

Diocese of Broken Bay

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueva
Aldrin.Valdehueva@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

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The Catholic Parish
of Epping & Carlingford

22 JANUARY 2023 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

29 JANUARY 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

We welcome our new Assistant Priest, Fr Aldrin Valdehueva!

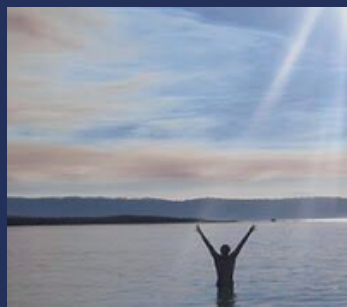
Fr Aldrin will already be known to many of you, having been in our parish for his pastoral placement a few years back. We are delighted to now have him back as priest. Fr Aldrin's formation for priesthood has been both in the Philippines, where he was born and where his parents live, and at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2021. Please make him welcome.



Please join us for our **Australia Day Mass at St Gerard's on Thursday 26th January at 9.30am**, a great way to celebrate our national day. Together we will sing our national anthem. Following Mass you are invited to join us for morning tea (there will be no Adoration). All are welcome. Hope to see you there!

Towards Ordination: Formation to become either a priest or deacon takes several years and covers a range of areas of a person's life. You may recall that in 2021 seminarian **Hien Vu** and deacon aspirant **Richard Houwing** spent the year with us as part of their formation programs. Each of them is now nearing completion of their formation and they are ready to take the next formal step towards ordination called Candidacy. Bishop Anthony Randazzo has discerned that Richard and Hien are eligible to take this step and so he will call them to Candidacy at the **5pm vigil Mass on Sat Feb 25th at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara**. You are invited to come to this Mass to pray for them and with them. We congratulate Richard and Hien on taking this important next step.

Parish Finance Committee: We welcome two new members to the PFC this year, **Maurice Felizzi** and **Vincent Valladares**, each of whom bring significant business, banking and finance experience. They join continuing members **Max Bosotti, Tricia Whealy, Garry Leary, Joan Sally and Richard Houwing** (ex officio) in providing advice and support to Fr Jim on the governance of the Parish. Fr Jim has appointed Garry Leary as chair for 2023. Please pray for their good work in guiding the stewardship of our parish resources.



Readings

22 JANUARY 2023

Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Matthew 4:12-17

29 JANUARY 2023

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Matthew 5:1-12

GOODBYE

Farewell to Laxmi & Maria Thiruchinnappalli and their children Anushika and Aviv who will be leaving our parish and moving to their new home in Quakers Hills. Laxmi and Maria have been very involved in the life of our parish, particularly at OLHC, with Laxmi serving on the Pastoral Council and as senior servers coordinator, and Maria as a catechist. Together they have contributed greatly to the prayer life of OLHC by leading the rosary and divine mercy. We pray God's blessing for them as they make their new home together.



Laxmi, Maria and their children

Farewell also to Nicholas and Linnet Basker and their daughter Benita who will be moving to Kellyville. In a short time they have also become involved in the parish, with Nicholas being a catechist and Benita joining the Antioch group. We pray God's blessing for them also.

We'll endeavour to farewell both of these families at Mass in the coming weeks.

Are you moving away from the parish? We hate to see you go, but do let us know so that we can acknowledge your time in our community and pray for your transition.



Nicholas, Linnet and their daughter

GROW IN FAITH

The Search is our new outreach series starting in February. It's a 7-part video series which explores the bigger questions of faith and life. It's a great way to invite someone you love to explore Catholic faith with you, or, to refresh your own faith journey.

Join us on:

- Mondays 7pm at OLHC from Feb 13th,
- Tuesdays 7pm at St Gerard's from Feb 14th, or
- Thursdays 1.30pm at St Gerard's from Feb 16th.



Watch the trailer at youtu.be/QOwZFL5Wpj8 and contact Jim.Mckeeon@bbcatholic.org.au to register your interest or put your name on the list at the back of the church. You can also do all that by simply visiting our parish website [here](#), which takes you directly to watch the trailer and submit your interest using the online form.



Lenten programs: While The Search is designed as an introduction to Catholic faith or as a refresher, we will also be offering Lenten small groups for people who are well established in their faith and who want to take time to reflect on the scriptures each week.

From the **weekend of Jan 29th** there will be sign up sheets for the various groups at the back of each church.



INVITATION

Thank you

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

*Our parish would not be the same without you.
We very much appreciate
all your love and support.
We would like to invite you to*

join us for Mass followed by supper



WHEN

Thursday 16 Feb
6pm

WHERE

St Gerard's
Carlingford

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

Parish Pastoral Council:

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

After Hours Sick Calls - 9876 2853

Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Jim and Fr Aldrin. 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.

We have new parishioners in the parish. **Welcome** Kamal and Zeema Bernard, and Hannah, their seven-year-old daughter! They have been praying for St Gerard Majella's intercession for another child. Zeema is now three months pregnant!

The roses at the sanctuary last weekend were donated and arranged by them in thanksgiving for this pregnancy. We congratulate them for this wonderful news and thank them for sharing their happiness and joy with us.

Volunteers Thank-You Dinner: We have postponed last year's volunteer thank-you dinner to Thurs Feb 16th, 6pm Mass at St Gerard's followed by a shared meal. If you volunteer in any group or ministry you're invited to come along. More details to come.

WELCOME KAMAL & ZEEMA



Kamal, Zeema and their daughter + one in the womb!

Please keep them in your prayers, especially for a safe and smooth pregnancy and delivery of Bub #2!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



FIRST RECONCILIATION 2023

First Reconciliation enrolment will commence on Friday, 27th January 2023. In our Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and who are in Year 4 or above are invited to enrol.

Enrolment information will be emailed to all who celebrated Confirmation in 2022 and to those who have previously enquired and are on the email list.

Our Sacramental Programme is advertised through the parish website, bulletins, announcements at Mass, both parish school newsletters, catechists and word-of-mouth. If you know of anyone who may wish to enrol their children, please feel free to spread the word for us and have them drop me a line (contact details below).

You can also join our Kidz Facebook group to keep up to date with all our Kidz ministries by tapping on the Facebook icon on the right or by using this link below to request access:
www.facebook.com/groups/255948268913440/



We also have a brochure regarding our parish Sacramental Programme now available at the back of both churches. This brochure contains the key dates for the preparation and celebration of children's sacraments in 2023. We hope this will help you plan ahead as we understand family life is busy!

Lynn Siau
Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Sacramental Programme & Communications
Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

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 engage our primary school aged children.

At the 8:30am Mass, 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*. Please contact Serena.Kozanic@bbcatholic.org.au for more details on how to participate.



Let's gather soon!

Playgroup will recommence on **Friday 3rd February 2023**. Please contact Belinda on: 0414 753 362 or email her at Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au if you would like to find out more.

Kidz Word - resumes 5th Feb!

Whilst Kidz Word is on a break during school holidays, please remember we have printed the **"LOOK" Kidz Bulletin and colouring sheets** for your children to help them continue to engage during Mass. Feel free to take!



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 1st February 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.



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



GRACE RADIO

YOUTH MINISTRIES

WYD fundraising - Gofundme:

If you would like to support Shaz or Joanna in their WYD pilgrimage, you can donate by clicking here: [Gofundme](#).



Cana (Year 6-9) - Cana is still on a break, we resume on the **3rd February, 7:30-9pm!**



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds) - Our young adults group resumes on the **24th Jan Tuesdays 7-8:30pm**.

Note the change: meet in the **parish hall** instead of the meeting room.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Antioch resumes on the **22nd January, 6-8pm** in the Antioch meeting room!

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

SAVE THE DATE: ANTIOCH RETREAT (16-23 years old) 11-12th Feb, 2023. Celebrating 40 years in our parish! You can register now online at trybooking using this link: ! www.trybooking.com/events/landing/994367 or scan QR code on the right if you have the hard copy of our bulletin:



Antioch games night: 29th January

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

ANTIOCH WEEKEND 2023

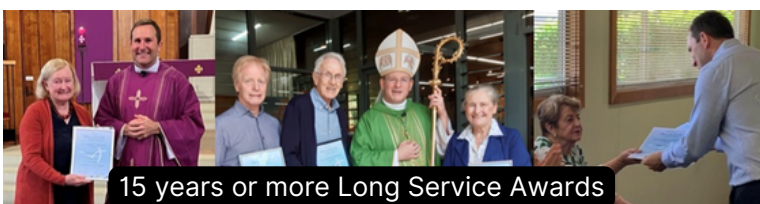
Belonging

Online registration page

Place: St Gerard's Church
Dates: 11th - 12th February
Age: Year 10 to 23 years old

Enjoy talks, discussions, music, friends, games and a lot of food!

CATECHIST CORNER



15 years or more Long Service Awards



Catechists renewing their commitment to their work



Thanksgiving lunch at the end of school year.

Is your child attending a Public School in 2023? All NSW public schools are required to allow authorised churches and religious groups to teach special religious education for half an hour per week. Our generous volunteer catechists teach at 6 primary schools (Epping Heights, Epping North, Epping Public, Epping West, Roselea and Murray Farm) and 3 secondary schools (Carlingford High, Cheltenham Girls' and James Ruse Agriculture). Catechists from other parishes teach in schools elsewhere.

However these Scripture classes are an opt-in system, so **be sure to notify your school office that your child is to attend Catholic SRE**. They won't be missing out on any school subject, as a separate time slot is provided for SRE when other lessons aren't taking place.

To find out more, please contact katherine@eppcarl.org.au for primary school or trish@eppcarl.org.au for secondary school.

We look forward to a new school year to see you in class!

A LITTLE HELP...



Accommodation Needed: The Epping Conference of St Vincent de Paul is endeavoring to assist a lady in her 60s to find accommodation in Epping. A 'Granny Flat' is preferred.

The maximum rent will be \$800-\$850 per month however. If you would like to discuss the matter confidentially then kindly please contact **Ted Green** on 0418540274.



Can you help?

We would really like to hear from anyone in our parish who comes **from Taiwan** and might like to help us prepare for World Day of Prayer (WDP).

The focus country for WDP this year is Taiwan. The service will be held at **St Gerards on March 3**. Or perhaps you might even know someone from Taiwan who would be interested to help.

Please contact Lorraine on phone 98724005 or email **robaine2@bigpond.com** I'd love to hear from you.

~Lorraine Lobsey

OTHER NEWS & NOTICES

Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast: This Sunday is **Word of God Sunday**. If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you!



"As cradle Catholics, we hear Scripture at Mass and occasionally in self study but never like this. *The Bible in a Year* brings it all together."

—Ignacio G.

Join over 1 million Catholics listening to this podcast!

Get the FREE Reading Plan!

Scan this QR code with your phone to learn more and get your free reading plan!
www.ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear



Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes.

Some statistics

- Over 250million downloads
- Topped all U.S. podcasts on iTunes in the first weeks of 2021 and 2022
- #1 position on Apple Podcasts in all categories at the start 2021
- Featured on New York Times Square Billboard

You can download the Bible reading plan <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration> and listen on Spotify, Hallow, Youtube or Apple podcast.

Or if you have done Bible in a Year when we last ran it, why not try to listen to a daily Lectio Divina with the Gospel readings on the free Hallow app. If you would like to purchase a Bible, you could visit our parish Facebook page to shop from there, send us a message, purchase from the St Gerard's Vinnies Shop or ring the Parish Office on 9876 2853.



OTHER NEWS & NOTICES ... CONT'D

Celebrations this Week

Ordinary Week 3

- 24 Jan Tuesday: St Francis de Sales
- 25 Jan Wednesday: **The Conversion of St Paul**
- 26 Jan Thursday: Australia Day
- 27 Jan Friday: *Sts Timothy and Titus, St Angela Merici*
- 28 Jan Saturday: St Thomas Aquinas

Ordinary Week 4

- 31 Jan Tuesday: St John Bosco
- 2 Feb Thursday: **The Presentation of the Lord**
- 3 Feb Friday: *St Ansgar, St Blaise*

The 2023 Scripture Diaries have arrived! Those who have ordered a diary have been contacted. If you have not picked your copy up, would you please do so at your earliest convenience from the Parish Office. Thank you.

50++ GROUP ADVANCE NOTICE: Our first outing for 2023 will take place on Monday 13th February. Please keep this day free if you are interested in joining us! Full details in the next bulletin. Enquiries Carole Wilson 9869 1036.

Save **THE** Date 


Lenten Ecumenical Liturgies: As part of our ecumenical covenant we will again have shared liturgies with our neighbouring Anglican and Uniting churches during Lent. These will be on Tuesday nights at 7.45pm each week of March, with the first on March 7th hosted by us at OLHC with Uniting Church minister Rev Greg Woolnough preaching. Do come join us to celebrate our unity in Christ as we journey to Easter together.

Healing Mass: The next Healing Mass at St Gerard's will be held on **Tuesday 7th February, 10.00am** in the meeting room. All are welcome.

Air Conditioning at OLHC: We are presently exploring the options for air conditioning at OLHC Church. What might have once seemed like a luxury is in many ways an act of welcoming and hospitality. While we know that our long term parishioners have the commitment to come to Mass rain, hail or shine, for people who are just putting their toe in the water of coming to Mass a pleasant temperature in the church may help them to choose to come, rather than stay home. Additionally, with new buildings on all sides of the church, overshadowing of the church will make it colder in winter, and less air flow will make it hotter in summer. We recently received a generous anonymous donation from a parishioner toward the air conditioning which will help bring the installation a little closer for all of us.

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

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.



Evangelisation Broken Bay
Parish Renewal and Discipleship

LENT

Opportunities for Evangelisation and Faith Formation

Lent is a graced time in our Church calendar year that offers opportunities for formation and evangelisation.

Join this webinar to discuss strategies to maximise the impact of formation initiatives such as the Lenten Program and ways to bring the Good News of Jesus to a wider audience.

DATE: Wednesday 1 February 2023 **TIME:** 7:00pm – 8:15pm **VENUE:** Online on Zoom

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/4hy6xyfa>
Presented by: Pina Bernard, Team Leader Parish Renewal and Discipleship
Enquiries: faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au or 0432 682 239

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28



1ST FRIDAY HEALING SERVICE

with Fr. Roni George VC
at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church
CHATSWOOD
6:30PM - 8:30PM
(Divine Mercy Chaplet, Holy Mass & Adoration)

**3rd Feb, 3rd Mar, 7th Apr, 5th May,
2nd June, 7th July, 4th Aug, 1st Sept,
6th Oct, 3rd Nov**

94 Archer St, Chatswood NSW 2067, Tel: 02 9410 9000
email: chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au



DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE
160 Hensons Road, Somersby, SYDNEY-NSW 2250,
Tel: 02 4372 1598, 04 6848 6782, email: drcsydney@gmail.com
www.divineretreatcentre.org · www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentersomersby

The Divine Retreat Centre promotes the safety and protection of children and other vulnerable persons in its care.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
 and healed all who were sick.

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	9:00am (from 21 Feb)	5:00pm	12noon (from 21 Feb)	*	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

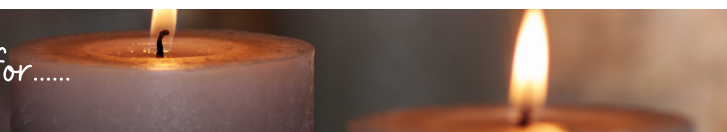
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS' PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH: 9868 3322 **Email:** olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au



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

***Friday Mass at OLHC on hold till further notice.**

Please pray for.....



For those who are sick and suffering:

- Nancy Walker (family of Eileen Nicoll)
- Martin McGuire (family of Eileen Nicoll)
- Cohen Hadden (family of Pat & Margaret McArdle)
- 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)
- Richard McCarthy
- Beryl Heslin
- Margaret Floyd
- Graham Kelly
- Ivan Castaneda Charvez
- Veronica Kemp
- Sewritha Chetty
- Ethan Seng Mestanza (Mario and Graciela Mestanza's grandson)



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

Recently deceased - Rose Crowley (mother of Trish Lucas), Doug Weeden, Patrick Thornton (brother of Pat & Margaret McArdle)

Anniversaries - Domenico Agostino, Eden John Sarelius

Also for - The Moses family, the Karam family, Bert Saul, Joseph & Lilian Saul, Sylvia & Victor Carlon, the Dellow family, the Whiteoak family, Lionel (Frost) Bowen, Claire Bowen, Christopher Luke Dwyer, John Heagney, Prue Gambell