

## Diocese of Broken Bay

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueza  
[Aldrin.Valdehueza@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Aldrin.Valdehueza@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Our Lady Help of Christians'

31 Oxford Street, Epping

### St Gerard Majella's

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

### Phone

02 9876 2853

### Website

[eppcarl.org.au](http://eppcarl.org.au)

### Email

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

### Giving

### Click here for:

[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



## Readings

**4 MAY 2025**

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-14

**11 MAY 2025**

Acts 13:14, 43-52

Revelation 7:9, 14-17

John 10:27-30



## The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford



YEAR C

**4 MAY 2025 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**11 MAY 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## Community Dinners

Mother Teresa said that the greatest poverty is loneliness. We now know that loneliness causes ill health both physically and mentally, and that this is on the rise. How many people in our area are lonely? Perhaps they have family, but see them rarely. Perhaps they are new migrants. Perhaps they struggle to make friends. How many people can afford food, but eat every meal alone? Let alone those who now struggle financially, for whom a free meal might make a difference.

**What can we as a parish do?** We propose to start "Community Dinners", a free, open weekly meal for anyone who wants to share a meal in company, both parishioners and non-parishioners alike. OLHC Epping is the ideal location given the accessibility of the new hall from the street. We will create community, motivated by the love and example of Jesus who shared meals with both his close friends and society's outcasts. We will serve people not because they are Catholic, but because we are.

To do this we need to create **4 teams** of volunteers who will each cook and serve one week each month. A mix of skills will be needed: cooks, servers, people who can move furniture to set and pack up, and people with the "people skills" to greet guests and to sit with them as necessary to build community at the tables.



Would you like to be part of this? We'll have a **launch meeting in OLHC Hall on Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 6pm – 7.30pm**. There we'll create our teams and decide on a start date. To find out more contact me on 9876 2853 or [Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au), or just turn up.

~Fr Jim



### Opening & Blessing of OLHC Parish Centre and School:

Bishop Anthony will celebrate Mass with us on **Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am**, then bless the new buildings and join us for morning tea in the hall. While this time won't suit everyone, for which we apologise, we thought it important to have it during school hours so that the OLHC School community can take part also.

## Gentle reminder

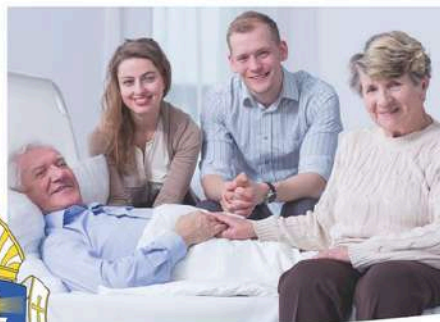
**Wednesday Mass:** From May 7<sup>th</sup> our 9.30am Mass will move from St Gerard's to OLHC.

"Connecting to the Mission of Jesus Christ!"

## MAY APPEAL

Sundays 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

Confraternity of  
Christian Doctrine (CCD) Hospital Chaplaincy  
and Pastoral Care



Every gift makes a difference. THANK YOU!



Please give generously to our  
**MAY 2025 APPEAL**

PASTORAL  
WORKS Broken Bay

**Pastoral Works Fund Appeal:** This month we are taking up one of our two annual Pastoral Works Fund appeal collections for the diocese. This primarily funds the resourcing of our catechists and Catholic hospital chaplaincy (including Fr Peter Dowd at Royal North Shore Hospital).

Our levy for this financial year is \$52,000, of which you generously gave \$25,000 in the November appeal. The remaining \$27,000 equates to around \$25 for each of our 1120 parishioners. Not everyone can afford this (and lots of our 1120 parishioners are children), so your donation of \$25 or more (which is tax deductible) would be a great gift both from you but also on behalf of others who cannot afford it.

You can give using the **Good Giving app** via this QR code which will send you a tax receipt immediately, or you can take an envelope from the back of the church this weekend, and the parish will provide a tax receipt in July. Envelopes will also be

### OUR DEVOTION TEAM BRINGS US:

## Mother's Day Celebration

Join us as we honor and celebrate the mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures in our lives, and offer flowers to our Heavenly Mother.

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May**

**Our Lady Help of  
Christians, Epping**  
10:15 am

**St. Gerard Majella's  
Carlingford**  
9:30 am

We encourage you to bring flowers from your garden, if possible, as a special offering.

## TRAVELLING MARY

BOOKING OPEN NOW

**11 MAY - 26 OCT**



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING A SIGN-UP FORM, IS  
AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.



## CELEBRATING THE EASTER VIGIL - WELCOMING OUR NEWLY BAPTISED

During the Easter Vigil at Epping on Saturday evening, 19<sup>th</sup> April, Nethra and Teruo, our Elect were welcomed into the Parish Community through their reception of the initiation sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Now our newly baptised are called "Neophytes" – the newly enlightened. It was truly a blessed and memorial event in their lives and in the life of our Parish Community.

We invite parishioners to keep Nethra and Teruo in their prayers as they grow in faith and continue to grow in the life of our community. Below there are some photos of this great event.



Left to right: Leon, Gavin, Teruo, Fr Jim, Nethra and Jeanette



*Congratulations*  
on becoming Catholic!

## Parish Team

### Parish Secretary

**Marcella Letteri** Ph: 9876 2853

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

### Business Manager

**Deacon Richard Houwing** Ph: 9876 2853

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

### Admin. Assistant

**Michael Davies** Ph: 9876 2853

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

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

**Lynn Siau** Ph: 9876 2853

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

### Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Holly Lawton** Ph: 0404 710 588

Email: [Holly.Lawton@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Holly.Lawton@bbcatholic.org.au)

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

**Belinda Shi** Ph: 0414 753 362

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

### Sacristan - OLHC

**Dennis Porteous** Ph: 9876 2853

Email: [Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au)



**Please note parish email address for general**

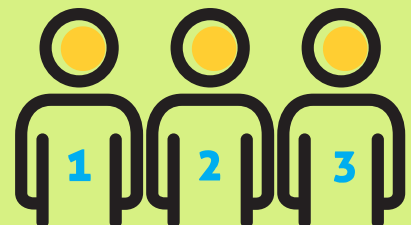
**enquiries:** [eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au)

*parish@eppcarl.org.au is now 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.



**Head Count:** Every week in May we count the number of people at each Mass, which is how we know that we have 1120 people at Mass each weekend, up from 1000 in 2023 and 830 in 2022.

Volunteers will be needed at each Mass at St Gerard's, so if you can assist please get the sacristy before Mass to check with the priest or senior server.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



### FIRST EUCHARIST 2025

**Enrolment for First Eucharist** will close on **Sunday 4th May**. In our Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, undergone preparation for Reconciliation and who are currently in Year 4 or above are eligible to enrol.

Not enrolled yet? Do hurry! The Parent Information sessions will be held online on Tuesday 6th May and Thursday 8th May, with the Rite of Enrolment on the weekend of 10th/11th May. Email Lynn if you need more information. Contact details are below.

### Year 4 Family Mass 18th May

As part of the First Eucharist programme, Fr Jim & Fr Aldrin are inviting the candidates to serve in some ministries at the 9:30am Mass and the 10:15am Mass. The children can be involved in a number of ways. Other Year 4 children are also welcome! Please pick the Mass time or church for the correct link to sign up:

- St Gerard's 9:30am [volunteersignup.org/KJKQA](https://volunteersignup.org/KJKQA)
- OLHC 10:15am [volunteersignup.org/QJKX7](https://volunteersignup.org/QJKX7)

**Want to know when we celebrate Confirmation this year?**

Please email Lynn Siau to enquire and be placed on the mailing list so that you can be informed when it is time for enrolment.

**Lynn Siau** - Coordinator of Children's Ministries,  
Sacramental Programme & Parish Communications  
[Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au) or phone 9876 2853

**Kidz Word resumes on Sunday 4th May at both churches: St Gerard's 9:30am Mass and OLHC 10:15am Mass.**



## KidzPlay Playgroup



THE ST GERARD'S PLAYGROUP RUNS EVERY FRIDAY DURING THE SCHOOL TERM. COME ALONG WITH YOUR LITTLE ONES TO THE CHURCH HALL 9:30AM - 11:30AM.  
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT  
BELINDA 0414 753 362.

## COMMUNICATIONS



**Article submission deadline:** If you would like to submit an article from your ministry for inclusion in the next edition of our parish bulletin, please send it to [Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au) before **10am on Wednesday 14th May 2025**. 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. Do note that PDFs will have to be reformatted and the clarity of your notice will be compromised. Remember to provide an email address, a contact name and number in your article. Thank you.

**Other ways to connect:**



FACEBOOK



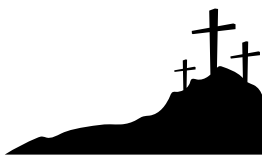
INSTAGRAM

**eBulletin:** If you know someone who would like to receive the electronic version of the bulletin, please forward this link for them to fill in via a desktop, the form on our website: [bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter](https://bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter)



## YOUTH MINISTRIES

**Can**a our youth group for students in **Years 7-9** resumed for term 2 on Friday 2 May. We meet **fortnightly on Fridays at the hall at St Gerards in Carlingford from 7:30pm – 9:00pm**. This week we learned about the creation story through a number of interactive games and activities, connecting what we learned to the benefits each element of creation provides in our daily lives. If you are in year 7-9 we welcome you to join us for talks, games, activities and the opportunity to make new friends.



**Good Friday reenactment  
of Christ's Passion.**

*Photo credit Good Friday  
celebrations: Nina Deacon*

**Emmaus** Young Adults (**23 – 30 Years Old**) meet **fortnightly on a Thursday from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at the Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Epping**. In Emmaus we share a meal, followed by a talk given by different members of the group which is a wonderful opportunity to speak about the ways we can live out our faith in our daily lives with support from other young followers of Jesus. Our next meeting will be Thursday 15 May, and we would love to have you join us. For enquiries, please contact Holly Lawton, Youth Minister on 0404 710 588.

## CANA Term 2 dates

### Fridays

2 May  
16 May  
30 May  
13 June  
27 June

Please join our  
Facebook Group  
for Parents



St Gerards Church  
Hall

7:30PM-9:00PM

Fridays Fortnightly  
During School  
Term

For enquiries contact Holly on  
0404 710 588 or  
holly.lawton@bbcatholic.org.au

**Antioch**, youth group for those in **Year 10 – 23 Years Old** recently launched a new talk topic; The Saint Diaries, where youth are given the opportunity to select a Saint and deliver a talk about the life of the Saint and the ways in which we can learn from them. Our first talk was about Carlo Acutis the first Millennial Saint and reminded us that even in our modern world we are called to be, and can become Saints. We also restarted a former Antioch tradition, our Weekday Mass and Breakfast where we meet for an early morning mass followed by breakfast before our school and work commitments. If you are looking for a new way to deepen your faith, or fellowship we invite you to **join us weekly on Sundays 6:00pm-8:00pm after the 5pm Youth Mass at St Gerards**.





## PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE



**Acting for the Common Good:** How do we as Catholics raise our voice in a secular society where we're no longer in the majority? By joining with other people of faith and goodwill. We are members of the Sydney Alliance which brings together diverse community groups who want to work together for the common good. We're offering two days of **Foundations of Community Organising Training** which teach skills for analysing society, building relationships across diverse groups and discovering how to use our voice to speak to elected leaders.

This will be at **OLHC Parish Centre on Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup>**. We have access to this course for free (usually \$250) through our membership of the Sydney Alliance and these are valuable skills for

anyone who wants to see the Church make a difference in the world and to help bring about a just and fair society which is part of the Kingdom of God. <https://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/foundations-training> and let Fr Jim know too.

## MORE PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS



**Healing Mass at St Gerard's:** Join us for the Healing Mass on **Tuesday 6th May in the meeting room 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.

**Ecumenism:** We have a long established relationship with our local Christian churches, some of whom joined with us for our Palm Sunday procession (see photos). Recently our local ministers Rev Phil Lui from St Alban's, Rev 'Oto Faiva from West Epping Uniting, and Rev Sunny Lee from Epping Uniting sent messages of condolences to our community on the death of Pope Francis.



Photo  
credit:  
Lorraine  
Lobsey



A gentle reminder it's **Name Tag Sunday** on the weekend of **3rd/4th May**. Remember to come with a name tag or use our marker to write your name on the labels provided.

*Our fellowship is the relationship we have with one another and with Jesus; this is our witness to the world. Jesus said, "By this shall all know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another" (John 13:35).*



**To celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, the communities of St Albans Anglican Church, Epping Uniting Church, West Epping Uniting Church and Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford invite you to an Ecumenical Service.

- **Venue:** *Our Lady Help of Christians' Church* (undercover parking is available via 6 Cambridge Street)
- **Date:** **Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June**
- **Time:** **11 am** (the Service runs for about 45 minutes and will be followed by light lunch)

**The theme this year is "Do you believe this" (John 11:26).**

**ALL WELCOME! Please invite your friends.**

While there is no charge for the meal, a financial contribution of approximately \$10 will be appreciated.



## Sacrament of Confirmation *for Adults*

**Adult Confirmation:** If you're an adult who is baptized but missed your other sacraments, Bishop Anthony will be offering Confirmation for adults on June 8<sup>th</sup> 9.30am at OLOR Cathedral Waitara. Preparation begins after Easter. Contact Fr Jim.

**The Gospel of John** is the gospel you're likely hearing at Mass this weekend, and it is the richest and most complex of the four gospels. Join **Fr Andrew Murray** as he brings a philosopher's lens to the gospel on **Wednesday mornings during June at OLHC**. Sign up sheets are at the back of both churches.

### Positions Vacant *Epping OSHC needs you!*

Join our friendly team at **Our Lady Help of Christians OSHC (Out of School Hours Care)** in Epping. We offer flexible casual shifts, ideal for part-time workers.

#### Key Duties:

- Build positive relationships with children, families, and staff
- Ensure policies and regulatory frameworks are met
- Safeguard children and provide a safe working environment

#### Requirements:

- Working With Children Check & Criminal History Check
- Experience in OSHC & Cert III/Diploma in Childcare (desirable)
- Strong communication and relationship-building skills, with the team and children aged 5-12

For more details, please contact **Joana Matias** via **0400 991 348** or [oshc.epping@catholiccaredbb.org.au](mailto:oshc.epping@catholiccaredbb.org.au) or [JoanaDarc.AlvesMatias@catholiccaredbb.org.au](mailto:JoanaDarc.AlvesMatias@catholiccaredbb.org.au)

### LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

#### Celebrations this Week

##### Easter Week 3

10 May Sat: *St John de Avila*

##### Easter Week 4

12 May Mon: *St Pancras, Sts Nereus and Achilleus*

13 May Tue: *Our Lady of Fatima*

14 May Wed: **St Matthias**

Who is Our  
Lady of Fatima?

Find out here  
using this:



## You're Invited

**Alpha** is an opportunity to explore life, faith and God in a friendly, open and informal environment.



Scan to Register

New Epping Parish Hall,  
Our Lady Help of Christians,  
33 Oxford Street, Epping NSW  
Friday 18 July, 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Enquiries? Please Email: [alpha@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:alpha@eppcarl.org.au)

#Alpha

APPLY NOW



**ANZAC DAY 2025:** On ANZAC Day morning, we celebrated Mass to reflect, pray and remember those who died for their country.

Heartfelt gratitude to those who organised and coordinated this to make this celebration possible. Lest we forget.



Photo credit:  
Nina Deacon

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - 4 May 2025

Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13 Response: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

## Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation; he has shown pity on all people.

### WEEKEND MASSES

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

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Note Wednesday morning Mass now at OLHC

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
<b>EPPING</b>	-	6:00pm	9:30am	-	-	8:00am	
<b>CARLINGFORD</b>	9:30am	-	-	9:30am	9:30am	-	

**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**

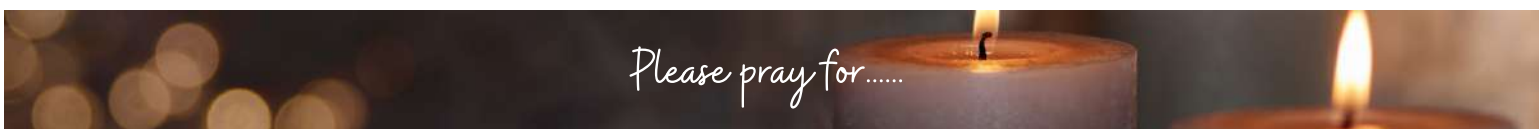
**POSTAL ADDRESS FOR THE PARISH OFFICE:** PO Box 369, Epping NSW 1710

**ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH - 7256 2140 Email - sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au**

**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS' PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH - 9868 3322 Email - olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au**

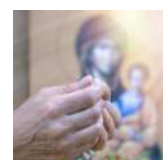


**Healing Mass: 1st Tuesday of the month, 10am at St Gerard's Meeting Room, Carlingford**



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

- Sr Rosalie Carlon
- Guy Chan
- Lillian Chan
- Anita Hoffman
- Louis Yeung (Goretti's brother)
- Elaine Finlayson
- Marites Valdehueza (Fr Aldrin's mother)
- Graham Kelly
- Stephen Last



Thank you for your faithful prayers. Our brothers and sisters in need are surely strengthened by them. Our parish Prayer Ministry also has a private group on Facebook where you can post your requests directly or email us to do so. Please feel free to join this private group if you would like to pray for someone or for your own intentions: <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** - Josie Cross, Ignazio Gallo, Nishu Bhattacharya, Reji Thomas (Uncle of Joshua Thomas)

**Anniversaries & Remembrance** - Cedric Fernandes, Patrick Murphy, Bert Saul, Choon-Myun Park, Olive Arrais, Phyllis Yan, Paul Kelly, Bev Aliprandi

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 11 May 2025

Ps 99:1-3, 5 Response: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

## Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.