

# Diocese of Broken Bay

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Vincent Trung Nguyen  
[Vincent.Nguyen@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Vincent.Nguyen@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

[bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford](http://bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford)

## Email

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

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## Readings

8 JANUARY 2023

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

15 JANUARY 2023

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6  
1 Corinthians 1:1-3  
John 1:29-34



## The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford

Worship

Sacrifice

YEAR A

8 JANUARY 2023 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

15 JANUARY 2023 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**Farewell, Fr Vincent:** Bishop Anthony has appointed Fr Vincent Trung to Lower North Shore Parish (Northbridge, Naremburn and Willoughby) from January 20th. This is so that he can be Administrator of that parish when the parish priest takes extended long service leave during the year. It is therefore something of a promotion. We will farewell

Fr Vincent from OLHC on Jan 8th and from St Gerard's on Jan 15th. **We thank Fr Vincent for his ministry with our parish this past year.** We will miss his eye for detail and desire to bring out the beauty of the liturgy.



**Welcome, Fr Aldrin:** We will welcome Fr Aldrin Valdehueza as our new assistant priest from Jan 20th. Many parishioners will remember Fr Aldrin from his time as a seminarian in our parish a few years ago. His first Masses will be **at OLHC on the weekend of Jan 22nd.**

## Changes to OLHC Weekday Masses

Even before the disruptions of lockdowns and redevelopment, OLHC Epping has had relatively low numbers of people at weekday Masses. In 2022 when we could no longer have 12.15pm Mass due to demolition noise we trialled a 6pm Mass at Wednesday night, hoping that this might work for commuters returning home, but we have rarely had more than a dozen people. In 2023 we will trial some Mass times with a view to ascertaining what might be of service to our people, without duplicating the times of our nearest neighbours. From Jan 2nd we have moved the Monday night **Adoration & Reconciliation to Wednesday nights from 5.30pm – 6.30pm.** To accommodate this we will have **Wednesday night Mass at 5pm** rather than 6pm. **From Feb 21st** we will have **9am Mass on Tuesdays, 5pm Mass on Wednesdays, and 12pm Mass on Thursdays.**


Why these changes? Monday nights, while popular for adoration and reconciliation, are always going to be irregular as it is usually one of the priest's day off, and gets cancelled whenever the other priest is on holidays or away. Tuesday 9am Mass gives the parish a daily Tuesday Mass again and also makes room for the monthly healing masses and nursing home masses, even when one priest is away. Thursday 12pm restores what had been OLHC's weekday Mass time. Let's trial these times for a few months and see what works best. In 2024 when we move the school, parish offices, and then presbytery back on site we will be in a better position establish permanent weekday Masses at OLHC.



The Three Wise Men searched for the baby Jesus and gave him the unusual gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. All of us are searching for something. Happiness? Meaning? Truth? Love?

Join us in February 2023 for **The Search**, a 7-part video series which explores the bigger questions: What are you searching for? Who are you? Why a God? What's our story? Times available for you to pick from: **Mondays 7pm at OLHC from Feb 13th, Tuesdays 7pm at St Gerard's from Feb 14th, or Thursdays 1.30pm at St Gerard's from Feb 16th.**

To register your interest, put your name on the list at the back of the church, or visit our parish website [here](#) to watch the trailer and submit your interest online to Fr Jim.

Thank you... 

**Generosity:** Thank you for the extraordinary generosity which parishioners have shown in recent weeks. The St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal at OLHC and St Gerards raised much needed funds, in addition to Christmas hampers. Gifts were given for the prison ministry angel tree at OLHC and the Parramatta Women's Shelter angel tree at St Gerard's. Going further back in the year, \$8,870 was given to the Catholic Care Homelessness Appeal in August, which was the largest amount in any parish of our diocese.

**The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** farewells **Laxmi Thiruchinnapalli** and **Mark Smith** from its membership this year. We thank them for their contribution to the discernment of the parish's vision and mission. We also thank **Paddy Watts** for chairing the council and **Natasha Boswell** for being secretary this year. The new youth-led Mass, the 50th anniversary celebrations and the Faith at Home cards have been projects of the PPC this year. We now have the opportunity to invite two new members to join the PPC for 2023-24. We'd particularly like to have people who worship at OLHC Epping as a large part of the work of the PPC next year will be discerning what groups and ministries to run in the new Parish Centre which will be built at OLHC in 2024. Please contact Fr Jim if you are interested.

**The Parish Finance Committee (PFC)** farewells **Pat McArdle** and **Ram Sharma** from its membership this year. We thank them for their assistance with the financial and material governance of the parish. We also thank **Mario Rodrigues** who is stepping down as chair of the committee this year. We are now seeking two members to join the PFC for 2023-2025. The PFC provides advice to Fr Jim on a range of governance, finance, property and management issues and so we seek people who have expertise in any of these areas. A major project for the coming year will be preparing for the governance and management of the new Parish Centre and site at OLHC. Please contact Fr Jim if you are interested.



Congratulations to Christian Rosario and Li May Ngu on the birth of their son Dominic (pictured above) – a very welcome Christmas gift indeed!



Congratulations to Matthew Gleeson and Katie Rosenberger who were married at St Gerard's on Dec 28th. It always gives us great joy see a wedding take place at one of our churches!



## A QUICK LOOK INTO 2023 SO FAR...

**Social Justice:** In 2022 one of our Social Justice focuses was on the environment. One practical response we are making as a parish is to host regular recycling collections in partnership with Arnie's Recon (see below). Another practical response is to install solar panelling at St Gerard's to reduce our emissions, as well as being a long term cost-saving for the parish.

**Recycling:** Arnie's Recon will be collecting at **St Gerard's Church carpark on Sunday January 22nd from 8.30am to 10.30am** collecting various electronic goods. This is such a good alternative to garbage bins or council clean ups where everything goes to landfill. By bringing electronic goods to Arnie's for repair, reuse or recycling we are being stewards of God's creation, in accord with the challenge given by Pope Francis to care for our common home.



**The Catechism in a Year** has started! This podcast is currently ranked #1 on Apple podcasts. You can listen to it on any podcast app, such as Spotify, Hallow and Apple Podcasts. Click this link to download the daily reading plan! [www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ciy-registration-parish](http://www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ciy-registration-parish)



What started out as a collaboration between 2 countries in the 19th century has now grown into a global ecumenical movement across 170 countries. The ongoing committees are run by women, but everyone is welcome to join in the service - men and women. We continue that collaboration and are presently planning the service with local churches. It will be held at **St Gerards, Friday March 3**, yet to settle on starting time 10.30 am or 11 am. This year the focus country is Taiwan, the theme is "I have heard about your faith". It's a chance to learn a bit more about the country and the people of Taiwan, and to pray for them. WDP brings us a beautiful world - Christian people from different traditions praying together with a common focus on the same day. We'd love you to join us. Contact Lorraine Lobsey if you would like to be involved - 98724005 or [robaine2@bigpond.com](mailto:robaine2@bigpond.com)



**Be the Best Man:** Have you ever been the “best man” at a wedding? How about at your own wedding? *Do you want to be the best man, husband, father and friend you can be?* We recognise that lots of men are doing well but want to do better, and that lots of men struggle in their most important relationships and in finding a sense of themselves outside the workplace. This year we’re offering a Men Alive weekend on **June 17th & 18th** to help men become the best man they can be. Find out more at [www.menalive.org.au](http://www.menalive.org.au).



**Please pray** for two of our young adults, Nisha and Eilia who are attending the Immaculata Mission School at Armidale from 1st-10th January! We hope they will receive great graces from their retreat.

**WYD fundraising - Gofundme:** If you would like to support Shaz or Joanna in their WYD pilgrimage, you can donate via [Gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com).



**SAVE THE DATE: ANTIOCH RETREAT 11-12th Feb, 2023.** Celebrating 40 years in our parish! You can register now if you’re between year 10-23 years old! [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/994367](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/994367)

Antioch is currently on a break until January 22nd.

**SUMMER SCHOOL:** Are you looking for something meaningful to do these school holidays? Something life changing, with live music, incredible worship, inspiring talks, prayer in a serene location in Sydney! The theme of Summer School of Evangelisation, hosted by The Disciples of Jesus is **‘Alive Again’**.

**Date: 8-15th Jan 2023 for people between 16-35 years old.** Any person going with our parish will be subsidised half the cost to attend this amazing conference!

- \$549 for high school, uni student or concession (only pay \$275 to attend)
- \$649 for adults (only pay \$325)

More information on the website <https://summerschool.org.au/>

If you would like more information on any of our 3 youth groups, please contact our Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or email her at [Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au)

## OTHER NOTICES

### Celebrations this Week

#### The Epiphany of the Lord - Ordinary Week 1

9 Jan Monday: **The Baptism of the Lord**  
13 Jan Friday: *St Hilary*

#### Ordinary Week 2

17 Jan Tuesday: St Anthony  
20 Jan Friday: *St Fabian, St Sebastian*  
21 Jan Saturday: St Agnes

## Parish Team

### Parish Secretary

**Dennis Porteous** Ph: 9876 2853  
Email: [Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Parish Facilities & Operations Coordinator

**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 & Communications

**Lynn Siau** Ph: 9876 2853  
Email: [Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Joanna Mak** Ph: 0404 710 588  
Email: [Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au)

### New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator - OLHC

**Serena Kozanic** Ph: 0414 753 799  
Email: [Serena.Kozanic@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Serena.Kozanic@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)

### Parish Pastoral Council:

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

### After Hours Sick Calls - 9876 2853

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

**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.

**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 **before 10am on Wednesday 18th January 2023** to [Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au). Kindly understand I am unable to accommodate late submissions. Do remember to provide an email address, a contact name and number in your article. Thank you.

Other ways to connect with us:



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



GRACE RADIO



WEBSITE

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.

**WEEKEND MASSES**

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

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thur.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	
<b>EPPING</b>	No Mass	9:00am (from 21 Feb)	5:00pm	12noon (from 21 Feb)	*	9:15am	
<b>CARLINGFORD</b>	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



**Monday night adoration at OLHC has moved to Wednesday nights from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, preceded by Mass at 5pm.**

*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 Goretti Yeung)
- Zachary & Mackenzie
- Sandro Oselli (family of Anne Campbell)

- Stephen Lo
- Edward Ngu (Li May's dad)
- Richard McCarthy
- Beryl Heslin
- Margaret Floyd
- Graham Kelly
- Ivan Castaneda Charvez
- Veronica Kemp
- Sewritha Chetty (operation on 8th Jan)



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

**Recently deceased** - Calvin Wijeweera, Nancy Morrissey, Rose Crowley (mother of Trish Lucas), Doug Weeden

*Please also pray for Patrick Thornton (brother of Pat & Margaret McArdle) who died on 28th Dec 2022. His funeral will be held at Nicholas of Myra Church Penrith, 10.30am on Thurs 12th Jan 2023. Both Margaret & Pat thank you for your prayers of support during the time Patrick was sick.*

**Celebration of Life Mass for Mr Doug Weeden**  
St Gerard Majella's Catholic Church  
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford  
Saturday, 14 January 2023, 1100am



**Anniversaries** - Lup Poon Fung (Stephen), Ivan Astalosh, Judy Wright (previous Sacristan of St Gerard's)