

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'

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St Gerard Majella's

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The Catholic Parish
of Epping & Carlingford



YEAR A

24 SEPTEMBER 2023 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 OCTOBER 2023 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

New Parish Secretary: Our new Parish Secretary Marcella Letteri begins this week. Marcella will be known to many of you as a long time parishioner at St Gerard's. She will work 10am – 4pm Mondays and 8.30am – 3pm Tuesdays to Thursdays. Please make her welcome. You are able to contact her from 25th September at the parish office.



Happy Birthday Antioch! It's 40 years since a then young Fr Vince Casey introduced a new youth group to St Gerard's, and it has been going strong ever since, undimmed by changes in priests and youth minister. This is a remarkable work of the Holy Spirit and if you're a past or present Antioch member or parent we invite you to celebrate with us this Sunday 3-5pm in the Hall, along with our guests Fr Vince and Antioch founders Ron and Mavis Pirola. Details on page 2.

Generosity: *Thank You* to the many people who have responded my invitation to join with me in being a committed giver to the parish as a way of showing that you belong. If you've brought back a completed giving form you can place it in either collection box in the church. There are giving forms at the back of each church and downloadable at www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/giving#info

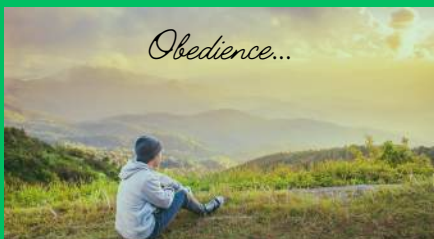
~ Fr Jim

Mass times: Bishop Anthony has asked all parishes to review the number of Masses and the times of Masses in each parish to ensure that the schedule is the best fit for the number of people in the parish. This has come about because some parishes have seen a serious drop in numbers of the past few years, yet still have the same Mass schedule as twenty years ago. We are blessed to have strong and growing numbers of people here, and in conversation with the Pastoral Council we would like to *keep all 8 of our weekend Masses*.

We also need to consider the sustainability of Masses from the perspective of the availability of priests and lay ministers. While Fr Jim and Fr Aldrin have both committed to celebrating 4 weekend Masses each, this becomes more difficult when one priest is away and supply is required for 4 Masses. This past weekend needed three priests to cover 4 Masses. For this reason *we propose that the Sunday night Mass at OLHC could move to 7pm*, which would allow one priest to celebrate both the 5pm and 7pm Masses when necessary. It would also allow the Antioch group to meet at OLHC again which would allow them to contribute to the music ministry. It also provides an alternative Mass time to our surrounding parishes.

The weekday Mass schedule is presently modified due to construction noise at OLHC, and this will continue through to start of next year. The opening of the

Obedience...



Readings

24 SEPTEMBER 2023

Isaiah 55:6-9

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Matthew 20:1-16

1 OCTOBER 2023

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Philippians 2:1-11

Matthew 21:28-32

cont'd... "Mass times"

carpark and new building next year becomes an opportunity for us to review our weekday Mass times at both churches with a view creating a sustainable Mass schedule for the long term with Mass in the parish every day, but not necessarily at every church every day.

An example is that while there is no scheduled weekday Mass on Tuesdays at present, there has been a funeral every Tuesday for the past month, and next month there will be a school Mass every Tuesday. This would not have been possible this month with one priest away had there been Mass at each church every day.

To not have Mass every day in both churches allows our priests to reach out to provide sacraments to the elderly and the schools, and flexibility to provide funerals when requested. *Fr Jim welcomes your comments on this.*



CELEBRATING 40 WONDERFUL YEARS OF ANTIOCH IN OUR PARISH!



LET'S CELEBRATE!

**Antioch is
TURNING
40**

Join us for this very special day!

Delicious treats at 3pm on Sunday 24th September.

St Gerard's Parish Hall

Thanksgiving Mass and Bbq after initial gathering.

To honour and celebrate this momentous occasion, we cordially invite everyone to join us on **Sunday, 24th September at 3pm** for an afternoon filled with joy and nostalgia concluding with our thanksgiving Youth Mass and BBQ at 5pm to 6.30pm in St Gerard's Church. To RSVP, please contact Louise and Kirk Koelmeyer, the current Antioch parent supporters, at the following contact numbers: **Louise - 0404 496 554 or Kirk - 0420 874 824**. You can also send an email to louise@therapyforlife.com.au



3:00 PM - Welcome and Networking in the Parish Hall

- Join us in the Parish Hall as we kick-off the celebration with warm welcomes and heartfelt camaraderie.

- Enjoy afternoon tea with an array of delicious treats.
- Share and relive your cherished memories and stories of how Antioch has impacted your life and the lives of others in the community.
- We will take a moment to recognize and honor the pioneers and pillars of Antioch who have devoted their time, love, and efforts to making this ministry flourish.

4:45 PM - Preparation for Youth Mass

- Make your way to the church as we prepare for the special Youth Mass, a testament to the significance of Antioch in our parish.

5:00 PM - Youth Mass Led by Fr. Jim McKeon and Fr. Vince Casey

- Come together as one community to celebrate the Eucharist and give thanks for the blessings and grace bestowed upon us through Antioch.

6:00 PM - BBQ after youth Mass

- Join us for a sausage sizzle and mingle
- Bid farewell to friends old and new, knowing that the spirit of Antioch will continue to shine brightly in our parish.

6:30 PM - Conclude the Festivities

- The current Antioch group will have a special meeting to celebrate the milestone

THE VOICE REFERENDUM

Come to understand what The Voice means before you vote.

The Australian Catholic Bishops have asked people to form their consciences with Catholic teaching when discerning their vote. *Fr Jim will be preaching on the Voice this weekend.* This year's Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement called *Listen, Learn and Love*. You can read it online at socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Our neighbours at Epping Uniting Church invite us to a forum on The Voice at **7pm on Tuesday 26 September in the Epping Uniting Church**. The speakers will be Julian Leeser, Member for Berowra, Jerome Laxale, Member for Bennelong and Nathan Tyson, Indigenous worker with the NSW ACT Synod of the Uniting Church.

OLHC DEVELOPMENT

Works will soon commence on the proposed **Glazed Link between the OLHC Church and the new Parish Hall building**. This is one of the most exciting features of the new development, which will allow easy access from the Church to the Hall and amenities on the same level. Direct access to the carpark will be provided via the Parish lift.

The proposed works will involve:

- Significant Church items which include the statues of Our Lady and St Anthony, in addition to the balustrades made from the former altar rails will be carefully removed and reinstated following completion of the works in late June 2024.
- The icon of St Mary of the Cross will be removed and consideration given to the temporary alternative location.
- Floor protection installed and hoarding with a lockable door to the Church side to be erected for purpose of security, noise, and dust suppression around the proposed working area.
- Removal of the glazing from the openings.
- Demolish and remove brickwork below as shown dashed in red in Image 1.
- Bricks will be plastic-wrapped and located to a safe location to be re-used later.
- RCC to erect glazed link structure and make good prior to removal of the floor protection and hoarding.



Proposed extent of demolition works to the Church dashed in red



Proposed extent of hoarding shown in red and black

Parish Team

Parish Secretary

Marcella Letteri Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Marcella.Letteri@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

OLHC Cake Stall Success!



The team of OLHC School parents.

The children had a lovely time – lots of giggling and playing amongst all the eating. Thank you for the support!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



October is the month of the Rosary. During this time, there will be a booklet available for children to pick up at the back of both churches. This has various age-appropriate activities about

Our Lady, prayers and information. Feel free to take one!

KIDZPLAY

Playgroup

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT TERM



PLAYGROUP MAY BE FINISHED FOR THIS TERM, BUT WE WILL RECOMMENCE ON

FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER

IN THE HALL AT 9:30AM.

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT:
BELINDA 0414 753 362

Kidz Word is on holidays and will resume in Term 4. May you keep well and enjoy the school holidays!

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN TO A SPECIAL

Baptism Renewal

OCTOBER 15, 2023
ST GERARD'S • 9:30 AM

Children are encouraged to bring along their baptism candle and receive a special blessing on the day.

Any questions please contact Belinda 0414 753 362

You can also contact Belinda via email:

Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au

Never too early to start planning!



Celebrate All Saints dressed as your favourite Saint!

- Sunday 29th October
- St Gerards 9:30am Mass
- OLHC 10:15am Mass

PRIZES TO BE WON!

Adults most welcome to dress up!

Lynn Siau - Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

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 4th October 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 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

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Cana (Year 6-9) is on a break for the school holidays and will resume on the **13th October**.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Antioch will meet on **24th September** to celebrate their 40th anniversary. Special Antioch

meeting from 6-8pm with trivia, food comps and games! This will be followed by a break in the school holidays and resume on the **15th October**.

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 **26th September and 3rd October, 7-9pm**.

We will be joining with the parish on the 5-week Altaration series, so come along to the parish hall for free dinner, videos and share groups.

HSC STUDENT BLESSING

8TH OCT, SUNDAY

5PM YOUTH MASS

@ ST GERARD'S

RECEIVE A SPECIAL BLESSING, MEET OTHER YEAR 12 STUDENTS AND RECEIVE A YUMMY HSC PACK FROM OUR ANTIOCH YOUTH GROUP

PLEASE CONTACT THE YOUTH MINISTER, JOANNA MAK FOR ANY QUESTIONS
E: JOANNA.MAK@BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU OR M: 0404 710 588

World Youth Day Testimony Corner

Shaz Alarco Reflections

World Youth Day was a remarkable experience and one I will cherish forever. Before I signed up for this spiritual journey, I knew that I wanted to grow my relationship with God through this experience. Growing up Catholic, faith has played an important part in my life. With God we are never alone which is a wonderful feeling. Having experienced WYD to its fullest, I can honestly say I gained so much more, it strengthened my faith, and I made new lifetime friends.

The journey began in Italy in a city called Padua. A humble town with St Anthony as the patron saint for lost items. I had thought initially that as I hadn't lost anything I didn't need his assistance at the time, but his presence was felt as my soul felt renewed being part of the group throughout the pilgrimage. We celebrated morning and evening prayer, a wonderful new experience as the holy ritual brought unity to the group.

Another thing that brought us together were the chants we would proudly sing as the "Green Bus Group": "Green Green bus, girls and guys praying for each other, every day and every night ". The other chant we would do with hand gestures was "yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord Amen Amen". The beautiful thing about Catholics is that even if you don't know many people, there is an underlying feeling of community where you will certainly make new lifetime friends.

The last night in Rome was magical as I went out with a small group of my newfound friends to explore the city at night. Although we had been to the site earlier in the day, it was the company of each other that made it spectacular.

This was all building up to the pinnacle moment in Lisbon. As a Catholic, you are never alone and it was in Lisbon you feel even more part of a community seeing the world unite. Spain had an uplifting chant as well "la juventud del Papa" which resonates with me and the experience as we are the youth from God.

It was pretty special not only getting a front row seat when the Pope arrived but to understand his homily of spreading God's love in his native language (my family's native language) Spanish made it even more memorable and meaningful. Beforehand the Pope had been a distant

unrelatable figure but seeing and hearing his wisdom made his presence prominent.

Since returning back to the routine of life, I have implemented the ritual of daily prayer to give praise to God for the beauty in the world and the blessings I've received. My prayer space includes the prayer cards I have collected throughout the pilgrimage as well as the statue of Our Lady of Fatima I bought in Portugal. This ritual illuminates my soul spiritually and sets the positive tone for the day. This along with my ongoing involvement in the church youth community is a wonderful feeling given the whole experience. Thank you for your support on this magnificent journey, it was greatly appreciated.

~ Shaz Alarco

For more information on any of our 3 youth groups, please contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or send her an email at Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au



INVITATION TO A COMBINED CHILDREN'S MASS ON OCTOBER 22ND, 2023

Fr Jim and the Primary School Catechists would like to invite the children and their families to a Combined Children's Mass at **St Gerard Majella's Church on October 22nd**, 9:15 am arrival for **9:30am Mass followed by morning tea and Jumping Castle!**

The children are encouraged to participate in the **(a) readings, (b) Bible/offertory procession or (c) choir**. If you and your child(ren) wish to join, please provide the following information via email to katherine@eppcarl.org.au

- Name of the Child :
- Name of School (Optional) :
- Year : (Kindergarten to Year 6)
- Contact phone number :
- Contact email address :
- Please indicate your child's 1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences for (a) (b) and (c).

We appreciate receiving your response by **Wednesday October 4th**. Looking forward to seeing you at the Mass!

OTHER NEWS & NOTICES

Join Fr. Aldrin on a one-day pilgrimage to the central coast!

You are invited to join Fr. Aldrin on a pilgrimage to the holy sites of importance in the Diocese of Broken Bay. Please see the notice at the back of the church for more information. Registration closes by October 12th, 2023. Limited seats only.

Date & Time

Saturday, 28 Oct 2023
Departing at 8am
Return by 5pm

How to register

To book online use the link
<https://www.trybooking.com/CLQCM> or
scan the QR code below.



Sign up forms are also available at the back of the church.

Visiting

The Shrine of Saint John Paul II, Gosford
Shrine of St. Faustina, Somersby

Cost

Adult - \$35
Family - \$90
(2 adults & 2 children)



Healing Mass at St Gerard's: Join us for the Healing Mass on **Tuesday 3rd October**. We gather in the meeting room for Mass at **10am**. Please stay, if you are able to, for morning tea following Mass.

Do you have a problem with mobility? Are you someone who would like to attend and is in need of transport? **Transport can be arranged**. Please contact Carole Wilson at 9869 1036.



**Congratulations to to our parishioners
Teresa Zhang and Jeffrey Lau who will
be married next weekend!**



The G Majors Men's A Capella Singers are back!



JOIN US



HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO SING?

Now is your chance. Come along and join this enthusiastic group of male voices. We sing at both churches.... **NO AUDITION NECESSARY**.

Meeting time: 6.30pm on Sunday nights at St. Gerard's. We have periods of rehearsal, but these fluctuate throughout the year.

All enquiries: Pat Fernandes 0407908640 or send Pat and email at cedpat@internode.on.net

cont'd... "Other News & Notices"

Celebrations this Week

Ordinary Time Week 25

26 September Tues: *Sts Cosmas and Damian*

27 September Wed: *St Vincent de Paul*

28 September Thurs: *St Wenceslaus, St Lawrence Ruiz and Companions*

29 September Fri: **Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael**

30 September Sat: *St Jerome*

Ordinary Time Week 26

1 October Mon: *The Holy Guardian Angels*

4 October Wed: *St Francis of Assisi*

5 October Thurs: *St Faustina Kowalska*

6 October Fri: *St Bruno*

7 October Sat: *Our Lady of the Rosary*



Congratulations to John & Mary O'Byrne who will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on the 1st October.

**40
YEARS**



CARLINGFORD CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

- **When:** Sundays 11am (after 9.30am Mass morning tea)
- **Where:** St Gerard's Church (Children's room at back of church)
- **Study Series:** 'How to Grow in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit' by Bruce Downes Ministries
- **Contact:** Margaret 0401133368 or send her an email mtmkelly@optusnet.com.au



Save the date for a celebration of **All Souls Day on Sunday November 5th**. Parishioners will gather for a brief prayer service followed by luncheon **at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium**.



Spring reminds us of fresh flowers!

At OLHC church we need volunteers to help in the rewarding and creative ministry of the Altar arranging flowers for Mass and feast days. You will receive lots of support and will only be rostered every few weeks. For further information please contact **Lynne 0407 138 992**.

St Patrick's Church Hill

www.stpatschurchhill.org

**1,000
ROSARIES**

The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary!

We invite you to join the St Patrick's community in praying the rosary for the Pope's intention which is:

"To pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world."

We aim for 1,000 individuals to pray a Rosary for the entire month of October

Please log in your pledge by scanning the QR Code as a visible sign of the power of prayer and an encouragement to others to participate in this Marian crusade. Thank you.

I PLEDGE TO PRAY THE ROSARY
IN OCTOBER
FOR THE POPE'S INTENTION

for more information
email: srfidelissm@stpatschurchhill.org
02 9254-9804

REGISTER HERE

50++ OUTING 'THE RIVERBOAT POSTMAN': Tentative group booking for **Monday 9th October**. LIMIT 20 PEOPLE. Depart Brooklyn Wharf at 10AM return at 1PM. The trip includes morning tea and lunch. Seniors/Concession \$54.00. Otherwise \$64.00. **Train leaves Epping Station Platform 3 at 9.10AM. Arrives Brooklyn 9.47AM.** IMMEDIATE TRANSFER TO WHARF IS NECESSARY. There is a lift at Epping and Brooklyn Stations. Please let me know if you wish to join us. **RSVP NO LATER THAN SUNDAY OCTOBER 1st.** Carole Wilson 9869 1036 Mobile 0478 003 704.

NAMETAG SUNDAY COMING UP!



BOTH St Gerard's and OLHC
All Weekend Masses

SATURDAY/SUNDAY
1st October

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

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, 10am 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 retired Parish Secretary)
- Eric Yeung (brother of Goretti Yeung)
- Ethan Seng Mestanza (grandson of Mario and Graciela Mestanza)

- Sabey
- Kevin Saul (Marie Saul's nephew)
- Maureen Carlon (Marie Saul's sister)
- Beryl and John Day
- Mary Chernov (sister of Trish Harrison)
- Peter McArdle (brother of Pat McArdle)
- Colette Murray



Thank you for your prayers for all our brothers and sisters who are on our prayer list. They are strengthened by our united prayers for them. Our parish also has a Prayer Ministry group on Facebook. There are occasional prayer requests that come through the office via email or directly posted on this private group.

Please feel free to join this private group if you would like to pray for someone or for your own intentions:

<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 - Margaret Floyd, John Bond, Elaine Hunt, Tony D'Almeida, Christine Leung, John O'Rourke, David Traves, Rosario Sorbello

Anniversaries - Paul Augimeri

Also for - Chin Joo Gan, Peter Boo Jong Lee, also the forgotten souls.