## **Diocese of Broken Bay**

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon <u>Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueza <u>Aldrin.Valdehueza@bbcatholic.org.au</u>



Our Lady Help of Christians'
31 Oxford Street, Epping

St Gerard Majella's

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford



**Phone** 02 9876 2853



Website eppcarl.org.au



Email

<u>eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au</u>



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**Click here for:** 

**Weekend Mass Times** 

Weekday Mass Times

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** 

Sacrament of Reconciliation



Readings

29 SEPTEMBER 2024 Numbers 11:25–29 James 5:1–6 Mark 9:38–43, 45, 47–48

> 6 OCTOBER 2024 Genesis 2:18-24 Hebrews 2:9-11 Mark 10:2-12



YEAR B

29 SEPTEMBER 2024 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 6 OCTOBER 2024 TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are honoured to announce the arrival of a first-class relic of St. Gerard Majella, entrusted to the parish for veneration. This relic will be installed during Mass on October 16, 2024, the Solemnity of St. Gerard Majella, celebrated by Very Rev Dr. David Ranson, Vicar General of the Diocese of Broken Bay. The



event marks a significant opportunity for the faithful to grow spiritually through devotion to St. Gerard, especially for mothers, expectant mothers, and unborn children, as St. Gerard is their patron. St. Gerard was canonized in 1904 by Pope Saint Pius X.

What are Relics?

Relics are described as tangible connections to saints, akin to how people keep mementos of deceased loved ones to maintain a sense of closeness. The word relic originates from the Latin word relinquo, meaning "I leave" or "I abandon."

There are three classes of relics:

- First Class Relics: Parts of a saint's body, such as bones, hair, or other physical remains. The relic being received belongs to this class.
- Second Class Relics: Objects that a saint owned or items used during their martyrdom.
- Third Class Relics: Any object that has touched a First Class Relic.

Relics are often associated with miraculous events, although they are not believed to hold "magic powers." Catholics pray for the intercession of the saint when venerating relics, seeking their aid in various life circumstances. Relics offer a direct connection to saints, serving as a reminder of their faith and the miracles attributed to them.

Venerating relics signifies belief in several doctrines of the Catholic faith, such as:

- Eternal life for those who have faithfully followed Christ.
- The resurrection of the body on the last day for all people.
- The dignity of the human body, both in life and after death, demanding respect for the living and deceased.
- The special intercessory role of saints in heaven, based on their close relationship with Christ.
- The communion of saints, reflecting the unity between the living (the Church on earth) and those in heaven (the Church triumphant).

There are several biblical references to emphasize the spiritual and miraculous significance of relics.

Matthew 14:35-36 (cf. Mark 6:56 and Luke 8:43-44): People were healed by merely touching the tassel of Jesus' cloak.

Acts 5:15: Even the shadow of St. Peter was said to bring healing.

~cont'd...

2 Kings 13:21: The bones of Elisha brought a man back to life when the man came into contact with Elisha after being cast into Elisha's grave.

These references underscore the tradition of relics as sources of grace and divine intervention, dating back to biblical

#### **Upcoming Parish Pilgrimage:**

On October 19, the parish will host a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Holy Innocents in Kellyville. This event will celebrate the Solemnity of St. Gerard and conclude the Traveling Mary initiative held throughout the Holy Rosary month. The shrine houses a collection of other sacred relics of saints, furthering opportunities for veneration and prayer. Please see more information below from the Devotions Team in this bulletin.

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your prayerful support and encouragement as I assumed the role of parish administrator - it truly meant a lot to me. Additionally, thank you for generously responding to the financial appeal of the Jamberoo nuns, helping to support the repair and restoration of their Abbey - your kindness is deeply appreciated.

In Christ, I remain, Rev Fr Aldrin Valdehueza Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam

#### OUR DEVOTIONS TEAM BRINGS TO US

# Feast of St. Gerard Majella

Inviting all parishioners, particularly those who are planning to start a family, expanding their family, having difficulty conceiving, or who have been blessed with children through the intercession of St Gerard

Join us on this great day to celebrate the feast and the installation of the relic.

Novena will be held after 9:30AM mass on weekday and Sunday beginning Tuesday, October 8th.

#### **Feast Day Program**

- Novena
- Holy Mass
- · Installation of the Relic
- · Light Supper

Main Celebrant of the Holy Mass: Rev Dr. David Ranson, VG

Starts at 7:00 PM

16 October 2024



St. Gerard's Carlingford

Bring a plate to share if you can.

# **EPPING & CARLINGFORD** PARISH PILGRIMAGE

The Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville



### SATURDAY, 19 OCT



MEETING PLACE

8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville



FOOD

Please bring your own lunch. Morning tea will be provided



- Arrive at 09:00 AM
- Morning Tea Stations of the Cross
- Talk by Fr. Pasca



Arrive at the shrine at 9:00 AM, and return by 3:45 PM



TRANSPORT

Please carpool or use own transportation.

- Holy Mass Lunch (BYO) at 1:00 PM
- Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation
- Divine Mercy Chaplet Leave by 3:45PM

The registration form is at the back of both the Epping and Carlingford churches. While there is no cost for the pilgrimage, a donation of \$10 to the shrine is greatly welcomed.

# Whilst on the topic of Saints...

St Vincent de Paul: On Friday 27th September, we celebrated the feast day for St Vincent de Paul. To listen to a podcast about his extraordinary life click on this link below or scan this code on the right. https://universalis.com/podcasts.htm?selected=26



#### ~Deacon Richard Houwing

#### **MORE PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES**



**Epping Precinct Opening Delay:** We regret to inform you that the scheduled provisioning of permanent power last week did not proceed due to a prolonged industrial dispute involving Ausgrid and other organisations. As you may have seen in the media, this dispute has impacted numerous developments and infrastructure projects, including housing, schools, and hospitals, over the past several months.

Despite this, Richard Crookes Construction and our project managers and stakeholders are actively working on rescheduling the electrical supply works. The new proposed date is now set for 17 October. If this goes ahead, it will still be several weeks before we can move in, as additional work and testing will be required. We remain committed to completing the project successfully and will continue to keep you informed. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any concerns or additional information.

While these delays can be frustrating, we trust that things will align in their own time. We will continue to manage what we can, remaining flexible as the situation develops, knowing that everything will be resolved in due course.

#### ~Deacon Richard Houwing



Gordon Floyd (pictured left), a well-loved parishioner and one of the foundational members of St Gerard's, celebrated his 94th birthday on September 19th. He is in Anglicare, Dapto, as his family now live on the South Coast. Please keep Gordon Floyd in your thoughts and prayers.

Coincidentally, Fr Jim mentioned the Floyds in his blog (link below):

https://frjimsreflections.blogspot.com/2024/09/2022.html

# Parish Team

#### **Parish Secretary**

Marcella Letteri Ph: 9876 2853

 ${\it Email:} \ \underline{Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au}$ 

#### **Business Manager**

**Deacon 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 & Parish Communications

**Lynn Siau** Ph: 9876 2853

Email: <u>Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

#### **Youth Ministry Coordinator**

Joanna Mak Ph: 0404 710 588

Email: <u>Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

#### **New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator - St Gerard's**

Belinda Shi Ph: 0414 753 362

Email: Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au

#### **Pastoral Worker - OLHC**

Simone Noel Ph: 0414 753 799

Email: Simone.Noel@bbcatholic.org.au



New parish email address for general

enquiries: <a href="mailto:eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au">eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au</a> Will be

obsolete.

#### **Updating your contact details for the Parish Office:**

Please contact our Parish Secretary, Marcella Letteri, if you need to update your contact details, for eg: mobile number, email address, home address.

You can either pop in to the parish office to see Marcella in person, contact her using details above.





We bid farewell to long-time parishioner **Betty Connors** (pictured right). Betty and her husband, Basil, joined the Epping parish in 1968 and were active members before the OLHC and St Gerard's amalgamation. They organized family events and picnics. At St Gerard's, Betty helped with the money counting, bulletin collation, and the 55+ group. Her friend Carole

remembers her as an enthusiastic achiever with a warm smile. Now 95, Betty is moving to Newcastle to be closer to family. We wish her the best and thank her for her vibrant contribution to the parish.

#### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

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

# Year One Family Mass at St Gerard's 20th October

In preparation for our first Family Mass in Term 4, we would like to invite Year 1 children to provide some ministries at the 9:30am Mass on Sunday 20th October. The children can be involved in a number of ways such as leading in May you keep well the prayers, processions, etc. We would love to see as many of you as possible! Please visit this link to sign up by Wednesday 16th October: volunteersignup.org/KJKQA or sign up via the QR code on the right.



Any questions, please contact Lynn (details below).

#### Lynn Siau

Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Sacramental Programme & Parish Communications Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au or phone Parish Office 9876 2853

#### PRIMARY STATE SCHOOLS CHILDREN'S MASS



# INVITATION TO A COMBINED CHILDREN'S MASS ON OCTOBER 27TH, 2024

Fr Jim, Fr Aldrin and the Primary School Catechists would like to invite the children and their families to a Combined Children's Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church (OLHC Epping) on October 27th, 2024, for 10:15am Mass followed by morning

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 favourable response preferably by October 9th (Wednesday). Looking forward to seeing you at the Mass. ~Katherine Tam

#### 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 9th October 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:





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/eppingcarlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter

#### **YOUTH MINISTRIES**



Cana (Year 6-9): Cana is on holidays! Cana will resume in Term 4 on the 18th October, 7:30-9pm in the parish hall.

Entrance to the premises is via 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds): Antioch will meet on the 29th September and 6th October, 6-8pm at St Gerard's meeting room. All welcome!

Contact parent support if you have any questions: Cres & Lui Yparraguirre Mobile: 0449228514.



**Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds):** Emmaus are meeting on the **1st October**, **7-8:30pm** at St Gerard's meeting room.



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We are still looking for youth singers who want to join our choir on the **3rd Sunday of each month**. Please contact Joanna if you are able to help. Contact details below.

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On the 22nd Sept, a group of young adults from the Dioceses of Broken Bay, Sydney and Parramatta embarked on a pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney. This journey was not only a chance to learn about the life of Australia's first canonised saint but also an opportunity for young adults to reflect on their own paths and how they might embody her values in their lives.

The pilgrimage attracted individuals from various backgrounds, all united by a desire to explore Mary MacKillop's legacy of compassion, education, and social justice. Mary MacKillop, known for her dedication to the poor and her commitment to education, founded the Sisters of St Joseph in 1866. Her life story, marked by perseverance and a deep faith, served as an inspiration for many attendees.

Upon arriving at Mary MacKillop Place, participants attended Mass and were greeted by the Sisters of Saint Joseph who shared insights into her life and mission. They then had a museum tour, seeing the place and table where Mary wrote many of her letters and writings. One participant noted, "Mary's commitment to helping others, especially those marginalised, inspires me to think about how I can make a difference in my own community. This pilgrimage has encouraged me to act on those thoughts."

The pilgrimage concluded with a reflective prayer, where participants were invited to contemplate their personal journeys and how they might walk in Mary MacKillop's footsteps. The group left with a renewed sense of purpose, encouraged to integrate the lessons learned into their daily lives.

We would like to pray for all our school students, and especially those in Year 12 (and those doing accelerated subjects in Year 11) who are preparing for their HSC. If you would like to, please write your name (and any particular prayer intentions) and place it in the box (at the back of the church). We will pray for you at our Antioch meetings each week and also have specific people to pray for you during the next couple of months. If you have any updated intentions, you can also email Joanna at Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au



HSC blessing will be on the 13th Oct at the 5pm St Gerard's Youth Mass.

#### AN INVITATION FROM BISHOP ANTHONY



Dear sisters & brothers in Christ,

I have previously invited both the Central Coast and Northern Beaches Deaneries to engage in a regional Pastoral Discernment.

I extend this invitation to the People of God in the North Shore Deanery, offering you the opportunity to participate in the pastoral discernment process. This is a chance for everyone to engage in conversation to discern the particular needs of the community on the North Shore.

**THE NORTH SHORE DEANERY:** Our Parish of Epping-Carlingford is part of the North Shore Deanery with ten other parishes. Dates and times for us to gather for communal discernment will be announced in October. Until then, you are invited to prayerfully discern your response to the questions below. The questions were developed by diocesan personnel based on data from the North Shore Profile Report.

**DISCERNMENT - SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION:** When we gather for communal discernment, we will be invited to prayerfully engage in Spiritual Conversation. This is a way of listening deeply to one another, allowing all voices in a group to be heard, respecting all opinions and being open to where God is leading us. It was developed from the General Congregation of the Jesuits in 2016. This brief video from Fr John Dardis sj describes Spiritual Conversation. Please note the timings he mentions are much longer than we will use. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EDySgbWogU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EDySgbWogU</a> or use QR code to watch.



#### QUESTIONS FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL DISCERNMENT:

- 1. The data highlights a clear and significant decline in participation in the pastoral and sacramental life of our communities. How does this shift impact our sense of identity and mission within our local communities? What resourcing initiatives or areas of mission should be considered to address this decline in Catholic identification in the North Shore Deanery?
- 2. What pastoral synergies exist across our North Shore Deanery? How might clusters of parish communities collaborate more effectively? What may be possible across our cluster of parishes in our Deanery?
- 3. What do you consider to be the most pressing issues for people living in the North Shore Deanery and how best might parish communities respond to these?
- 4. The data highlights an increasing demand and stress on community members due to high living costs and housing distress. How can the Church's pastoral mission be adapted to address these challenges? What specific pastoral initiatives can the Church implement to support individuals and families facing financial hardship? What areas for outreach may need to be thought through and considered?
- 5. How does the current configuration of Catholic Communities on the North Shore facilitate or limit mission, ministry, worship, liturgy, and catechesis? What may need to be considered or reviewed to enhance and strengthen Catholic Communities on the North Shore?



For more information, pick up a green booklet available in both churches.

You can also visit the Diocesan website <a href="https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/mission/pdns">https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/mission/pdns</a> or via QR code on the right.



~Gail Gill Gail.Gill@bbcatholic.org.au

#### A FEW GENTLE REMINDERS

**Healing Mass at St Gerard's:** Join us for the Healing Mass on *Tuesday 1st October*. We gather in the meeting room for Mass at 10am. Please stay for morning tea following Mass, and if you are able to, do bring a plate to share. If you would like to attend and are in need of transport, that can also be arranged. Please contact Carole Wilson at 9869 1036.

Nametag Sunday is coming up: Both St Gerard's and OLHC at all weekend Masses on SATURDAY/SUNDAY 6th October.





Fr Jim previously wrote about the staffing changes that resulted in **additional duties for Deacon Richard and Marcella** during this transition period. Please continue to be considerate and aware of their additional workload and be patient when making requests of the parish office. We thank you for your understanding.

#### **OTHER NOTICES**

### **Celebrations this Week Ordinary Week 26**

30 Sept Mon: St Jerome

1 Oct Tue: St Thérèse of the Child Jesus 2 Oct Wed: The Holy Guardian Angels

4 Oct Fri: St Francis of Assisi 5 Oct Sat: St Faustina Kowalska

#### **Ordinary Week 27**

7 Oct Mon: Our Lady of the Rosary

9 Oct Wed: Sts Denis and companions, St John Leonardi

11 Oct Fri: St John XXIII



20 September 2024

#### Thank you for supporting CatholicCare's Homelessness Week Fundraiser

Dear Fr Jim and the parishioners of Epping Carlingford Parish,

I would like to express my sincere thanks for supporting CatholicCare's Homelessness Week fundraiser in August.

Your parish raised a total of \$7715.00, which will allow us to continue supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. We have now processed your donations and have issued receipts where requested.

We provide a women's refuge, transitional accommodation options, young parent's homelessness services and street sleeping outreach supports. We also operate Dom's Place in Hornsby and Mary Mac's in Woy Woy where people who are homeless or transient can connect with others over a meal and access pathways to homelessness support services and health assistance.

We are incredibly thankful for the support of your Parish. Without your generosity CatholicCare would need to turn many people away.

Yours in Christ,

Tim Curran Executive Director CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay

# Short course A Faithful Promise: Catholic Marriage - Covenant and Calling

**Dates/Times:** The course is offered over 4 Tuesday nights:

15, 22 and 29 October and 12 November 2024 - from 7 to 8:30pm AEDT (live via Zoom). Cost: \$100 (or \$25 per session) Overview of Content:

- Session 1: Biblical and Theological Foundations (15 October)
- Session 2: Marriage as Contract, Covenant, Sacrament (22 October)
- Living the Sacrament of Marriage: Unity, Indissolubility and Openness to Life (29 October) • Session 3:
- Theology of Marriage in the Order of Celebrating Matrimony (12 November) • Session 4:

Registration: www.acu.edu.au/marriage\_short\_course

This program would be of benefit to any in ministry to married or engaged couples and who those who work in marriage education/formation, but also to teachers, clergy, seminarians, liturgists, pastoral associates, parishioners and all who have an interest in Catholic sacraments. Upon request, the ACU Centre for Liturgy can provide a certificate of attendance for teachers and others participating in this seminar as part of their ongoing professional learning requirements.





St Aloysius' College is a Catholic, Jesuit school for boys founded in 1879 by the Society of Jesus. The College has a deliberate academic orientation and, in

with parents, offers a holistic companionship formation for its students from Years 3 to 12.

#### **BURSARY PROGRAM**

The St Aloysius' College Bursary Program has been established to offer students an opportunity to avail themselves of a Jesuit education when ordinary enrolment is not affordable or sustainable. The bursaries are intended to assist those families who are most in need. St Aloysius' College seeks to graduate 'men for others' who are faithful and committed, integrating a deep spirituality with a passion for justice and academic excellence.

Apply now for means-tested bursaries in Years 7, 2027 and beyond. Further information may be obtained from the College Website: www.staloysius.nsw.edu.au or by contacting the Registrar on 02 9936 5535 email: registrar@staloysius.nsw.edu.au.

#### 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 29 Sep 2024

Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14 Response: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

#### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth.

#### **WEEKEND MASSES**

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

#### **WEEKDAY MASSES**

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	ŧ	6:00pm	180	₹.	NES .	8:00am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am		9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	2 1	j j

EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm and Saturday 8:30-9:00am

Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm and Saturday 8:30-9:00am

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'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH - 7256 2140 Email - sqc@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



#### For those who are sick and suffering (new requests):

- Sophia Camilleri (Marie Saul's great-granddaughter)
- · Katherine Barnett
- · John Donnellan
- · Glenn Smith

- Elizabeth Barton
- Helen Orban
- Peter Vanderheld (Matt Slattery's grandson)



**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 - Chloe Bae, Anna Choi

**Anniversaries & Remembrance -** David Richard Traves (father of Geneine Traves), R.A. Nathan (father of Cynthia Nathan), Christine Leung, John O'Rourke, Rosario Sorbello, Paul Augimeri

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 6 Oct 2024
Ps 127 Response: May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love.