had a lovely term making new friends and learning through play. Please continue to help us spread the word and take a postcard from the back of the church to invite someone along. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2023 on the 3rd February! Contact **Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au** or at 0414 753 362 for queries.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Information for our Sacramental Programme 2023 will be available shortly. First Reconciliation will kick off with enrolment commencing after Australia Day. Families whose children just celebrated Confirmation will automatically be informed via email when the time comes. You can also join our Kidz Facebook group to keep up to date using this link: <u>www.facebook.com/groups/255948268913440/</u>

Lynn Siau

Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Sacaramental Programme & Communications
<u>Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

COMMUNICATIONS



Article submission deadline: If you would like to submit an article from your ministry for inclusion in the next edition of our parish bulletin, please send it to Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au before 10am on Wednesday 21st December 2022. Kindly understand I am unable to accommodate late submissions. Please send in a Word document. Photos or graphics are acceptable in PNG or JPEG format. Please note that PDFs will have to be reformatted and the clarity of your notice will be compromised. Do remember to provide an email address, a contact name and number in your article. Thank you.

Communications for School Notices for the year has concluded at both our parish schools. Please watch this space when term begins in 2023 for deadlines to submit your article.

eBulletin: If you know someone who would like to receive the electronic version of the bulletin, please forward this link for them to fill in the form on our website: <u>bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter</u>

Social Media: You can also connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and via our website. Please see the following Youth page to access these by tapping or clicking on the icons.

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Are you looking for something meaningful to do these school holidays? Something life changing, with live music, incredible worship, inspiring talks, prayer in a serene location in Sydney! The theme of Summer School of Evangelisation, hosted by **The Disciples of Jesus is 'Alive Again'**.

Date: 8-15th Jan 2023 for people between 16-35 years old.

Any person going with our parish will be subsidised *half the cost* to attend this amazing conference!

More information on the website https://summerschool.org.au/

- \$549 for high school, uni student or concession (only pay \$275 to attend)
- \$649 for adults (only pay \$325)



Youth Minister: Joanna - 0404 710 588, joanna.makebbcatholic.org.au Parent Support: Louise - 0404 496 554 | Kirk - 0420 874 824

SAVE THE DATE: *ANTIOCH RETREAT* 11-12th Feb, 2023. Celebrating 40 years in our parish! You can register now! <u>www.trybooking.com/events/landing/994367</u> or if you have a hard copy of our bulletin, scan the QR code above.



Cana (Year 6-9) - 9th Dec: Cana Christmas party! Bring a \$5 secret santa present. Pizza will be provided! 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford entrance via North Rocks Rd.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Antioch Christmas party - 11th December! Join us for pizza and secret santa 6-8pm St Gerard's Parish Hall!

Contact parent support if you have any questions: Kirk Koelmeyer (0420874824) or Louise Koelmeyer (0404496554).

AntiochWorldYouthDayfundraising-bakesale and sellingChristmas cards.After all Masses onthe10th and 11th Dec,Antioch willbehavingabakesale and sellingChristmas cards!All funds raised will



support our pilgrims attending Lisbon World Youth Day. If you can help, please bring a plate of baked goods to sell. Thank you for your ongoing support!!



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds) - Our young adults group finished up for the year!



Christmas dinner: 17th Dec, Saturday from 6pm Chatswood, and then visit to St Mary's Cathedral for the Christmas lights after.

We also have Facebook groups for Antioch and Emmaus.

If you would like to join or would like more information on any of our 3 youth groups, please contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au









St Vincent de Paul Society good works The cost of living crisis is hurting many families

How to donate :

- Envelopes are available on the seats and at the entrance to the Church.
- You are invited to make your donation with the assistance of one of the members of SVDP at the entrance to the Church after Mass. They will also be able to accept your credit card donations utilising an EFTPOS Terminal. A receipt can be provided to you straight away.
- Alternatively donations can be made by completing the 'Vinnies Envelope' and placing it in the 'Second Collection Box'. We will mail
 the receipt to you.

Please also note that at St Gerard Majella Carlingford you may make your donation at the Piety Store. Thank you for your generosity.

your support will provide the relief they need to survive.

NEWS FROM THE FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Our Parishioner, Regina Soeryanto shares.....

We had a lovely time at the Alpha reunion in October 2022, where approximately 27 people attended. However the time was too short then and we didn't manage to catch up and share stories with as many people as we would have liked. Hence our Alpha 2021 Group 1 decided to have another catch up and we turned it into a Christmas dinner fun gathering!

When we gathered in person for Alpha 2021, we didn't manage to have the last session of Alpha due to the lockdown. However we had been keeping in touch with one another using Whatsapp via our mobile phones. We were planning to catch up since the restrictions ended but it was difficult to coordinate a time. Well, it has finally happened!

We had lots of laughter at our table as you can see in some of the photos shared here. Everyone had fun sharing their stories of what had been happening in the last year since we last saw one another. Some of the people had even moved to Granville but they made an effort to come and join us for the gathering, which we are truly grateful for. We hope that we can gather again next year and perhaps try to make this an annual event.

I really appreciate the programs such as Alpha, Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, The Wild Goose and the Lenten Group as these programs gave me the opportunity to create friendship groups within our church community. I have been living in North Epping since 2011 but had only gone to church weekly without making any connection with anyone. It was only in 2018 that I started to join some of the activities such the Lenten Group and then Alpha, etc. Although I didn't manage to complete some and had to do it a couple of times, these programs introduced me to so many beautiful people in the community and we became firm friends.



I encourage anyone who has not tried any of these programs to sign up and have a see! You can explore your faith and make great friends at the same time. Wishing you a wonderful Christmas ahead and hope to see you in one of the programs that we are planning for next year. **~Regina Soeryanto**







OTHER PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Celebrations this Week

Advent Week 3

12 Dec Monday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

13 Dec Tuesday: St Lucy

14 Dec Wednesday: St John of the Cross

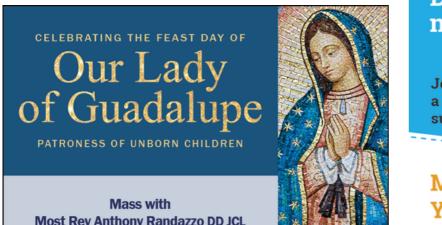
Advent Week 4

21 Dec Wednesday: St Peter Canisius (commemoration) 23 Dec Friday: St John of Kanty (commemoration)



Recycling: Arnies Recon will be collecting at North Epping Bowling Club on Monday 12th December from 7am - 9am, collecting various electronic goods.

Fri Dec 16th 9.30am Mass will be a whole school Mass for St Gerard's School.



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL Bishop of Broken Bay

7:00pm Monday 12 December 2022 **Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church** 94 Archer Street Chatswood

With a special blessing for expectant mothers and those wishing to conceive a child.



50++ Social Group. TRIP TO MANLY. We had a great trip to Manly. Small in number but big on fun. Perfect weather. Lunch at 'Fins & Ribs' plus an ice cream before heading home. We even missed the storm. Next outing will be in February 2023. Watch this space. CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL.

Enquiries: Carole Wilson 9869 1036.



Christmas Carols in Boronia Park: It's that time again, it's Carols In the Park time! On Sunday 11th December, Boronia Park in Epping, come along from 5pm to save your seat and Carols will start at 7pm.

Does your child have health needs or a disability?

Join MyTime a weekly parent support group.

Make time for YOU at MyTime.

Find support from people who understand at MyTime. Spend time with others who 'get it'. Learn about services and support available to you and get trusted and reliable information.

Take time for you, and relax while your child is engaged in play with a play helper.

And best of all, it's free!

www.allowah.org.au

Tuesdays 10.30am - 12.00pm during School Terms

at Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital or via Zoom.

8 Perry St. Dundas Valley NSW 2117



Contact details: 02 8877 3400 ask for Tarvn or email Taryn.Clausing@allowah.org.au

Parenting Research Centre

Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital run a support group for parents of children with a disability, developmental delay or chronic medical condition. The group is called MyTime. MyTime is a FREE peer to peer support group welcoming members from different backgrounds and whose children have different abilities and needs. They extend a warm invitation to parents and carers of children with additional needs to attend MyTime at Allowah in Dundas Valley. Contact Taryn to enquire about joining the group. Phone (02) 8877 3400 or email taryn.clausing@allowah.org.au There is also more information on the website www.allowah.org.au/mytime/



St Gerards is playing host to a number of local churches for the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 3, 2023.

The service will focus on Taiwan. Christianity here is a minority religion. Roughly 7% of the population are Christians, yet they have put together a prayer service of gratitude and praise that is very beautiful. Come along, if you've not been before, we think you will enjoy this morning service.

More helpers will be needed. Please contact Lorraine 98724005 or at robaine2@bigpond.com if you think you will be able to help.

Responsorial Psalm Response 3rd Sunday of Advent - 11 Dec 2022 Ps 145:6-10

Gospel Acclamation 3rd Sunday of Advent - 11 Dec 2022 Alleluia, Alleluia!

Lord, come and save us.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

WEEKEND MASSES							
Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am (Family/Children) and 6:00pm						
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am (Family/Children) and 5:00pm (Youth)						
	WEEKDAY MASSES						
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	No Mass	*	6:00pm	*	*	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	
EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Monday 6-7pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am,							
Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am							
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Monday 6-7pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am,							
Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am and Saturday 5:15-5:45pm, OR BY APPOINTMENT at either church							
BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: BY APPOINTMENT							
POSTAL ADDRESS FOR THE PARISH OFFICE: PO Box 369, Epping NSW 1710							
ST GERARD MAJELLA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH: 9871 1633 Email: sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au							
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS' PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH: 9868 3322 Email: olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au							

Healing Mass: 1st Tuesday of the month at St Gerard's Meeting Room, Carlingford

*OLHC 12:15pm Mass on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays are temporarily on hold until further notice.



For those who are sick and suffering:

- Nancy Walker (family of Eileen Nicoll)
- Martin McGuire (family of Eileen Nicoll)
- Patrick Thornton (family of Pat & Margaret Mcardle) Richard McCarthy
- Cohen Hadden (family of Pat & Margaret Mcardle)
 Beryl Heslin
- Graham Yeates
- Dennis Porteous (our Parish Secretary)
- Eric Yeung (brother of Goretti Yeung)
- Zachary & Mackenzie
- Sandro Oselli (family of Anne Campbell)

- Stephen Lo
- Edward Ngu (Li May's dad)

- Owen Harrison
- Margaret Floyd
- Graham Kelly
- Ivan Castaneda Charvez
- Sr Pauline Wicks



- Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of Everlasting life. Grant that life to:
- Recently deceased Antonio Pedavoli (family friend of Elizabeth Morgan), Fr Peter Maher, Carol Lim (cousin of Lynn Siau), Marjorie Molloy
 - Please also pray for Calvin Wijeweera whose funeral will be held at St Gerard's Church on Wednesday 14th Dec, at 12 noon - viewing from 11am
- **Anniversaries -** Neville Wilkin, Gerard Lazarus, Mary Lazarus, Acacio Andrade, Ilma Barros

Responsorial Psalm Response 4th Sunday of Advent - 18 Dec 2022 Ps 23:1-6

Gospel Acclamation 4th Sunday of Advent - 18 Dec 2022 Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.