

Diocese of Broken Bay

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon
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Assistant Priest: Fr Vincent Trung Nguyen
Vincent.Nguyen@bbcatholic.org.au

Our Lady Help of Christians'

31 Oxford Street, Epping

St Gerard Majella's

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Click here for:

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[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)

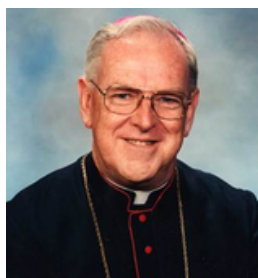


The Catholic Parish
of Epping & Carlingford

YEAR C

24 JULY 2022 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

31 JULY 2022 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Gospel of John: Bishop David Walker will be giving a series of 5 talks on John's Gospel on *Wednesday mornings following Mass at St Gerard's. 10.15am – 11.45am in the meeting room from August 3rd.* Bring your bible and learn from Bishop David's 60 years as a priest, bishop, retreat giver and theologian.

Living better: How can we live in a way which is better for all God's creatures? In 2001 Pope John Paul II called for an ecological conversion by which we "prepare for future generations an environment more in conformity with the Creator's plan". Pope Francis has echoed this challenge to us in his groundbreaking encyclical Laudato 'Si. Join us for a parish forum on *Sunday August 7th 11am – 1pm in the parish meeting room at St Gerard's* where we will explore some possibilities for individual and collective action to live in a way which is more ecologically just. We'll hear from experts in recycling, bushcare and sustainable living, share stories together, and identify ways in which our parish can model best practice.



Recycling: Alongside our ecological forum we are **hosting a recycling day on August 7th at St Gerard's.** We all love a good "council cleanup", but all of this goes into landfill. *Arnies Recon* will be collecting a wide range of things which you may have never known could be recycled including:

Electric cables, computer cables, audio cables, computers, laptops, mobile phones, iPads, tablets, video games and consoles, servers and racks, cables, stereos, DVD players, iPods, cameras, monitors, televisions, calculators, transistor radios, washers, dryers, air conditioners, microwaves, dishwashers, vintage collectables, tools, medical equipment.

For a full list see www.arniesrecon.com

You can drop off to the *St Gerard's carpark* from 8.30am – 12pm on *Sunday August 7th*

Fr Jim will be on holidays July 25-30th.

Please note: There will not be Adoration and Reconciliation at OLHC on Monday 25th.

Wishing Fr Jim a safe trip!



Readings

24 JULY 2022
Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

31 JULY 2022
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



The Feast of the Assumption is Monday August 15th

Mass times are as follows:

- St Gerard's 7am
- St Gerard's 9:30am with Year 5 & 6 from St Gerard's school
- Our Lady Help of Christians' 6pm (in lieu of Adoration)



GIVING & SERVICE - A HUGE THANK-YOU!

Giving: Thank you for your generosity in giving to our parish this past financial year. Your receipts and a letter of thanks will come by mail in the coming week. Please phone the parish office on 9876 2853 if you do not receive your receipt.

Service: Thank you to the many people who have volunteered for new ministries. Your details have been sent to a leader of the ministry for which you have volunteered and they will be reaching out to you. Please contact the parish office if you don't hear from someone by this week.

St Gerard's Altar Society: The new roster for the Altar Society from August to October is now available from the sacristy. Please pick up your new roster, and *thank you* for your ministry of caring for our place of worship.



~ Fr Jim

ST GERARD'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - 16TH OCTOBER 2022

We aim to reflect and celebrate with past and present parishioners the 50 years life of our parish at St Gerard's, to thank God for blessing and graces on all the families past and present, and to ask God to continue to bless and grow our parish through the intercession of St Gerard. To kickstart this celebration, each fortnight we will feature a parishioner's story and history with our church. This fortnight, long-time parishioner (since 1967!), **Peter Sharp**, writes for us and is pictured below with his family and some fellow parishioners:



It was the parish mothers who proposed the name for St Gerard Majella Church and Carlingford was the first parish dedicated to the Redemptorist Brother Saint, Patron of mothers and family life.

The Church building as it stands today took 22 years to materialise, a journey from Epping parish in 1950, through Rydalmere parish until 1962, then the machinery radio transmission hall and finally opening and Dedication on 9 April, 1972. Throughout that long and arduous process, we today need to stop and admire and respect the commitment of our clergy and previous parishioners who worked so diligently to achieve both our Church and School.

..... continued from previous page - Peter Sharp's article

Frs Nolan, Spillane and Murphy worked tirelessly to complete the construction until Father Murphy accomplished conclusion of the project. The parish debt on completion of all this was around \$157,000. Interestingly \$90,000 added to the parish bank funded by parishioners during the year 1971 towards the cost. The value of the volunteer effort was enormous.

My wife and I joined St Gerard Majella parish on August 15,1967 when the school was in the third year of operation and Mass was in the transformed hall. Numbers steadily increased during the 1960's and it was obvious the hall was on borrowed time. The new Church plans were publicly displayed in January 1971 and building commenced in August 1971. Our new Church was coming.

The Church and school became a significant part of our family and Catholic life. Our children attended the school from 1972 and our last Grandchild completed schooling at St Gerard's in 2021. Sacramental programs were completed over the years for our children and grandchildren in the Church, marriages proclaimed, all in our local Catholic community dating back so many years. Friendships (both children and parents) initiated in those early days, as with many other parishioners, continue today and are an enduring foundation of support and comfort through the years.

Much effort was invested in establishing this Carlingford community socially with annual dinner dances at Lane Cove Town Hall, picnics at Lane Cove National Park and parishioners running school sports days. The football and netball clubs ran annual dinner dances for many years for the parish and school until the winding up of the football club. There were many volunteer Church groups established, some of which continue today in a different format but with the same underlying objectives accompanied by new additional groups to satisfy changing Church needs and society demands of 2022. All these assets help to establish and continue to grow the St Gerard Catholic community.

The Church has seen many parishioners pass through the doors since 9 April 1972 and it is certain that in the future 50 years, many more will continue to benefit from the efforts of clergy and parishioners, past, present and future, in the Church of St Gerard Majella in the parish of Epping and Carlingford-closing the loop back to 1950.

~ Peter Sharp



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

Bookkeeper:

Karen Price Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Karen.Price@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council:

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

After Hours Sick Calls - 9876 2853

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Children's Sacraments: Enrolment for the Sacrament of Confirmation will close this Sunday 24th July. Our parish will celebrate Confirmation this year on Saturday the 3rd September. The Parent Sessions will be held on Tuesday 26th July and Thursday 28th July via Zoom and the families will be presented during Mass for the Rite of Enrolment on the 31st July.

There will be a JUMPING CASTLE after the 9:30am Mass on the 31st July!

Please come and show your support for these families and catch up for a cuppa whilst the children play! As usual, morning tea will be provided by our parish hospitality team. If you have any questions regarding any of our parish Children's Ministries (Sacramental Programmes, Children's Mass or Kidz Word), please send an email to Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au or phone the parish office on 9876 2853.

Kidz Word at St Gerard's 9:30am Mass resumes this Sunday 24th July!



Children's Involvement at OLHC 10:15am Mass: At OLHC, due to current space constraints, we have a different way for children to celebrate Children's Liturgy. Instead of Kidz Word, we welcome the involvement of our children at the 10.15am Mass *every Sunday*. This could include being involved in songs with actions, processions, and prayers of intercession.

If your child would like to be involved, please bring them to the back of the church at 10am where roles will be allocated by Serena and parts rehearsed just before Mass begins.

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 3rd August 2022**. 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.

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.

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

Headlines

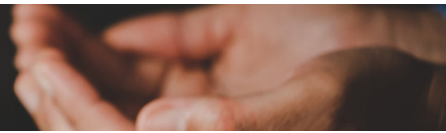
Did you know? We have a section on our parish website under News & Events called Headlines. Occasionally in this section, we include important news that may occur in between the bulletins.

It can be found here: bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/headlines

SOCIAL CLUB

Years ago, we had a group at Epping/Carlingford called the *over 50s Club*! It was started in Fr Colin Blayney's time. We planned outings during the year and we had lots of good times. Well, we are well past 50 now, as we were then I suppose! However, just recently the question was asked "Would anyone be interested in an outing"? Someone immediately said: "I would"! We hope to plan a lunch during August, possibly at Abbotsford Sailing Club for old-time sake. If you are interested, please let me know. We can go public transport or car share depending on who and how many are interested. The date and time will be arranged... just putting out the suggestion to see who might be interested. If interested please contact Carole Wilson 9869 1036 and we gather contact details for those interested. Thank you. ~ Carole

MONTHLY HEALING MASS



The Healing Mass at St Gerard's: If you are free on *Tuesday 2nd August at 10.00 AM* you are most welcome to join us for the Healing Mass in the Meeting Room. We place the chairs in a semi-circle. It is a warm, intimate, special gathering. Not exactly the 'UPPER ROOM' but almost. We sing together, pray together and each is blessed individually. You truly feel fortunate to be there. Then, if you have time, you are more than welcome to remain after Mass for a cup of tea, a sandwich/cake and good conversation. 'Come and See.'

YOUTH MINISTRIES

World Youth Day: As part of fundraising, we are creating a parish cookbook which we hope to sell soon. Keep an eye out for it and please consider supporting our youth to attend this amazing pilgrimage!!



INSTAGRAM



FACEBOOK



G.R.A.C.E. RADIO



Cana (Year 6-9) - Cana is back! We are meeting on the 22nd and 29th July, Fridays 7:30pm-9pm. 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford - entrance via North Rocks Rd.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - No meeting on the 24th July due to our retreat. Join us next on the 31st July 6-8pm at St Gerard's meeting room.

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



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds) - Our young adults group meets on Tuesdays 7-8:30pm. Join us on the 2nd August for our next meeting!

We also have Facebook groups for Antioch and Emmaus. If you would like to join or would like more information on our 3 youth groups, please contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au

PARISH SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

What does the Bible say about refugees and asylum seekers?

Early in the Old Testament, the respect and care owing to the stranger is established. In the book of Leviticus we find the following exhortation:

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:33-34

The law called on citizens to show compassion and solidarity towards the stranger, because they too had been oppressed and exiled. In the New Testament, the subject of this law is found in the person of Christ. In the infancy narrative of Matthew's Gospel the first days of the child's life are characterised by the wise men's adoration of his majesty and, immediately afterwards, the Holy Family's escape from Herod's slaughter.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

Matthew 2:13-15

This narrative of the flight into Egypt is also a story of the children of Bethlehem who did not escape Herod's wrath. The Gospel account of Matthew refers to how Rachel wept for her children and 'refused to be consoled, because they are no more' (Matt. 3:18).

What does Catholic Social Teaching Say about Refugees and Asylum Seekers?

Human dignity

All human beings are precious. Each of us possesses an inestimable value that we refer to as our human dignity. We are sacred and deserve respect because we are human and loved by God, not because we are useful, law-abiding, belong to a particular race and religion, or contribute economically.

We can see this in the Gospel story of Jesus blessing children:

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'

Matthew 9:13-14



Jesus' disciples see the children as obstacles, someone to be kept out of the way. But Jesus sees the children as persons, each loved by God and each with something to teach us. So he welcomes them and blesses each of them. He looks into their faces and sees their innate holiness.

The dignity of each person means that it is never right to use human beings as if they are things – means to an end. Jesus' attitude shows that. How can we justify (any) policy that dishonours the human dignity of people who seek protection and denies the truth of their humanity?

Australian Catholic Bishops 2015-16 Social Justice Statement

Let's learn more about Idrissa, a young man who addressed us at our Community Conversation in May:

Idrissa is an advocate, community organiser, former teacher, journalist and is a passionate activist for the rights of women. He moved to Australia in 2018 having fled persecution from his home country, Sierra Leone. He is currently doing a degree in social work after completing his certificate 4 in disability services in 2019. For Refugee Week 2022 Idrissa shares a reflection on what *healing* means to him:

"Healing for me is a process that makes me happy and gives me a *sound sense of belonging*. Storytelling is the game changer for my healing power. Sharing my stories to the wider community and to see the way that the average Australian resonates with me makes me feel more welcome. *That welcoming spirit heals me a lot and keeps me going strong*. The community should support refugees in all aspects: morally, emotionally and spiritually. With support backed with prayers can make things happen."

We encourage you to access the JRS website and newsletters where you will find further information about this worldwide crisis: <https://aus.jrs.net/en/jesuit-refugee-service/>



Please note our next targeted **Foodbank collection** will be on the weekend *6th-7th August*. Marked boxes will be in the churches on that weekend. We have been asked for :

- 1) Cooking or olive oil
- 2) Green or red lentils (1 kg or 375 grms)
- 3) Liquid clothes detergent.



Thank you for your ongoing support. You can contact JRS directly through jane.turner@jrs.org.au

~ Parish Social Justice Team

John Whealy johnwwhealy@gmail.com

Mark Smith mark.luciasmith@gmail.com

GROW IN FAITH

Have you been part of our Alpha, Wild Goose, or Unlocking the Mysteries programs of adult faith formation in the past year or two? Many people have found these to be very helpful in deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ, and this has been particularly important in sustaining us in faith during the challenges of the past two years. We would now like to invite you to consider the programs which we are currently offering. Small groups are where people's faith is nurtured and Christian community develops. You're welcome to take part in these whether you have been directly involved in our programs this year, or not.

We continue to run the Wild Goose series on the Holy Spirit and are currently running sessions 8-14 of The Wild Goose series. This is similar in format to Alpha in that we watch a 20 minute video meditation, and then share in small groups about our response to the video and our experience of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

- Tuesday nights will commence *Tuesday July 19th, 7pm – 8.30pm* in St Gerard's Hall (contact Canute canuted@gmail.com or Phil philip.a.senger@cnggroup.com or just come along)



..... continued from previous page - **Grow in Faith**

- Friday nights at *OLHC Church* commence *July 22nd 7pm – 8.30pm* (contact Leon leon.dsylva@gmail.com **0431 4906 984** or just come along)
- An online series will continue on Wednesday nights from Sept 14th (contact Regina for the zoom link m.soeryanto@hotmail.com)
- You can also watch *The Wild Goose* by joining the group on Facebook. Simply click on this link: www.facebook.com/groups/1148887152176778/ or scan this QR code on the right from the hard copy:



As mentioned on the front page of the bulletin, Bishop David Walker will be giving a series of 5 talks on John's Gospel on Wednesday mornings following Mass at *St Gerard's. 10.15am – 11.45am in the meeting room from August 3rd.* Contact Marie mfblack3@gmail.com or Mery meryauwyang@hotmail.com for details or just bring your bible and come along.

Reflection on next Sunday's Scriptures

Our weekly time of reflection on the coming Sunday's Scriptures continues to take place each Friday, at St Gerard's Carlingford. It commences immediately following the 9:30am Mass, in the Parish Meeting Room. All welcome! Contact Marie mfblack3@gmail.com

Catalyst for Renewal Reflection Morning

We will gather on Saturday 6th August at 9.30 AM in the parish hall of Hunters Hill. Sr Jo Brady RSJ will lead our reflection. Her topic/theme: 'The Spirit of the Plenary Council and Me'. More details: Carole Wilson 9869 1036.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

For those interested in becoming Catholic or if you know someone who is seeking, contact Dennis Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION & NOTICES

Celebrations this Week

Ordinary Time Week 17

- 25 Jul Monday: St James
- 26 Jul Tuesday: Sts Joachim and Anne
- 29 Jul Friday: Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus
- 30 Jul Saturday: St Peter Chrysologus

Ordinary Time Week 18

- 1 Aug Monday: St Alphonsus Liguori
- 3 Aug Wednesday: St Dominic
- 4 Aug Thursday: St John Vianney
- 5 Aug Friday: *The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major*
- 6 Aug Saturday: **The Transfiguration of the Lord**

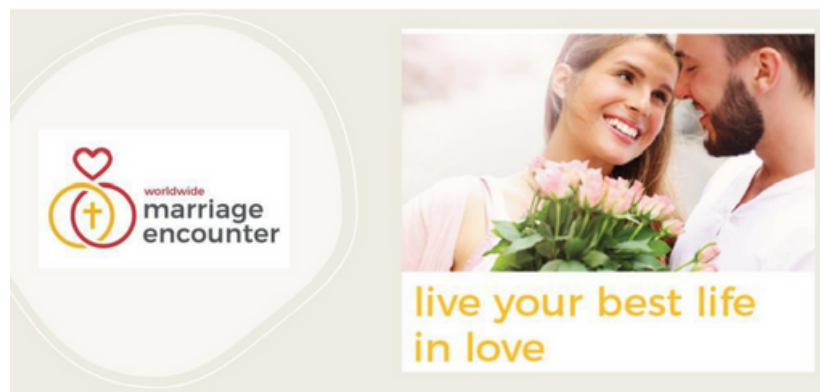
Dads' Club

The monthly gathering of the parish Dads' Club (for all dads in both the Epping and Carlingford communities of the parish) takes place the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm. For details contact John Williams 0416 064 460. Dads are welcome for a relaxing and enjoyable evening!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Virtual Weekend

19-21 August 2022



This Virtual weekend is conducted by Zoom

allowing you to attend from the comfort of your own home

Weekend Dates & Contact Information

19-21 August 2022

Beginning Friday at 7:00 pm through Sunday at about 4:00 pm

Book online www.wwme.org.au

OR contact Booking Couple

Mercy & James Bvirakare, Mobile 0409 183 676

Email- vicbookings@wwme.org.au



Transfiguration of Christ Painting by Mary Tuomi

Responsorial Psalm Response

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 24 July 2022

Ps 137:1-3, 6-8. R. v. 3

Lord, on the day I called for help,
you answered me

Gospel Acclamation

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 24 July 2022

Alleluia, Alleluia!

You have received the Spirit which makes us God's
children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father.

WEEKEND MASSES

Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am (Family/Children) and 6:00pm
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am (Family/Children) and 5:00pm (Youth)

WEEKDAY MASSES

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	No Mass	*	6:00pm	*	*	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	

EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Monday 6-7pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am,

Carlingford 1st Thursday 10am and Friday 10-10:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Monday 6-7pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am,

Carlingford Friday 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

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

Fr Jim will be on holidays July 25-30th. There will not be adoration and reconciliation at OLHC on Monday 25th.

Please pray for.....

For those who are sick and suffering:

- Nancy Walker (family of Eileen Nicoll)
- Martin McGuire (family of Eileen Nicoll)
- Patrick Thornton (family of Pat & Margaret Mcardle)
- Cohen Hadden (family of Pat & Margaret Mcardle)
- Graham & Elaine Yeates (elderly couple in nursing home)
- Dennis Porteous (our Parish Secretary)
- Eric Yeung (brother of Gorette Yeung)
- Leo Lazarus (catechist)
- Zachary & Mackenzie
- Stephen Lo
- Edward Ngu (Li May's dad)



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

Recently deceased - Sr M Geraldine Kiss RSJ, John Mullins, Carlo Genti, Eddie Lee (uncle of Kevin Siau)

Anniversaries - Bill Kilby (husband of Anne Kilby), Leo Ankus, Daniel & Acacio Andrade

Responsorial Psalm Response

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 31 July 2022

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 1

Gospel Acclamation

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 31 July 2022

Alleluia, Alleluia!

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!