

Diocese of Broken Bay

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Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueza
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Our Lady Help of Christians'

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Single Donation

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Readings

27 AUGUST 2023

Isaiah 22:19-23

Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16:13-20

3 SEPTEMBER 2023

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 16:21-27



YEAR A

27 AUGUST 2023 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

3 SEPTEMBER 2023 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Ministers of the Word Retreat: After a successful and enjoyable retreat for our Music Ministers last month, we are now offering a similar retreat and formation day for our Ministers of the Word. It is fitting that the people who enrich our Mass by proclaiming the Word of God take time to be nourished spiritually by the teaching of Fr David Orr and the prayerful atmosphere of St Benedict's Monastery. This will take place at **St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia, from 10am to 3pm on Saturday Sept 9th.**

Please ensure you have RSVPd to bcnoel@bigpond.net.au if you minister at

OLHC or to carolewilson2816@gmail.com if you minister at St Gerard's.

We welcome Frs Geoff Bugden, Joey Frez, Marek Woldan and Michael Belonio, OSA who will be celebrating weekend Masses while Fr Aldrin is on annual leave until the 18th September.

Thank you: For many years generous volunteers have cleaned OLHC Church. In recent years some teams have concluded their service, and this year our final teams have retired from this duty. Pictured here: **Mary Massingham, Roque and Genevieve Cuan and Cyril Tumminello** at a morning tea with Fr Jim to acknowledge their generosity. Not pictured are their co-workers **Jeanette Rigney and Eddie Dupont**. Many thanks to them and to all the tireless workers over many years.



"By giving to our church, you play a vital role in fostering the growth of Jesus' ministry within all of us. Your financial support enables us to leadership training, and worship events, liturgical guidance empowering individuals to live out their faith and serve others."

A PROPOSAL FOR ST GERARD'S SCHOOL



An opportunity has arisen for the Parish to have a renewed and upgraded gathering space as part of a larger upgrade of facilities at St Gerard's School, partly funded by a federal government grant and partly funded by Catholic Schools Broken Bay.

The proposal is that the block of classrooms closest to the presbytery be refurbished and handed back to the parish in exchange for the existing parish hall at the back of the site.

This is a significant project worthy of consideration and reflection by the whole parish. It has many advantages and some disadvantages.

The hall would be demolished along with the oldest red-brick school building to make way for a new classroom block. We celebrated numerous masses and hosted joyous parish celebration in the hall. For this reason, we acknowledge that it holds many fond memories for parishioners who would feel its loss. However, being an older building it will cost more in maintenance in the coming years. Moreover, it is poorly located, far from the church, and its facilities will be costly and difficult to upgrade.

The Parish would gain a newly refurbished building at no cost to the parish, as it would be part of the overall cost of the school improvement. The refurbished building is much better located for parish functions with its close proximity to the church. We would have unrestricted access to our own building on weekdays because the school would have its own hall. It would be fitted with a new kitchen and new bathrooms including for all mobilities, which would be ideally placed for parish access, with a new entry oriented toward the church rather than the school.

Currently, the Parish rarely uses the hall to its full extent and it is utilized by the school five days a week. Although the refurbished building is smaller than the current hall, our regular events such as youth group, playgroup and Alpha-type programs could all be easily accommodated in the smaller building. The Parish would also have weekend and evening access when needed to a new, larger hall which will be built as part of the school upgrade.

We are privileged to have among us some of the founding parishioners of St Gerard's who put their own labour into the building of St Gerard's Church in the 1970s and the renovation of the hall into a church in the 1960s. We acknowledge that they would feel the loss of the hall in the present, but they put their work into these buildings to provide the best facilities they could for the future generations of the parish and school. We now have the opportunity to take the next step forward in providing accessible and inviting spaces for the next generation.



But we need the support of the parish to proceed. ***I will be available in the meeting room after each Mass this weekend (Aug 27th)*** to show the plans and to hear any questions and concerns. Parishioners are also invited to a presentation at the St Gerard's School community in the ***school library on Monday Sept 4th at 7pm.***

~ Fr Jim

UPGRADE & MAINTENANCE



We will be adding a bottom-opening servery window to St. Gerard's Church, aimed at enhancing our ability to host hospitality functions in the vicinity of the church.

This window will serve the purpose of maintaining the temperature of food items and aiding in the preparation of hot beverages.

It is worth mentioning that we will be utilizing this area in conjunction with the St. Vincent de Paul Piety Stall and express our gratitude for their collaborative efforts. Picture is only a representative example.

~ Richard Houwing

Parish Facilities & Operations Coordinator



Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible enriches our Catholic identity. We discover our connection to Abraham and the chosen people of Israel.

We understand how Jesus fulfills the promises made to them in the New Covenant. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible helps you get the “big picture” by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. Presenter Jeff Cavins shows you how to read the Bible so that you can actually understand it.

Join us to *Unlock the Mystery of the Bible*, 8 Online Sessions starting **September 5th (Tuesday) from 7 pm to 9 pm**. No need to go out. Just go to your computer. You can invite neighbours, friends and family. They can join online from the comfort of their home.

To register or for more information - Email philip.senger@eppcarl.org.au by **August 29** or put your name on the list at the back of the church. Around 200 parishioners in our parish have already Unlocked the Mystery. If you haven't already, come join us. There is still time to enquire!

“What’s actually happening during the Mass?”

This **ALTARATION** program is designed to help you understanding the WHYs behind the WHATs we are doing or saying during the Mass, so we can more appreciate the beauty and the awesome of the Mass and always looking forward to participating in it.

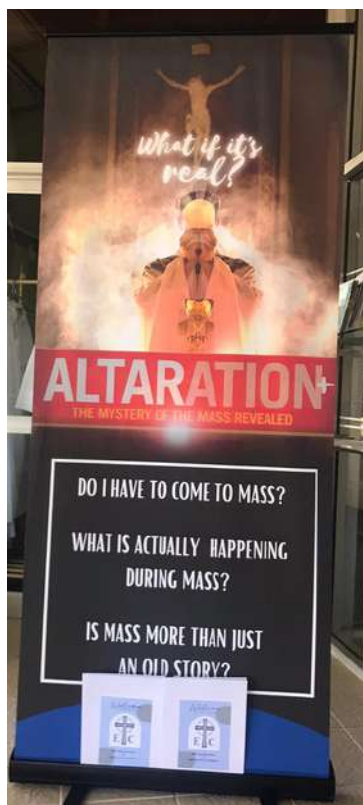
The Mass is the greatest gift from God to us. The Mass is the source and summit of our Christian life. During the Mass, God raises us to the new height to give us a glimpse the foretaste of heaven. Watch a sneak peek here:

<https://youtu.be/nwqpan7umwQ> and come join our new program “ALTARATION: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed”!

Join us for 4 weekdays at:

- 7pm Tuesday nights **St Gerard's hall** from 5th Sept. Contact Mery meryauwyang@hotmail.com
- 7pm Friday nights **OLHC Church** from 8th Sept. Contact Leon dsylva01@hotmail.com

To join, simply put your name on the list at the back of the church.



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



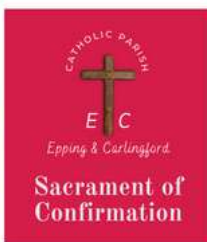
Monthly Healing Mass at St Gerard's: Join us for the Healing Mass on **Tuesday 5th September**. We gather in the meeting room for Mass at **10am**. Please stay, if you are able to, for morning tea following Mass.

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.



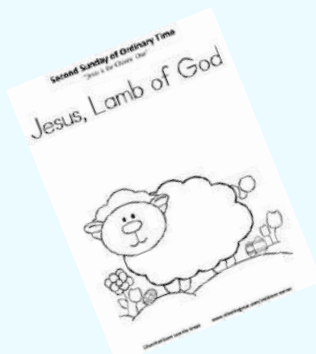
SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



This weekend, we conclude our preparation sessions for the children to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation! How time flies... it has been a wonderful 4 weeks to discuss the sacrament, 5-6 Gospel stories, asking Saints to pray for us, and so much more. The children, their parents and Sponsors will attend their practice rehearsals in the coming week on the 29th August (St Gerard's) and

the 31st August (OLHC). Our parish will celebrate Confirmation this year on **Saturday the 2nd September at St Gerard's Church 10am and at OLHC Church 1pm**. Please keep us all in your prayers.

Kidz Bulletin & Colouring Sheets



Please remember we have the "LOOK" Kidz Bulletin and colouring sheets for your younger children every week to help them (hopefully!) engage during Mass. These are usually placed on the benchtop at the back of both OLHC and St Gerard's Church. Feel free to take! Would you kindly ensure that the crayons are returned to the box at the back of the church please? Many thanks!

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



Kidz Word Activity

Our weekly Kidz Word that runs parallel to the 9:30am Mass at St Gerard's during school term is always packed with enriching activities and prayers to help K-Yr 6 children understand and remember Jesus' teachings. Sunday Gospels are presented in age-appropriate and engaging ways by our team of creative volunteers, without whom Kidz Word would cease to exist! Tell your children to remember to thank them and would you think about helping out once in a while? Reach out and see how we can support you to do it!

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 6th September 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 every Friday **7:30-9pm** during the school term. We will resume on the **1st September**. Come along to see your friends and learn about our Mother Mary.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Antioch will meet on the **27th August, 6-8pm**. **No meeting on 3rd September** due to

Father's Day.

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 **5th September, 7-8:30pm**.

We will be joining with the parish on the 4 week Altaration series, so come along to the parish hall for free dinner, videos and share groups.



Rosary and candle procession at Fatima

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



IGNITE CONFERENCE IS BACK IN SYDNEY: held in Waitara precinct 28th Sep-1st Oct in the Term 3 school holidays. Ignite is an annual conference for young people and teenagers (primary school up to young adults). You have an opportunity to meet other young Catholics, listen to faith filled talks, attend workshops catered to different ages and interests. It is all the best parts of World Youth Day but right here on our doorstep. This year's theme is 'Wonder'. It's about God doing wonders for us, and wonder/awe is a spiritual gift given to us. This is the link for more details, the daily schedule and to register - <https://igniteconference.com.au/sydney>. Please email Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au now for a potential discount.

World Youth Day Update!



World Youth Day (WYD) 2023 has come to a close! We are so privileged and blessed to have had this amazing experience and we are on fire for God and filled with joy. In upcoming bulletins and in our youth groups, our pilgrims will share their reflections and highlights from WYD.

We would like to say a massive THANK-YOU to the entire parish and everyone who supported us to go on this trip; from your prayers and donations to your well wishes. We prayed for you all on our trip. As a thank-you and small gratitude, we have bought a statue of Mary (from Fatima) and some tea towels and they have been blessed by Bishop Anthony.

We would also like to hold a **"Thank-you Supper"** after the St Gerard's 5pm Youth Mass on the **10th September**. We will have cultural food (Italian and Portuguese) and you can come ask us any questions and we can share with you our WYD experiences.

From all of us overjoyed pilgrims, thank you,
Obrigato and Grazie! God bless.



Final night in Fatima

UPCOMING EVENT

Celebrating
40 years
of Antioch

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. See details below.



In 2023, our parish is joyfully commemorating four decades since the inception of Antioch, a transformative ministry that has left a mark on the lives of countless young individuals. Over the years, Antioch has nurtured a personal relationship with Jesus in the hearts of thousands of young people, guiding them on their faith journey and inspiring them to lead purposeful lives.

Antioch's impact extends beyond the spiritual growth of the youth; it has also played a significant role in fostering a spirit of service and compassion within the parish community. The young adults involved in Antioch have been tireless in their commitment to various service works, spreading love and kindness to those in need, and contributing to the betterment of society.

Such an extraordinary milestone would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the entire

parish community. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all the parishioners who have stood by Antioch throughout these four decades, offering their prayers, encouragement, and resources to make this ministry thrive.

As we prepare for this remarkable event, we call upon all past and present members of Antioch, including "Antiochers," parent supporters, cherished members of "God's Squad", and our parish community to be part of this celebration. Your presence and involvement will add to the richness of the festivities.

If you'd like to join us, please reach out to **Louise - 0404 496 554** or **Kirk Koelmeyer - 0420 874 824**, the current Antioch parent supporters. You can also tap/click the QR code or contact the parish office to RSVP to the event.



SOCIAL JUSTICE - OUR PARISH SUPPORT



This weekend, 26th-27th, we are collecting items for the clients of JRS Parramatta. A list of requested items has been printed in recent bulletins. Marked boxes are in each of St Gerards and OLHC churches.

Please note that donations will be taken on Monday 28th from the churches to be delivered on Tuesday.

We thank all our parishioners for their ongoing support and prayers.

The Voice: There is much information and misinformation circulating ahead of the upcoming referendum about an indigenous voice to parliament. This weekend is Social Justice Sunday and this year the letter from the Australian Catholic Bishops called "Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples" is very timely.

We have copies of this statement available in the church this weekend, and also a prayer card with the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This statement is the request from the First Nations peoples of Australia for a voice to parliament. We invite you to take a copy to aid in your prayerful discernment of how you will vote in the upcoming referendum.

Rather than our parish running a stand-alone event about the referendum, we are invited to join Epping Uniting Church for **a forum on "The Voice" at 7.00pm 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.

Refugees: The Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum says the Albanese Government's move to increase the humanitarian intake by 2125 places per year is a positive step towards a more compassionate and principled response to people seeking asylum. Yet, many of those who are awaiting visas have little means of support. Our assistance through Jesuit Refugee Services makes a big difference.



Celebrations this Week

Ordinary Time Week 21

28 August Mon: St Augustine

29 August Tues: The Passion of St John the Baptist

1 September Fri: *Ember Day*

Ordinary Time Week 22

8 September Fri: **The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9 September Sat: *St Peter Claver*



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.



Hien at WYD 2023

Hien's Ordination: Hien Vu is a seminarian who did his pastoral placement in our parish in 2021. Bishop Anthony is pleased to announce, *"With gratitude to God who has led Hien through this remarkable journey and for the gift of his vocation to us, I will ordain Hien to the Order of Deacons at **St Leonard's Church, Naremburn on Friday 24 November 2023 at 7.30pm**".*

Catalyst for Renewal Reflection Morning: Held in the **parish hall of Hunters Hill. Saturday 2nd September 9.30am - 12.30pm.** Fr Michael Kelly OSB will lead our reflection. Enquiries Carole Wilson 9869 1036.

Cookies, Cakes & Cupcakes OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

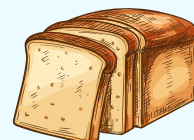


Sunday 17th September 2023 after 8:30am

**After morning Epping masses
at OLHC Church**

DADS CLUB ST VINNIES BREAD RUN - THURSDAY NIGHT

Assistance needed: For many years Dads Club has volunteered with the St Gerards Conference of St Vinnies each Thursday night with delivering bread from Bakers Delight to families in the Carlingford & Dundas area.



With more addresses now requesting delivery & some volunteers needing to step away, more help is needed. If you're able to assist one Thursday night each school term please contact John Williams, 0416 064 460.



Marriage Enrichment Weekend

An opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come and join us on

27-29 October 2023

at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid-safe environment

at **Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW**
a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or
contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 for
details. You can also email: nswbookings@wwme.org.au



OLMC Epping Class of 73 reunion!

Epping Hotel - 24 September 2023 noon till 5pm.

Come for nibbles, drinks and conversation! Bring some memorabilia for conversation starters. It would be great to see everyone!

RSVP 8 September for catering purposes.

Message for details or hop on to OLMC Epping Facebook page. Rosemary Beattie (née Lombard) 0414 691 058
rosemarybeattie58@gmail.com

Responsorial Psalm Response

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27 Aug 2023

Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8

Gospel Acclamation

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27 Aug 2023

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

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 Parish Secretary)
- Eric Yeung (brother of Goretti Yeung)
- Margaret Floyd (now in palliative care)

- Paul Grassi
- 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)



"To my Dear Friends, I wanted to write this letter to express my deepest gratitude for your prayers. I am grateful for each and every one of them. I know that God is hearing them and I am hopeful for what the future holds. I am also grateful to have such a supportive and loving church family. I am humbled by the support shown by you all, and I have no doubt that your support has helped me through my ongoing recovery. It's times like there in our lives that remind us of what we have and what we can achieve when we all join together. Thank you for being part of my life and praying for me. I hope I can give back as much as I have been given. " ~Sincerely, Margaret Hall

Farewell: The funeral for OLHC parishioner Elaine Hunt will be held at St Anthony's Church, Marsfield, 12pm Thursday Aug 31st.

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

Recently deceased - Julie Johnsson, Katherine McInerney, Lorraine Warner, Nazih Melhem, John Thornton, Teresa Fraser, Spencer Chan, Chris Meadows

Anniversaries - Judith, Sebastian and Lucy De Cruz, Francesco and Caterina Rodi, Jasper Lam, Jan Doherty (Mass offered for her from her friends on her birthday 30th August)

Responsorial Psalm Response

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 3 Sep 2023

Ps 62:2-6, 8-9

Gospel Acclamation

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 3 Sep 2023

Alleluia, Alleluia!

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.