

Diocese of Broken Bay

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueza
Aldrin.Valdehueza@bbcatholic.org.au

Our Lady Help of Christians'

31 Oxford Street, Epping

St Gerard Majella's

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

Phone

02 9876 2853

Website

eppcarl.org.au

Email

parish@eppcarl.org.au

Single Donation

Click here for:

[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)

Readings

21 MAY 2023

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Matthew 28:16-20

28 MAY 2023

Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23



The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford

*the hope of
God's call*

21 MAY 2023 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

28 MAY 2023 PENTECOST

YEAR A

Volunteering: Our parish is a volunteer organisation. While we have two clergy and a few employed staff, most of the work of the parish is done by the hundreds of volunteers, who collectively live out the mission of the Church. At Ascension we hear Jesus give "The Great Commission" to his disciples to "Go make disciples of all nations" and at Pentecost we hear of the coming of the Spirit who enabled them to follow Jesus' commission. On Pentecost Sunday we, who are the heirs of those first disciples will be invited to volunteer for a ministry which contributes to the parish's mission. Service is one of the five pillars of our parish, with the hope that each person will serve in one ministry which makes use of their charisms and abilities. Please prayerfully consider the following ministries:

- Welcome & greet people at Mass
- Serve morning tea or supper after Mass
- Proclaim the Word of God at Mass
- Sing or play music at Mass
- Serve on the altar at Mass
- Help with Friday morning Playgroup
- Help with office administration
- Assist with money counting
- Lead or help with children's liturgy at Mass
- Help with small repairs and maintenance jobs
- Run the computer and projector for the hymns and prayers at Mass
- Take communion to the sick or elderly at home or in a nursing home
- Teach a weekly half hour Catholic religion lesson to a class in a state school
- Visit & provide practical assistance to people in financial difficulty
- Put the finishing touches to the flowers, candles & altar cloths
- Assist with photography or video editing for special occasions



Office volunteers: We're looking for some volunteers to assist in the parish office **12pm - 3pm** during the week of **Monday May 29th**. Contact Richard Houwing in the office on 9876 2853. Fr Jim is also looking for someone who could assist more regularly on a Monday morning or afternoon. Please contact him at Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au

Giving: Thank you to the many people who contributed to the **Pastoral Works Fund** collection last weekend. You are supporting the resourcing of our catechists in state schools and our chaplains in public hospitals. A tax deductible gift of \$50 per person would meet our \$40k levy from the diocese. If you have brought back an envelope this week you can place it in either the red or blue collection boxes. There are envelopes available on the benches at the back of the church, or you can give here: bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks



PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS



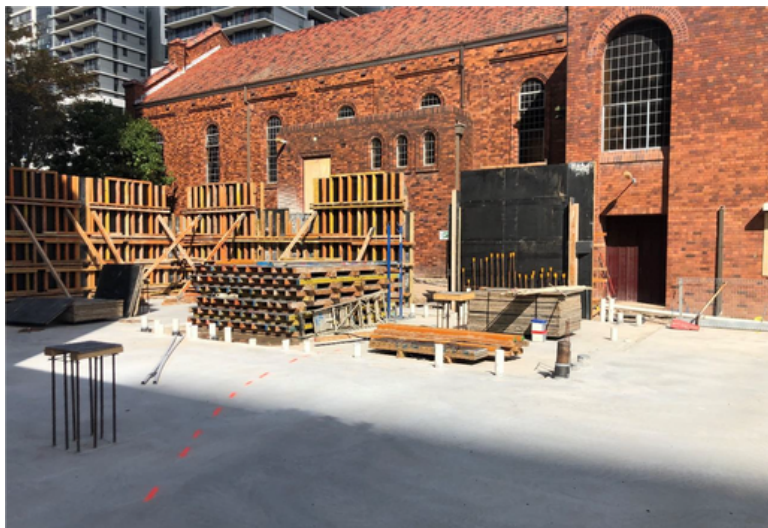
Pentecost is our great feast of the Holy Spirit. We have two additional celebrations we'd like to invite you to:

A Vigil of Worship: Join us in singing praise to God and seeking the Holy Spirit to move in our lives. **Saturday May 27th, 7pm – 9pm in St Gerard's Hall.** Dinner at 7pm or 7.30pm for praise. Please put your name in the list at the back of the church for catering.

Our Ecumenical Liturgy: As usual we will join with our local Christian churches for a Liturgy of the Word which **we are hosting at OLHC Church on Tues May 30th 7.45pm** with supper afterward. This will be a particularly important liturgy as we will seek to ratify an update to the ecumenical covenant to better reflect our parish mission into the future.

As OLHC is hosting the Pentecost Ecumenical liturgy and supper, we would appreciate very much if you would please bring a plate of food to share in fellowship with our local Christian churches? If you would like to assist with supper please contact Felicity at fmkm100@gmail.com

OLHC UPDATE



Bulk excavation and installation of foundation piles will continue to progress over May. The target date for erection of the crane is 30 May. This photo above shows the slab for the lower ground level of the parish centre.



Join us in the celebration of :

Flores de Mayo

on the

Feast Day of Our Lady Help of Christians

When: 24th of May 2023 at 4:30pm

Where: Our Lady Help of Christians Church
29 Oxford St. Epping NSW 2121

Rosary at 4:30pm

Holy Mass at 5:00pm

Light refreshments after Mass

Bring flowers to offer to Our Lady Help of Christians

Coming up on the 3rd/4th June

Hello Nametag Sunday!

at OLHC every 1st Sunday
of the month, all Masses



Nametag Sunday at OLHC kicked off in May. There was such a hive of activity as people gathered, talking about this nametag idea whilst writing their names on the nametags. Anne with an "E" introduced herself to Ann without an "E". Just as God knows us by name, we want to know each other by name. There was such a buzz at supper and morning tea as people made time to enjoy fellowship together. Thank you OLHC community for

supporting Nametag Sunday. On the **3rd/4th June weekend**, please bring your nametag with you or there will be nametags/markers available for you to write your name down before entering the church. It is said that our brain has the capacity to remember "500" names; let's hope that it remembers the 500 faces to match the names!



GROW in Faith



WHERE ARE
ALL GOOD
MEN?



Where are all good men? This was the question asked twenty years ago by a parishioner in Brisbane who noticed that there were so many more women than men in his parish. This led to the creation of the Men Alive weekend retreat to help good men become the best man, husband and father he can be.

We've already got men with ages from 25 – 75 registered, single and married, and we'd love you to join them.

We're hosting this retreat **at St Gerard's on the weekend of June 17 – 18**, all day Saturday and half day Sunday, though we use the term 'retreat' loosely as it includes banter, BBQ and beer!

To book: <https://www.trybooking.com/CGZYX> or use QR code above. You can also contact Fr Jim, Fr Aldrin, Thomas Ernest on 0412 235 or Richard Sorabji on 0411 772 948.



Ordination: Bishop Anthony has called Richard Houwing to Ordination as a deacon. Many of you will know Richard (who worships at St Agatha's with his wife Teresa) as our Parish Operations Manager and from his time on pastoral placement with us in 2021. Richard's ordination will be at **Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Waitara** on **Tuesday June 6th 7:30pm.**

You are invited to come and witness Richard's ordination, to pray for him and to celebrate with him. Congratulations Richard!

Parish Team

Parish Secretary

Dennis Porteous Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Facilities & Operations Coordinator

Richard Houwing Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au

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: Serena.Kozanic@bbcatholic.org.au

New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator - St Gerard's

Belinda Shi Ph: 0414 753 362

Email: Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au



*Happy Anniversary to
Declan and Joan Sally
who celebrate their
25th anniversary of
marriage this week.*

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



FIRST EUCHARIST 2023

With the Rite of Enrolment taking place last weekend, preparation sessions for First Eucharist commenced this week. Candidates are required to attend a session once a week with their parent over 4 weeks for preparation of this sacrament. These sessions are on:

1. Bread of Life
2. This is My Body
3. God's Word & The Eucharist – The Holy Mass
4. How to Receive Holy Communion

Please support us and the families as we journey through this by remembering us all in your prayers!

Any enquiries on our parish sacramental programme, please contact Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au for more information, or call the Parish Office on 9876 2853.



CATHOLIC PARISH OF EPPING & CARLINGFORD

2023 Confirmation
For children in Year 3 & above
who are baptised

**Enrolment commences
end of June**
Invitation to enquire now



Eucharistic Procession held
on Divine Mercy Sunday

The First Holy Communicants will have an opportunity to participate in a Eucharistic Procession following the celebration of their First Eucharist on the Feast of Corpus Christi. They will process after Mass following the Blessed Sacrament, led by the Priest.

This is organised by our parish Devotions Team. We are blessed to have the team enrich the lives of our young parishioners, some of whom have never participated in a Eucharistic Procession with the Exposition of Our Blessed Lord. It is a wonderful opportunity gifted to them on their special day.

A morning tea the size of a banquet will be prepared by our Year 3 parish school parents to celebrate this special occasion in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend!

*Lynn Siau - Coordinator of Children's Ministries,
Sacramental Programme & Communications*

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 31st May 2023**. 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.

Other ways to connect:



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



GRACE RADIO

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: bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Cana (Year 6-9) is on every Friday during the school term. Next meetings are on the **26th May & 2nd June**. We are having a Pentecost celebration with pizza, marshmallows and bonfire on the 26th May!



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Antioch is on the **21st** and **28th May**.

21st May: Environmental Forum, open to 12 years old+, come and learn ways to help build a safe and clean environment.

28th May: Fr Sam French is coming to speak about his testimony and about the Vocations Centre in Broken Bay.

Contact the parent support if you have any questions: Kirk Koelmeyer (0420 874 824) or Louise Koelmeyer (0404 496 554).



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds) - Our young adults group will next meet on the **30th May, 7-8:30pm**.

Youth environmental forum Ages 12+

**Date: 21st May, Sun
6:30-8pm St Gerard's Meeting Room
after the 5pm Youth Mass + BBQ**

Come along to discuss and hear practical ways we can help our environment and community.

Charisms of the Holy Spirit



At the charisms of the Holy Spirit course, we learnt that the word charism comes from the Greek word 'charisma' which means gift. The charisms are gifts given to every baptized Christian to be used for others. They are supernatural graces from God and when we use them, we feel energized and are fruitful and enable us to go beyond our natural human abilities.

The Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory covers 24 of the most common charisms. They are administration, celibacy, craftsmanship, discernment of spirits, encouragement, evangelisation, faith, giving, healing, helper, hospitality, intercessory prayer, leadership, mercy, missionary, music, pastoring, prophecy, service, teaching, voluntary poverty, knowledge, wisdom and writing.

You can learn more about the charisms from Fr Jim's homily on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ro1cR2K3ZsA>

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 email her at Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au

Welcome to Fr Sam French, director of vocations for our diocese who will be celebrating 5pm Mass with us on Sunday May 28th and then joining us for Antioch afterwards.

Parish Trivia Night

SATURDAY JULY 8

THEME: GENERATIONS
7- 10 pm @ St. Gerards Hall

\$20 pp
REGISTER UP TO 10 PEOPLE FOR YOUR DREAM TEAM

BYO FOOD & DRINK
FOOD WILL ALSO BE SOLD!!

LOTS OF PRIZES TO BE WON!!
If you have any donations eg. chocolates, gift hampers, gift cards, could you please drop them off in the boxes located at the back of the church.

To RSVP please email joanna.mak@bbcatholic.org.au or write down your details on the sign up sheets at the back of the Church

ANSWER
THE
CALL
TO
MISSION!

becoming a catechist

Pope Francis said:
"Being a Catechist
is a vocation"
Is It Your Vocation?
Join us and find out.

The ministry of Catechist in the Church is an ancient one. The history of evangelisation over the past two millennia clearly shows the effectiveness of the mission of catechists.

"Worthy of praise too is that army of catechists, both men and women, to whom missionary work among the nations is so indebted, who imbued with an apostolic spirit make an outstanding and absolutely necessary contribution to the spread of the faith and the Church by their great work. In our days, when there are so few clerics to evangelise such great multitudes and to carry out the pastoral ministry, the role of catechists is of the highest importance".

~Extract from Apostolic Letter by the Supreme Pontiff Francis:
Instituting the Ministry of Catechist, Rome, St John Lateran, 10th May 2021



If you are interested to become a catechist or to obtain more information regarding this ministry, please contact:

- Katherine Tam for Primary Schools at katherine@eppcarl.org.au
- Trish O'Donnell for Secondary Schools at trish@eppcarl.org.au
- or call the Parish Office during office hours at 9876 2853.



A cuppa to catch up and share war stories during term break.



OUR PARISH SUPPORTING REFUGEES

An abundance of special items was generously donated this past Mothers Day by the members of our parish.; thank you! These have been delivered to the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Parramatta, and will delight those Mums who have little capacity to purchase such things for themselves. A special thank-you also to both our parish schools who participated in this appeal.

Thank you!

Thinking of other ways you can help? JRS Parramatta needs:

1. A volunteer to look after Reception on Tuesdays.

2. A Child Care Orientation Visit Volunteer (casual) who will:

- Accompanying parents on child care induction visits.
- Coordinate with the Casework team the visit date, time, meeting point and briefing points.
- Assist with completing the paperwork when/if needed.
- Make the clients feel safe and supported.
- Help in the small garden on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday.



If interested in any of the above, please phone JRS 9098 9336 and ask for May Hadaya, Volunteer Program Manager. Alternatively email John Whealy johnwwhealy@gmail.com

~Parish Social Justice Team

OTHER NEWS & NOTICES

Surita Mathew please contact Fr Jim with your contact details.

50++ GROUP OUTING. After time out for Easter and school holidays, it is time to plan our next outing. **ADVANCE NOTICE.** We will go to Cockatoo Island on Thursday 15th June. Rivercat from Rydalmere 9.58 AM. We will be back at Rydalmere by 4.15 PM. All are welcome. Enquiries Carole Wilson 9869 1036.



Celebrations this Week

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

- 22 May Monday: *St Rita of Cascia*
- 24 May Wednesday: OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS
- 25 May Thursday: *St Gregory VII, St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, St Bede*
- 26 May Friday: St Philip Neri
- 27 May Saturday: *St Augustine of Canterbury*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sundays and Solemnities are in CAPITALS.
- Feasts are **bold**.
- Memorials are in ordinary type.
- Optional Memorials are in *italics*.

PENTECOST

- 29 May Monday: Mary, Mother of the Church
- 31 May Wednesday: **The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 1 June Thursday: St Justin
- 2 June Friday: *Sts Marcellinus and Peter*
- 3 June Saturday: St Charles Lwanga

Fr Ron Rolheiser: In past years the parish bulletin include a weekly reflection from Fr Ron Rolheiser. While our bulletin now focuses on local stories and content which can't be found elsewhere, for those who liked Fr Ron's reflections you can visit his website <https://ronrolheiser.com/archive/>

The Disciples of Jesus Community presents Revival Fire, a series of talks that take you on an epic journey to understand and learn more about the Charismatic Renewal and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Join us Sunday afternoons from **3-5pm, from 4th June to 27th August 2023 (13 weeks) at Christ the King Parish Hall, 10 Statham Ave, North Rocks.**

Contact Matthew Leslie on 0409 295 962 or matthew.leslie@DOJCCInternational.org for more information. Please note 18th June and 20th August will be a Charismatic Healing Mass, held at St Andrew, Marayong Catholic Church.

Fr Jim has been notified that Finian Egan, former parish priest at St Gerard's died last month.

This Parish community is committed to the healing process, to the highest standards of Child Safeguarding and to reconciling our past with our hopes for the future. To find out more see www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/safeguarding. For support services see <https://fullstop.org.au/> or call 1800 385 578 or contact Fr Jim.



Event Manager: We are looking for a volunteer leader for the Carols in Boronia Park in December. This significant Christian outreach to our community is the largest gathering of the community of Carlingford & Epping every year. There is a great team in place from our combined local churches, significant support and an easy to follow manual – so this is not throwing someone into the deep end!! Please contact Fr Jim if you think you could help with this. Ph 9876 2853 or email Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au



SERRA VOCATIONS MASS AND DINNER MEETING: Fr Robert Borg, Parish Priest of The Lakes Catholic Parish, will be celebrating Mass for Serra at **Sacred Heart Church Pymble on Thursday 25th May 2023.** The evening commences with **Mass at 6pm** followed by a light meal and a short meeting.

Following the meeting Fr Robert will be our guest speaker. Everyone is welcome. Please "come and see".

Please remember to pray everyday for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, the consecrated life, ecclesial women, all seminarians and novices and for the perseverance of existing vocations. RSVP: Terry Scanlan on 0438 887 295 or email terry_scanlan@bigpond.com



Booking & Enquiries
For further information or to make an application, please contact the Australian Pilgrimage Co-Ordinator
Email
national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au
Telephone
02 8912 4818

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP



An Australian Pilgrimage led by a Sister of Saint Joseph & the inaugural Director of the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre Melbourne

17 October – 28 October 2023

For detailed information visit our website: www.marymackillopplace.org.au

Responsorial Psalm Response
The Ascension of the Lord - 21 May 2023
 Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

Gospel Acclamation
The Ascension of the Lord - 21 May 2023
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

**God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
 a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

**Go and teach all people my gospel.
 I am with you always, until the end of the world.**

WEEKEND MASSES

Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am (Family/Children), 10:15am and 6:00pm (Youth)
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	*	5:00pm	*	*	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	

EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am,
Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm 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
**Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Mass at OLHC on hold till further notice.*

Please pray for.....

For those who are sick and suffering:

- Cohen Hadden (family of Pat & Margaret McArdle)
- Graham Yeates
- Dennis Porteous (our Parish Secretary)
- Eric Yeung (brother of Goretti Yeung)
- Margaret Floyd
- Graham Kelly
- Veronica Kemp
- Ethan Seng Mestanza
- Maureen Carlon (Marie Saul's sister)
- Kevin Saul (Marie Saul's nephew)
- Yolanda Calderone
- Loreta Rosario
- Lorraine Warner
- Beryl and John Day
- Laura Doran
- Mary Chernov (sister of Trish Harrison)



We welcome Marie Saul back! Thank you everyone for your continued prayers for all our brothers and sisters who are on our prayer list. They are strengthened by our united prayers for them.

Lord, in Jesus your Son, you restored to us the gift of Everlasting life. Grant that life to:

Recently deceased - Cedric Fernandes (husband of Pat Fernandes), Jan Doherty, Iris Misquitta (Candy D'Sylva's mum), Chai Seng, Terezia (Teresa) Mrena (beloved grandmother to Christopher, Emma and Peter, mother/mother-in-law to Teri and Steve), Kit Smith (long-time parishioner, past organist of the adult choir), John Paul, Arnoldo Sebold, Patty Ellington

Anniversaries - Patrick Murphy (Rachel & Stephen's son), Eileen and William Shepherd, Patrick (Pat) Francis Hall (husband of Margaret Hall), Adrian Buterin, Wong Shui Chi, Frank Martelli (1st Anniversary)

For the repose of the souls - Percel Candilas, Angie's parents

Responsorial Psalm Response
Pentecost - 28 May 2023
 Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34

Gospel Acclamation
Pentecost - 28 May 2023
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Lord, send out your Spirit
 and renew the face of the earth.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
 and kindle in them the fire of your love.**