

## Diocese of Broken Bay

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon  
[Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au)

Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueva  
[Aldrin.Valdehueva@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto: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](http://eppcarl.org.au)

### Email

[parish@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:parish@eppcarl.org.au)

### Single Donation

### Click here for:

[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



## Readings

### 24 DECEMBER 2023

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

### 25 DECEMBER 2023

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Hebrews 1:1-6  
John 1:1-18

### 31 DECEMBER 2023

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3  
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19  
Luke 2:22, 39-40



## The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford



24 DECEMBER 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

25 DECEMBER 2023 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

31 DECEMBER 2023 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

YEAR B



**Welcome to Epping Carlingford Parish!** We're glad that we can share Christmas and the good news of Jesus Christ with you today. Please make yourself at home. If you need anything, ask one of our friendly welcoming team at door. Have a look through this bulletin or website to see what you'd like to get involved with in 2024, and help yourself to the resources on the benches at the back of the church. If you're new here, or back for the first time in a while, a big welcome back to you. We pray a wonderful Christmas and new year for you and your family. **~the Parish Team:**

**Fr Jim, Fr Aldrin, Belinda, Lynn, Marcella, Joanna, Deacon Richard, Dennis and Michael.**

**First time here?** Some information for you: **Toilets** at St Gerard's are in the building directly behind the church. Toilets at OLHC are accessed from the street on the other side of the tree. **Communion:** If you are Catholic and usually receive Communion you can come forward to any minister to receive the Body of Christ on your hand. If you are not Catholic, or for children who have not yet prepared for First Communion come forward with your hands crossed on your heart to receive a blessing. **Giving:** If you'd like to support our parish financially there are a few ways to do this. The one cash collection we'll take up during Mass will be divided evenly between the support of our parish and the support of the clergy of our diocese. A \$10 tap & go machine at the entrance to the church gives a donation to our parish, and the QR code at the door of the church or the link [here](#) gives a donation to the parish. *Thank you for your generosity.*

**Worship together:** As Catholics we live our faith in many ways, but the heart of our faith is always our gathering together for Mass each week. We have four weekend Masses at each of our churches. **OLHC Epping** has Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 8.30am, 10.15am and 6pm. **From January our Sunday night Mass at OLHC will move to 7pm.** **St Gerard's Carlingford** has Saturday at 6pm and Sunday at 7.45am, 9.30am and 5pm. This gives lots of options for people's busy lives! Everyone is welcome at every Mass, and we have a particular focus

on families with school aged children at the 9.30am Mass, and on teenagers and young adults at both Sunday night Masses. Come and join more than 1000 people who come for worship every weekend.

**Getting Involved:** Everybody has some gift or talent to offer to the service of God in the Church. Keep an eye out in this bulletin in the new year for some new opportunities to get involved. **To our hundreds of existing volunteers – thank you for all you have done this year.** We'd like to thank you in person at our **annual Volunteers Mass and Dinner on Tues Feb 13th**. Look out for an invitation from your ministry coordinator early in the new year.



Our most recent working bee to prepare the church for Christmas

**Christmas can be tough** and sometimes we need help: CatholicCare is the social care agency of our diocese. They offer services for domestic and family violence, homelessness, parenting, relationship counselling, aged care, foster care and emergency relief. Take a flyer from the back of the church or go to [www.catholiccaredbb.org.au](http://www.catholiccaredbb.org.au). For counselling contact 1800 324 924. The priests of the parish are always available. The parish office 9876 2853 diverts to either Fr Jim or Fr Aldrin after hours. The St Vincent De Paul Society offers practical assistance to people in financial need. Call the Hornsby regional office on 9477 5022 during office hours and they'll arrange for two of our local Vinnies volunteers to come and visit you at home.

**Important**

**ATTENTION PLEASE!**

**Changes to Masses in January:** During January the forecourt of OLHC Church will be relevelled and resurfaced as part of the redevelopment. This will make the church inaccessible on weekdays, including Saturday mornings. **From Tuesday Jan 2nd to Saturday 27th** the church will not be open on weekdays, and there will not be Mass and Adoration on Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings. **Reconciliation will instead be available from 4.15pm – 4.45pm on Saturdays in January.** We apologise for this inconvenience. The builders will reinstate the access ramp to the front and side doors for weekends, so **all weekend Masses (including the vigil Mass) will continue as usual.** Weekday Masses continue at St Gerard's as usual, and the church will continue to be open for prayer.

~Fr Jim

## FROM THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

A lot has happened in the Parish in 2023 as we emerged from Covid with Mass attendance returning to normal, including the appointment of Fr Aldrin as Assistant Parish Priest, the Wild Goose Program, the Epping Development, 25 new ministry volunteers, thankyou evening for volunteers, Social Justice Team activities, retirement of Dennis Porteous our long-standing Parish Secretary, the installation of a plaque at St Gerards to acknowledge the victims of sexual abuse to name a few. An ongoing aim is to make the Parish as welcoming as possible to all.

2024 will be an exciting year for the Parish with the completion of the Epping redevelopment, which will be a wonderful facility for the Parish, including underground parking, hall, meeting rooms and offices, all connected to the church by a glazed walkway.

I would like to thank Louise McVittie, Helen Barry, Joanna Mak and Kerry Paxton who are stepping down from the Pastoral Council after completing their second two-year term for their thoughtful and wise service to the Parish. This creates an opening for new members to join the Parish Council which focuses on the mission and vision The Pastoral Council focuses on the vision and mission of the parish. It doesn't have to run all the programs, but rather, discerns prayerfully, listening to parishioners and advising how best the parish can assist people in their life transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. Please consider joining the Pastoral Council, you will find it spiritually very rewarding.

Wishing everyone a happy and joyful Christmas.

~Paddy Watts (PPC Chair)

## YOUR FAITH JOURNEY IN 2024

A feature of our parish is that we are hungry to learn more of the richness of our Catholic faith and to grow deeper in relationship with Jesus. We offer a range of adult faith programs throughout the year and we invite you to plan ahead to come and do one of them with us this year.

### Term 1

**a) Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible:** Take a journey through the whole of the bible to understand the context of each book and make sense of it all. Online on Tuesdays from February.





**b) A Lenten scripture group**, gathering each week to read and pray with the scriptures of the coming Sunday. **From Feb 19th:** Mondays mornings at St Gerard's Church, Tuesday nights 7.30pm at West Pennant Hills, Thursday nights in Epping, Friday mornings at St Gerard's Church and Friday nights in Epping.

**c) Ignatian Spiritual Exercises:** Be led through a new prayer exercise each week then learn how to pray with it during the week. 5 weeks **from the week of Feb 19th**, Tuesday nights and Wednesday nights at OLHC Church.



### Term 2

**Metanoia:** a new video series from the makers of the Wild Goose series which takes us deeper into how we turn our hearts around and truly follow Jesus. Tuesday nights **from April 30th** at St Gerard's.




### Term 3

**Alpha:** join us for the world famous introduction to the message of Christianity in a whole new way, in our new parish centre at OLHC Epping on Friday nights **from August 9th**.



**Plus the following:**

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**JANUARY 2024**  
**EPHING & CARLINGFORD**



**ASCENSION**  
The Faith Formation Leader

**THE BIBLE TIMELINE: THE STORY OF SALVATION" WITH JEFF CAVINS**

The Catholic Parish  
E C  
of Epping & Carlingford

Start 2024 on the right foot by embarking on a spiritual journey with us as we explore the Bible together. Join our weekly Zoom meetings to delve into "The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation" with Jeff Cavins.

To benefit from a discount on workbooks, materials and communications from Philip Senger, please sign up before **1st January 2024**. Sessions are expected to commence in **January 2024 Tuesday** as soon as the materials are received, expected within 1-2 weeks. The anticipated cost will be \$50-70. While the course is expected to last a little over a year, we will take breaks during holidays and vacations.

Sign up can be found here.

<https://forms.gle/Xa5CeAnJVTxM1c5U6>

Philip Senger - [philip.senger@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:philip.senger@eppcarl.org.au)



## Parish Team

### Parish Secretary

**Marcella Letteri** Ph: 9876 2853

Email: [Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Parish Facilities & Operations Coordinator

**Richard Houwing** Ph: 9876 2853

Email: [Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Admin. Assistant

**Michael Davies** Ph: 9876 2853

Email: [Michael.Davies@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Michael.Davies@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Coordinator of Sacramental Programmes, Children's Ministries & Parish Communications

**Lynn Siau** Ph: 9876 2853

Email: [Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Joanna Mak** Ph: 0404 710 588

Email: [Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au)

### New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator

**Belinda Shi** Ph: 0414 753 362

Email: [Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au)



**Men Alive:** Tailored for men, 18 years and above, both single and married. We gather fortnightly to provide a unique space for encouragement, mutual support, and the strengthening of our commitment to living as men in disciples of Christ. Join us for enriching experiences. Whether you are seeking Spiritual Growth, fostering of brotherhood as fellow Catholic men, or exploring faith formation in the Holy Spirit, our activities are centred on Christ and God. Let's grow together in faith and camaraderie. Contact: [philip.senger@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:philip.senger@eppcarl.org.au)  
Sign up [forms.gle/NKT99JHTFGqEKN088](https://forms.gle/NKT99JHTFGqEKN088) or via QR code above.

**Men Alive BBQ Sat 2nd Feb After 6pm Mass at St Gerard's Carlingford:** Everyone is invited to a BBQ held by the members of Men Alive outside the main doors to the Church. Members will be there to share our experiences as group members and chat about what our group is about. Mark your calendars and be part of this uplifting event! Contact [philip.senger@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:philip.senger@eppcarl.org.au) for more details.



## FIRST RECONCILIATION 2024

**Enrolment for First Reconciliation** will commence on Thursday, 25th January 2024. In our Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and who are in Year 4 or above are invited to enrol. First Reconciliation is generally prepared for before enrolment of First Eucharist in Term 2.

Enrolment information will be emailed to all who celebrated Confirmation in 2023 and to all 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 using this link:

[www.facebook.com/groups/2559482689](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2559482689)

**13440/** or via the QR code shown here:



Please remember also, that we have the **"LOOK" Kidz Bulletin and colouring sheets** for your children to help them engage during Mass. Feel free to take and remember to return the colouring crayons after Mass!

*As always, please feel free to send me an email if you have any questions.*

**Lynn Siau - [Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au) , Phone: 9876 2853**

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

## Kidz Word resumes 4 February 2024

Kidz Word is taking a break during the school holidays. The parent leaders deserve a **HUGE** round of applause for all they have done to support this ministry.

In the past year, the participation of children in Kidz Word has increased yet another 200% in 2023! This is all thanks to the parent leaders who take turns to lead our children each Sunday during school term. They have enhanced Kidz Word captivating our children with their creativity to pray together, watch a video of the Gospel, do some craft and dance activities. We are so blessed to have them bring God's Word alive to our children. **Thank you** to this AMAZING team of parents!



At OLHC we are constrained by the lack of a meeting space to have Kidz Word. This will be overcome in 2024 when the new parish centre is built and Team Kidz Word can't wait to make this happen!



**Baptism enquiries?** Please visit the parish website here: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/sacraments/baptismforchildren](https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/sacraments/baptismforchildren)

## 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](mailto:Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au) before **10am on Wednesday 3rd January 2024**. 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 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 via a desktop, the form on our website: [bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter](https://bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter)



## YOUTH MINISTRIES



Our 3 youth groups, Cana, Antioch and Emmaus are on a break during the holidays. We will resume in 2024. We wish you a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



Emmaus Young Adults Christmas Party

### EMMAUS YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

#### 23-30 YEARS OLD

**THEME: SAINTHOOD!**

Date: 13th Jan 2024 Saturday  
Time: 2-6pm + dinner after  
Location: Kellyville, the Franciscan shrine of the Holy Innocents (8 Greyfriar Place)  
Cost: FREE!  
RSVP by the 10th Jan via trybooking  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CNHRJ>

Sign up now, takes 2 minutes!

Contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak for more info on [E.Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:E.Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au) or M: 0404 710 588

## HARMONY

### 2024 ANTIOCH WEEKEND

**"LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER" - 1 PETER 3:8**

COME ALONG AND MAKE NEW MEMORIES & FRIENDS IN OUR HARMONIOUS COMMUNITY!  
ENJOY TALKS, DISCUSSIONS, MUSIC, GAMES AND A LOT OF FOOD!

**PLACE:** St Gerard's (543 North Rocks Rd, Carlingford)  
**DATE:** 10th - 11th February 2024 (9am-10pm)  
**AGE:** Year 10 to 23 Years Old  
**PRICE:** \$40 Early Bird (Ends on 22nd Jan 2024)  
\$50 Normal Price

For further details Contact Youth Minister:  
Joanna Mak 0404 710 588 | [joanna.mak@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:joanna.mak@bbcatholic.org.au)

### 2024 ANTIOCH WEEKEND REGISTRATION FORM

Register now either by trybooking  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CNFSH>

OR complete this paper form and email it to [joanna.mak@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:joanna.mak@bbcatholic.org.au) and/or return it to the parish office at St Gerard's together with payment by the latest MONDAY 5/2/24

QR CODE TO TRYBOOKING LINK

**ATTENDEE PERSONAL DETAILS**

NAME   
AGE  D.O.B     
MOBILE  DD  MM  YYYY   
EMAIL

**DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AND MEDICAL INFORMATION**

**EMERGENCY/PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT DETAILS**

NAME  RELATIONSHIP   
PHONE  EMAIL

(PLEASE TICK TO ACKNOWLEDGE)

☐ I give permission for photos/videos to be taken and uploaded potentially on social media platforms. (parent to give consent if attendee under 18)

☐ I have enclosed in cash/cheque of \$50.00 to cover the costs of the weekend.

SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN IF UNDER 18

The information sought in this form is for the purposes outlined in, and in accordance with the Parish's Privacy policy. A copy of the policy may be obtained by contacting the Parish Office.

Antioch is running their annual retreat in 2024 on the weekend of the 10-11th February! Register via the trybooking link <https://www.trybooking.com/CNFSH> or use the QR code above. Early bird till the 22nd January 2024. Get in quick!

For more information on any of our 3 youth groups and our Antioch and Emmaus social media pages, please contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or send her an email at [Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au)



## NEWS FROM OUR CATECHISTS

Did you know that we offer a Catholic religion lesson (called SRE or Scripture) in every state primary and high school in our parish? Pictured here are just some of our generous and faithful volunteer catechists who teach a weekly Scripture lesson from an authorised Catholic curriculum each week.

For your child to attend Catholic Scripture in their school ***you need to opt-in***, that is, to sign a request form stating that you want your child

to attend. This should be offered at enrolment, but make sure you proactively ask if it is not. We look forward to sharing the Good News of Jesus with your children this coming year.

For more information, please call the Parish Office weekdays 9am-4pm at 9876 2853 or contact Katherine Tam for Primary Schools at [katherine@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:katherine@eppcarl.org.au) and Trish O'Donnell for Secondary Schools at [trish@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:trish@eppcarl.org.au)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

It is part of our Catholic faith that we are committed to social justice, that is, the transformation of society into a place where God's justice takes place. In 2023 our parish social justice group has focused on environment (recycling and installing solar panels), supporting Jesuit Refugee Services ([jrs.org.au](http://jrs.org.au)) and partnering with Parramatta Women's Shelter and Prison Fellowship. In 2024 we're joining the Sydney Alliance ([sydneyalliance.org.au](http://sydneyalliance.org.au)) which will give us access to a broad coalition of civil society groups (more on this soon).

**On Jan 14th** you can bring your electronics St Gerard's for recycling with [www.whirlrecycling.com](http://www.whirlrecycling.com) "If it has a cord, is a cord, runs on a battery, working or not, we keep it out landfill". See information on the right.



This year our parish has supported the JRS Parramatta office in many ways and the Parish Social Justice Team **thanks you**. The programs for refugees and asylum seekers run by JRS Parramatta are many and varied.

Examples are:

- The Employment Assistance Program supports refugees with finding meaningful work.
- The Leadership program supports refugees in their own development so they can raise their voices in the community.
- The Finding Safety Project works with women and girls who have experience of, or are at risk of, sexual or gender-based violence.

JRS is there to accompany, serve and advocate for these people in our community.

We plan to have a Foodbank Appeal on the weekend of 27th - 28th January 2024 - details in following bulletins. Thank you for your continued generosity. The Parramatta office of JRS is now closed until Monday 22nd January.

### Give Your Electronics Another Life!

We'll keep them out of landfill and get them to someone who loves them.

Give it a Whirl!



### Community Collection

Carlingford  
St Gerard Majella Catholic Church  
543 N Rocks Road  
Sunday, 14 January  
8:30am - 10:30am

We take:

Cameras; camera lenses; desktop computers; laptops; mobiles; tablets; computer parts; cords; cables; iPads; iPods; power tools; Gameboys; Nintendos; Xbox; computer games; tools; modems; servers; hard drives; watches; vintage radios; accessories.

Certificates of data destruction available on request.

Nothing goes to landfill...



Contact:  
[whirlrecycling.com](http://whirlrecycling.com)  
[support@whirlrecycling.com](mailto:support@whirlrecycling.com)



# Thank You

The local Saint Vincent de Paul conference thanks the Parish and the school for their overwhelming support for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper appeal.

The Society was able to provide hampers to 43 families they had assisted this year consisting of over 200 shopping bags of Christmas supplies.

Each school class provided a huge hamper for a family and the Parishioners gave a large bag of food items for each of our other clients. Also, a special thanks to all those who assisted with sorting and delivering the hampers.

On top of this the Carlingford and Epping community have so far donated a generous amount towards the Christmas appeal. This wonderful effort demonstrates the truly Christian Charitable commitment of our parish.

## OTHER PARISH NEWS & UPDATES

**Epping Redevelopment:** As you can see at OLHC Epping our new buildings are coming along well. On the north side is our new parish centre with meeting rooms, hall, offices and parking due to open mid 2024. On the south side is the new OLHC School due to open at the start of 2025. And behind is the retirement living tower with expressions of interest open now and sales opening on March 2024 <https://www.levande.com.au/community/thecambridge/>

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

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

Listen free on the Ascension App!

Scan this QR code with your phone to download the Ascension App – the best place to listen to *The Catechism in a Year*.



### Catechism in a Year with Fr Mike

As we near the end of 2023, some of our parishioners have been listening along to 'Catechism in a year with Fr Mike'. It has been such an amazing and blessed journey and moved from 'information to transformation of our hearts'. If you have been journeying along, we encourage you to continue listening no matter what day you are up to and keep pressing play!

Here are a couple of links to help you get started if you haven't done so. Definitely something to consider as a 2024 goal!

You can now download the app to listen to Ascension Press and other podcasts:

- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/ascension-app>
- Catechism in a Year on Spotify - <https://open.spotify.com/show/3CjutriXszixd0ssjSkx72>
- Bible in a Year on Spotify - <https://open.spotify.com/show/4Pppt42NPK2XzKwNloW7BR>

## OTHER NEWS & NOTICES



**Celebrations this Week:** Please visit <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/resources/liturgical-calendars/2023-liturgical-calendar/> or via QR code on the left for celebration of Solemnities, Feast Days or Memorials.

### NURSING APPOINTMENT

Arrupe House located at Pymble is a small community of retired Jesuits, Priests and Brothers. Expressions of interest are invited for an experienced Registered Nurse to work with a small team of nurses. This position is casual part-time, morning duties from 7am to 11.30am, 2 days per week. Position to commence 2024.

Please email your CV to [arrupehouse@sjasl.org.au](mailto:arrupehouse@sjasl.org.au)

### Parish Vocations Volunteer

The Broken Bay Vocations Team is seeking your help to nurture a culture of vocations in our local Church. As a Parish Vocations Volunteer, you could play a vital role in promoting vocations awareness, encouraging prayer, and supporting local events in your parish. If you feel called to this rewarding service, your involvement would be greatly valued. To express your interest, simply scan the QR code provided and follow the prompts. In Christ, Fr Sam.





## 4th Sunday of Advent - 24 Dec 2023

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29 Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

#### WEEKEND MASSES

Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 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	-	6:00pm*	-	-	-	9:15am*	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	-	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	-	

**EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST:** Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm\* and Saturday 9:45-10:15am\*,  
Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm\* and Saturday 9:45-10:15am\*,  
Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am and Saturday 5:15-5:45pm, **OR BY APPOINTMENT at either church**

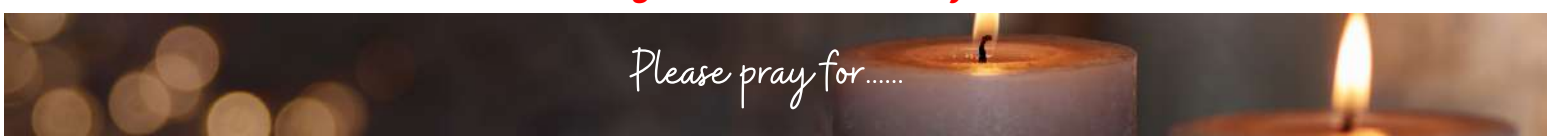
**BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: BY APPOINTMENT**

**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

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT** Usually on the 1st Tuesday of the Month, there is **NO Healing Mass at St Gerard's in January.**  
\* Please note changes at OLHC in January 2024. Details within bulletin.



**For those who are sick and suffering:** Cohen Hadden (family of Pat & Margaret McArdle), Peter McArdle (brother of Pat McArdle), Graham Yeates, Dennis Porteous (our retired Parish Secretary), Paul Grassi, Ethan Seng Mestanza (grandson of Mario and Graciela Mestanza, Beryl and John Day, Leonie Oliver, Kevin Saul (Marie Saul's nephew), Maureen Carlon (Marie Saul's sister), Mary Chernov (sister of Trish Harrison), Bev Gibbeson (Geoff is better; thank you for your prayers.), Colette Murray, Margaret Hall, John Haydon, Eileen Rourke, Melvin Enriquez, Eileen Brownlow, Owen Harrison, Charles Barton, Georgina Shillito, Teresa Boyle.



**General Notice for our Prayer List:** We would very much appreciate updates so we can inform everyone how things are. Kindly note as of 2024, we will have a new system for our prayer list. No names will be published indefinitely but they remain on our Prayer Ministry's list until advised by family. We will only publish new requests as they come through each fortnight and they remain published for 2 editions of the bulletin.

Our parish Prayer Ministry also has a private group on Facebook where you can post your requests directly or email us to do so. Please feel free to join this private group if you would like to pray for someone or for your own intentions: [www.facebook.com/groups/2660800900909668](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2660800900909668) or via QR code on the right.



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

**Recently deceased** - Beryl Porter, CS Goretti, Fareeda Daniels, Dr Suzanne Close (nee Tuite), Pam Lubrano

**Anniversaries** - Neville Wilkin, Maryanne Whealing, Patrick Thornton

**Also for** - Kass & Austy Flaherty, Sarah & Phillip Curry, Edward Mulhare, Mary-Anne, Anthony, Maureen & Hugh Mulligan, deceased members of Hurney & Waddell families, Moses & Karam families

#### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (DAY) - 25 Dec 2023

Ps 97:1-6 Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth.

#### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - 31 Dec 2023

Ps 104:1-6, 8-9 Response: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.