

Diocese of Broken Bay

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon
Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueva
Aldrin.Valdehueva@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

Email

parish@eppcarl.org.au

Single Donation

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[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



The Catholic Parish
of Epping & Carlingford



YEAR A

5 FEBRUARY 2023 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

12 FEBRUARY 2023 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Search is starting soon! It's an invitation for us to search for meaning in life, for God, for Jesus, and for the Church. All of us are searching for something. The Search is a 7-part video series which explores the bigger questions such as

- What do you seek?
- Why a God?
- Who is Jesus?
- Am I saved?
- Why a church?

It is similar to Alpha, but from an entirely Catholic context. It's a great way to invite someone you love to explore Catholic faith with you, or, to refresh your own faith journey. We'll gather around tables in small groups for a meal, to watch a video, and to share our response.

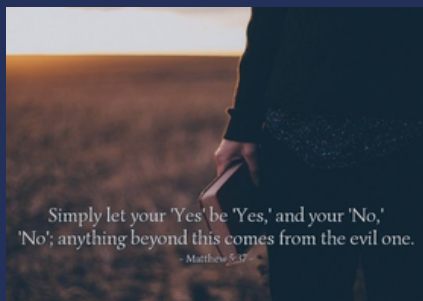
Join us on:

- Mondays 7pm at OLHC Church from Feb 13,
- Tuesdays 7pm at St Gerard's Hall from Feb 14, or
- Thursdays 1.30pm at St Gerard's Meeting Room from Feb 16.

Sign up on our parish website [here](#) or put your name down on the sign up sheets at the back of either of our churches. You can also contact Fr Jim at Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au to register your interest or ask any questions you have. Here is a new trailer if you would like to find out more: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cxkw3KZx_4I

Priests away: Fr Jim will be away from Feb 3 to Feb 10, assisting at the annual retreat for seminarians. We welcome and thank Fr Andrew Murray SM who will be celebrating Masses at St Gerard's on Feb 5th. Fr Aldrin will be away from Feb 10 to 12 at the Divine Renovation conference. We welcome and thank Fr Anselam Lakra who will be celebrating Masses at OLHC on Feb 12.

OLHC Weekday Masses: We had hoped to recommence a Tuesday and Thursday weekday Mass at OLHC in February, however, significantly noisy excavation work is expected to commence onsite in mid February, so we will again postpone this until this section of the work is done. Apologies for the inconvenience. Wednesday night 5pm Mass has proven to be well attended, with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following, and this will continue unabated.



Readings

5 FEBRUARY 2023

Isaiah 58:7-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

12 FEBRUARY 2023

Sirach 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

Lent is coming



Ash Wednesday: We now begin to look forward to the season of Lent, starting with **Ash Wednesday on February 22nd**. Come and mark the beginning of this season if you can, with Masses at the following:

- 7am and 5pm at OLHC, and
- 9.30am and 6pm at St Gerard's.
- The schools will also have their own liturgies.

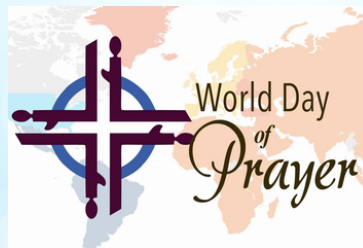
Lenten Reflection Groups have been a part of our parish life for decades. Small groups of parishioners gather either at home or in the church to read the scriptures of the coming Sunday of Lent, to reflect, share and pray in response to the Word of God. Groups will meet:

- Mondays at 10am in St Gerard's Church
- Tuesdays at 7.30pm in West Pennant Hills
- Thursdays at 7.30pm in North Epping
- Fridays at 10.15am in St Gerard's Meeting Room
- Fridays at 7pm in OLHC Church

To join, just put your name on the list in the back of either church. Other groups may also emerge in the coming weeks. There will also be free copies of a Lenten reflection resource from our own diocese available from the back of the church for personal use.

Lenten Ecumenical Liturgies: For many years our parish has joined together in prayer with our neighbouring Christian churches to pray at key times during the year. We'll be gathering each Tuesday of March at 7.45pm for prayer and supper at the following churches and we'd love you to join us, especially if you haven't been before.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| • March 7th | OLHC Catholic | Preacher: Rev Greg Woolnough |
| • March 14th | West Epping Uniting | Preacher: Bishop Ross Nicholson |
| • March 21st | Epping Uniting Church | Preacher: Rev Phil Lui |
| • March 28th | St Alban's Anglican | Preacher: Fr Jim McKeon |



Please join us for World Day of Prayer service to be held at St Gerards Friday March 3rd commencing 11 am.

Joan Sally, active member of the parish and now on the finance committee, has kindly agreed to be our speaker. The focus this year is Taiwan with the theme **"I have heard about your faith"**.

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 Christian churches through the world on the 1st Friday in March 2023, THE SAME DAY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD! This is an ecumenical movement led by Christian women inviting men and women to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Please come to welcome our guests to our parish. You will do this simply by your presence.

Following our Prayer Service we hope you will stay and have a cup of tea with us. Why not bring a sandwich, BYO, and join us for lunch? We will break bread together. Even better, bring a friend or family member and celebrate together.

Please feel free to contact Lorraine Lobsey 98724005, or at robaine2@bigpond.com for more information and also if you are able to assist.

INVITATION



Thank you
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

*Our parish would not be the same without you.
We very much appreciate
all your love and support.
We would like to invite you to
join us for Mass followed by supper*



WHEN
Thursday 16 Feb
7pm

WHERE
St Gerard's
Carlingford

Volunteers Thanksgiving Mass & Supper: We would like to extend an invitation to you. Join us at the Parish Volunteers Thanksgiving Mass & Supper at which we will pray a prayer of blessing for each ministry.

This will be on *Thurs Feb 16th* at *St Gerard's* however the time is now revised to **7pm**.

Please **RSVP** for catering purposes **by Monday Feb 13th** either via your ministry leaders who will contact you or may have already contacted you, or on the pink sign up sheets at the back of the church. You can also RSVP directly to the parish office.

We very much look forward to this long overdue gathering to thank all our volunteers!

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

After Hours Sick Calls - 9876 2853

Outside office hours our office phones are diverted so your call will be answered in the event of an emergency.

ANOTHER DATE TO SAVE!

Towards Ordination: Formation to become either a priest or deacon takes several years and covers a range of areas of a person's life. You may recall that in 2021 seminarian **Hien Vu** and deacon aspirant **Richard Houwing** spent the year with us as part of their formation programs. Each of them is now nearing completion of their formation and they are ready to take the next formal step towards ordination called Candidacy. Bishop Anthony Randazzo has discerned that Richard and Hien are eligible to take this step and so he will call them to Candidacy at the **5pm vigil Mass on Sat Feb 25th at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara**. You are invited to come to this Mass to pray for them and with them. We congratulate Richard and Hien on taking this important next step. Click on their photos to send them a congratulatory email!



Richard



Hien

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



FIRST RECONCILIATION 2023

As First Reconciliation enrolment closes, Parent Information Sessions will be held on the evenings of 7th and 9th February on Zoom. We always look forward to sharing these sessions with parents. The sessions encompass aspects of First Reconciliation which are important to assist parents in the understanding of their child's faith journey and their partnership with the parish. We have continued having our gatherings on Zoom thanks to the wonderful feedback from parents. They found themselves more able to relax in the comfort of home rather than having to rush somewhere after a long day, amongst other reasons.

At select Masses the following weekend of the 11th & 12 February, we welcome the children who will begin their preparations towards the reception of their First Reconciliation. This Rite of Enrolment marks the continuation of a faith journey for the children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in September last year or for some, at Baptism. This journey in particular also highlights the continuous companionship of their parents in teaching the children about the Catholic faith and the vital role we as a community play in ensuring our ongoing support of prayers and encouragement for them.

This is an opportunity for us to show these families they are not alone in this journey; we are accompanying them! The families will also be presented with their Reconciliation preparation materials during this Rite, which confirms their enrolment and commitment to this special journey.

Our monthly **Family Kidz Masses** are on the third Sunday of every month during school term at both churches. At OLHC, this has now **changed to the 8:30am Mass** and at St Gerard's this remains at 9:30am.

The children provide the ministries such as being part of the choir, lead in the prayers of the faithful and the penitential rite, in entrance, gospel and offertory processions.

The next Kidz Mass is on the **19th February**. Fr Jim and Fr Aldrin invite children from **Year 6 to kickstart the first Kidz Mass of the year!** There will also be a special blessing for the new Kindy families from both parish schools. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please contact me (details below) if you would like more information and to participate in these Kidz Masses.



Playgroup is back in full swing! Please contact Belinda on: 0414 753 362 or email her at Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au if you would like to find out more and to join in the fun!

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



Lynn Siau
Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Sacramental Programme & Communications
Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

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 15th February 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 remember to provide an email address, a contact name and number in your article. Thank you.

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

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.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

WYD fundraising - Gofundme: If you would like to support Shaz or Joanna in their WYD pilgrimage, you can donate by clicking here: [Gofundme](#).



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds) - Our young adults group will next meet on the **7th Feb, 7-8:30pm**. Our talk will be on the Eucharist and we will have Adoration at 8pm.



Interparish Sports Day

A photo from our interparish sports day! We versed youth groups from Chatswood, Waitara and East Gosford playing basketball, futsal and oz tag and water games. And our Antioch bowling night was great fun!



Antioch Bowling Night



Cana (Year 6-9) - We resume this week on the **3rd February, 7:30-9pm!** Come join us weekly on Fridays during the school term. 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford - entrance via North Rocks Rd.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Antioch will meet on the **5th February** in the Antioch meeting room!

Note: no regular Antioch meeting on the 12th Feb as we will be hosting our annual retreat.

Contact the parent support if you have any questions: Kirk Koelmeyer (0420 874 824) or Louise Koelmeyer (0404 496 554).

ANTIOCH WEEKEND 2023

Belonging



Online registration page

Place: St Gerard's Church
Dates: 11th - 12th February
Age: Year 10 to 23 years old

Enjoy talks, discussions, music, friends, games and a lot of food!

SAVE THE DATE: ANTIOCH RETREAT 11-12th Feb: Celebrating 40 years in our parish! Why you should come? Lots of food, fun, games, sports, giant jenga, talks, prayer, music, Mass and more!!! You can register now online at trybooking:

www.trybooking.com/events/landing/994367 or scan the QR code above if you have a hard copy of the bulletin.

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

Communications cont'd.....

Did you know - there are other ways you can connect with our parish. If you have always wanted to try and see what's on Grace Radio, or what we do on our social media pages such as Facebook and Instagram, please click or tap the icons below and you can follow us to keep yourselves updated with our parish activities. You can even buy Bibles on our Facebook page or join in our various groups such as our Catechism in a Year Group, Prayer Ministry, Kidz Group, etc.



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



GRACE RADIO



JRS Australia extends warm congratulations to our Board member, Muzafar Ali, who has been honoured with the 2022 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Fred Hollows Foundation for his work in establishing and supporting refugee-led educational facilities for refugees in Indonesia and advocating for durable solutions to be made available for them.

Muzafar Ali, himself a former refugee who resettled to Australia from Indonesia, joined the JRS Australia Board in 2021. He is a member of the Hazara community from Afghanistan and helped set up the Cisarua Refugee Learning Centre (CRLC) to educate the children of refugees who have limited opportunities for an education in Indonesia. Over the years, CRLC has successfully trained students who have graduated to teach at the CRLC and even obtain scholarships elsewhere. See <https://www.cisarualearning.com/>

The Australian government announced in November 2014 that refugees in Indonesia who registered with UNHCR after 1 July that year will not be resettled to Australia. Now numbering over 13,000 people, this population has been devastatingly affected by the years of uncertainty about their future and lost opportunities which have resulted. Muzafar’s passionate advocacy on their behalf has strengthened JRS Australia’s efforts to seek a repeal of this cruel policy.

In reversing this policy, Australia would also address what is fast becoming a protracted refugee situation. Australia should also resume the processing of applications for humanitarian protection that were registered in Indonesia before July 2014 but the processing of which stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The above article is from the JRS Newsletter dated 31/01/2023.

We are considering ways that our Parish can continue its support for refugees and asylum seekers during 2023.

~ Parish Social Justice Team

OTHER NEWS & NOTICES

Our Lady Help of Christians' Primary School Open Day
7 Trebor Road Pennant Hills



Fr Aldrin Valdehueza Assistant Priest of Epping & Carlingford Parish and Serra Chaplain will be celebrating Mass for Serra **at Sacred Heart Church Pymble on Thursday 23rd February 2023**. The evening commences with **Mass at 6.00pm** followed by a light meal and a short meeting.

Following the meeting Fr Aldrin will speak to us about our Lenten journey.

Everyone is welcome. Please "come and see". Please RSVP: Terry Scanlan on 0438 887 295 or email terry_scanlan@bigpond.com if you would like to attend.

 OLHC@DBB.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU

 02 9868 3322

 OLHCDBB.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU

OPEN DAY

MONDAY 6 MARCH 9:15 AM



Celebrations this Week

Ordinary Week 5

6 Feb Monday: St Paul Miki and Companions
 8 Feb Wednesday: *St Jerome Emiliani, St Josephine Bakhita*

10 Feb Friday: St Scholastica
 11 Feb Saturday: *Our Lady of Lourdes*

Ordinary Week 6

14 Feb Tuesday: St Cyril and Methodius
 17 Feb Friday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

50++ Group Outing: Greetings everyone. On **Monday 13th February**, we are heading to Balmoral. Please meet on the **concourse area of Epping Train Station at 9.30am**. We will go by train to Circular Quay, via Chatswood and Wynyard. Board the ferry to Taronga Zoo. On our arrival, the Balmoral bus will be waiting. It will deliver us safely to Balmoral. Many eating places, depending on how much you want to eat and how much you want to spend! We can please ourselves and all meet up again at an arranged time for the trip home. Hope to see you there. Don't be late unless you let someone know you are on the way. Gentlemen most welcome! Enquiries Carole Wilson 9869 1036. 0478 003 704.

Healing Mass

Healing Mass: Please join us for the Healing Mass on **Tuesday, February 7th**. We gather **in the meeting room** of St Gerard's for Mass **at 10.00am**. It is special. Intimate. Rather like the upper room where the Apostles gathered. Come and be a part of our community. Morning tea will follow. Bring a plate if you are able. All are most welcome.



RCIA Rite of Election – 26 February 2023: Catechumens of the Diocese, parish RCIA teams, and all parishioners are warmly invited to attend this year's Rite of Election with Bishop Anthony Randazzo, where Catechumens will be presented to the Bishop and officially enrolled into the list of the Elect for the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. The Rite, for adults seeking baptism will be held at **Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara, on Sunday 26 February at 2.00pm**. Please join us in support of our Catechumens from Epping & Carlingford Parish!

GOT YOUR WEDDING PLANS UNDER CONTROL?

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. For further information visit our web site: www.engagedencounter.org.au Choose any of the coming weekends:

Feb 25-26, May 6-7, Aug 5-6, Nov 11-12



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

PARISHES

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Guess the bible story

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St Gerard's Primary School Open Day
 543, North Rocks Road, Carlingford Ph: 9871 1633



OPEN DAY

WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH
 9.30am and 5.30pm

COME SEE OUR SCHOOL IN ACTION

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life.

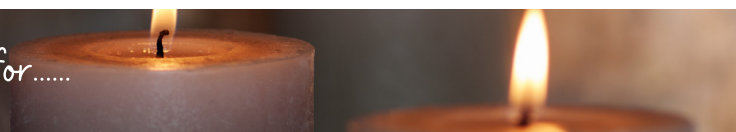
WEEKEND MASSES							
Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am (Family/Children), 10:15am and 6:00pm (Youth)						
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am (Family/Children) and 5:00pm (Youth)						
WEEKDAY MASSES							
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	No Mass	*	5:00pm	*	*	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	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 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:

- Nancy Walker (family of Eileen Nicoll)
- Martin McGuire (family of Eileen Nicoll)
- Cohen Hadden (family of Pat & Margaret McArdle)
- Graham Yeates
- Dennis Porteous (our Parish Secretary)
- Eric Yeung (brother of Goretta Yeung)
- Sandro Oselli (family of Anne Campbell)
- Stephen Lo

- Edward Ngu (Li May's dad)
- Richard McCarthy
- Beryl Heslin
- Margaret Floyd
- Graham Kelly
- Veronica Kemp
- Ethan Seng Mestanza (Mario and Graciela Mestanza's grandson)
- Maureen Carlon (Marie Saul's sister)



Thank you for your prayers for Ivan Castaneda Charvez. Ivan is out of hospital and is recovering. Mario & Graciela Mestanza also thank you for your prayers for their grandson, Ethan, who was diagnosed with leukemia and underwent a bone marrow transplant. They ask for your continued prayers for Ethan.

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

Recently deceased - Patrick Thornton (brother of Pat & Margaret McArdle), HO Chung (father of Fanny), Patrick David, Bernie Cross, Sofia Lopez de Zubiaga (mother-in-law of Ana Terrazas)

Anniversaries - Michael Coonan, John Rigney (brother of Margaret Coonan), Sr Teresa Salazar, Reginald Lord (grandfather of Rachel Murphy), Edith Shannon (mother of Julie Astalosh), Khung-Img Seah (aunt of Lynn Siau)