Diocese of Broken Bay

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueza Aldrin.Valdehueza@bbcatholic.org.au



Our Lady Help of Christians'

31 Oxford Street, Epping

St Gerard Majella's

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford



02 9876 2853



Website

eppcarl.org.au



Email

parish@eppcarl.org.au



Single Donation

Click here for:

Weekend Mass Times

Weekday Mass Times

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sacrament of Reconciliation



Keadings

9 APRIL 2023

Acts 10:34, 37-43 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Matthew 28:1-10

16 APRIL 2023

Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31



YEAR A

9 APRIL 2023 SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION 16 APRIL 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

He is risen



Happy Easter! It is such a joy that we can again celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection together as a church. If you're here for the first time, welcome. If you're here for the first time in a long time, welcome back! It's great to have you with us. This newsletter is your invitation to come and get involved in the many things our parish can offer to find a place to belong, to explore faith, to get help or get involved.

If you've got primary school aged children, we've got something for them including the upcoming preparation for First Communion for children in Year 4 and up, and we've got youth groups for Year 7 to 12 and for young adults called Cana, Antioch and Emmaus which you can read about in these pages.

These Easter celebrations are an expression of the faith of our community and the many, many people who have contributed to the hospitality, the music and the visual environment, and, who have served on the altar, proclaimed scripture to us, or shared holy Communion with us. And many more people working behind the scenes. Thank you to all of them.

~Fr Jim McKeon & Fr Aldrin Valdehueza and the Parish Team











Our Parish Mission: Discipleship of Jesus is our focus and our goal. Our hope is that visitors (perhaps like you) become regular attenders, and regular attenders become committed members, who along the way develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We invite people to live out their discipleship in 5 ways:

- Connect to other members of the Body of Christ in fellowship
- Worship God in personal prayer and shared liturgy and sacraments
- Give in accord with each person's means
- Serve in one ministry which makes use of each person's gifts and capacities
- **Grow** in faith by doing at least one faith development or spirituality program each year

Look out for the opportunities to connect, worship, give, serve and grow below.

Visiting the housebound: Fr Jim and Fr Aldrin will try to regularly visit the people in our parish who are housebound and are receiving Holy Communion from our wonderful Communion Ministers who visit them each week. Do you or a family member in our parish require anointing or Communion at home? Contact the parish office on 9876 2853.



Faith @ Home

We're so glad that you're here to celebrate Easter with us as a parish community, but we also want to support you in praying at home. It is in our families and our homes that most of our Christian life is lived out. For four weeks from Sunday 16th we'll be offering our collectable Faith @ Home cards to children at each Mass. These cards are fridge magnets with prayers for different occasions like grace before meals or bedtimes.



GROW

Growing in Adult Faith: Here at Epping Carlingford Parish we have great programs to help our children and youth grow in their faith. But we also want our adults to be life-long learners, for there is always more for us to learn and experience in our life-long journey with God. There are two five-week series and two weekend programs we'd like to invite you to in the coming months:

- 1. St Teresa of Avila is one of the Church's greatest mystics, yet her teaching on prayer is down to earth and accessible to all. Bishop David Walker will lead us through the works and teachings of St Teresa of Avila on 6 Wednesdays 10.15am 11.30am from May 10th, St Gerard's Meeting Room.
- Please RSVP via the sign up sheets in the church so that we can order a copy of The Way of Perfection for you for \$15.
- 2. The First Spiritual Exercises: Many people find that they can recite prayers, but don't know what else to say when they pray. Others find that prayer is a one-sided conversation but don't know how to hear God's response. The First Spiritual Exercises is a five week introduction to Ignatian (Jesuit) prayer which scaffolds a way of personal prayer and a deep listening. We gather in small groups for 90 minutes each week at which we are led through an exercise of prayer. We then spend 20-30 minutes in prayer each day during the following week, then come together to share the fruit of our prayer and to experience the next prayer exercise. Groups will meet starting **the week of May 22nd** -
 - Mondays 10.15am St Gerard's Church
 - Mondays 7.30pm OLHC Church
 - Tuesdays 7.30pm St Gerard's Hall
 - Thursdays 1.30pm St Gerard's Meeting Room



Groups are limited to 6 people plus a facilitator, so do sign up using the sheet at the back of the church.

- 3. Gifts Discernment: The Call and Gifted course is a great short intensive to unpack the charisms of the Holy Spirit. The charisms are supernatural graces given to each of us at Baptism from God to bear results for the kingdom of God beyond our normal human abilities. All of us have received a unique combination of charisms to equip us for our mission in life. This course is excellent for anyone who haven't heard of the charisms before, or for people who want to learn more about the Holy Spirit and what gifts God has graced you. We will be inviting a speaker from Canberra to teach us this amazing content.
- When: 6th May, Sat 7pm-9pm & 7th May, Sun 10am-4:30pm
- Where: St Gerard's Meeting Room
- Link to register https://www.trybooking.com/CGLKK

'Having completed this course in 2022, I highly recommend it and has changed my ministry life. God has done truly miraculous things through his gifts of the charisms' ~Joanna (Youth Minister)

4. Men Alive is a weekend retreat to help men of all ages become the best man, husband and father he can be (though it's for both married and unmarried men). This National Catholic Ministry for men was founded out of a response to a great need in the hearts and lives of men. We'll be holding this at St Gerard's on the weekend of June 17 – 18, all day Saturday and half day Sunday. As preparation for that, Max, Leon, & Richard (pictured on the right) attended the Men Alive Weekend on Saturday 11 March and Sunday 12 at Wahroonga. To book https://www.trybooking.com/CGZYX

Sove the Pate



SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH



We're grateful to the many people who support our parish financially. Most of our parishioners already give regularly by credit card or direct debit. If you're not yet doing this you're welcome to donate using the Tap n Go machine at the back of the church or via this https://checkout.square.site/buy/ILXFWB7LK2BBEZAEGZ QXMJV3 or give cash at the collection which we'll take up during the procession of gifts. Cash given will be divided evenly between what we previously called the first collection and the second collection, that is, the fund for clergy of our diocese, and the fund for our parish. Your generosity supports our ministries for children and youth, right down to the Easter eggs we're giving away!

A separate collection is being take on Good Friday for the Holy Land, that is, Christians and Christian churches who are the minority in Israel and its neighbouring countries. There will be envelopes on the seats and collection boxes in the middle of OLHC church and at the back of St Gerard's.

SUPPORTING SOCIAL JUSTICE IN OUR PARISH

Your Social Justice Team would like to build on the activities of last year and ask that you consider how you can increase your involvement in one or more of those issues. They continue to be:

- 1. Caring for the environment
- 2. Support for refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons
- 3. Support for women and children at risk of violence

Parish Team

Parish Secretary

Dennis Porteous Ph: 9876 2853 Email: Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Facilities & Operations Coordinator Richard Houwing Ph: 9876 2853

 $Email: \underline{Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au}$

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





We want to create opportunities for our community to learn about, pray about and do something about these fundamental issues of social justice.

You are invited to join us in developing practical and prayerful responses in which the parish can take part. See the invitation to the youth forum on ecological justice below.



If you're interested in caring for the environment, contact Phillip Vassallo at philliplouisvassallo@gmail.com or Gavin at ghays@parra.catholic.edu.au

If you're interested in supporting refugees, contact Mark Smith at msmith50@parra.catholic.edu.au or John Whealy at johnwwhealy@gmail.com

If you're interested in support of women and children contact Michael Coffey michaelc@gells.com.au or Christine Howe chowe@parra.catholic.edu.au

~ The Parish Social Justice Team

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



FIRST EUCHARIST 2023

Enrolment for First Eucharist has commenced and will close on Saturday 6th 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 invited to enrol.

The full brochure for the First Eucharist programme is now available at the back of both churches. If you wish to receive a soft copy instead, please feel free to email Lynn (contact details below). The brochure contains the key dates of the preparation period, events and celebrations. Parents are advised to consider carefully before enrolling, as commitment to the full programme is expected.

KIDZ INVOLVEMENT AT OLHC

At OLHC, the 8:30am Mass is now the family-children focused Mass. Fr Jim, Fr Aldrin and Team would like to invite your children to help out by participating in roles like the Gospel or Offertory processions, reading of prayers or singing. Our parish community is so much livelier when you are present; thank you for all that you do to bring this vibrance to us! ♥ If you would like to encourage your children to participate, this is a great opportunity to introduce "helping out at church" in a most gentle and non-intimidating way! Please contact Serena via email at Serena.Kozanic@bbcatholic.org.au or call her at 0414 753 799.

Kidz Word is on a break during school holidays and will resume in Term 2, Sunday 30th April at the 9:30am Mass.



KidzPlay is a community playgroup run by the Epping & Carlingford Parish to help promote a fun learning environment for kids and their carers.

All children under school age are welcome to come along and join us for:

*Weekly craft *Stories & prayer *Music & dance

Time: Fridays 9:30-11:30am (during school terms only)

Location: St Gerards Parish Hall

543 Nth Rocks Rd, Carlingford

(Parking is available at Carlingford Oval carpark via Roselea Way and enter via the school back gates)

Any questions, please contact Belinda Shi O414 753 362

or send an email to Belinda at

Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au

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/

Lynn Siau
Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Sacaramental
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 19th April 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.

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 the form on our website: bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds) - Our young adults group will next meet on the **18th April**, **7-8:30pm**.

WYD update:

We have a number of pilgrims from our parish who will be attending World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal which will be held in July/August this year: Alex, Antony, Daniel, Joanna, Julian, Leanne, Luis, Phillip, Shaz, Wing Hong, Wing Yee and Fr Aldrin!

5 under 18s Antiochers will be going with their schools in Broken Bay Diocese and at least 5 of our youth/young adults will be going with a number of other Dioceses-Armidale, Parramatta and Sydney Archdiocese. Please keep all our 20+ pilgrims in your prayers as we will pray for you.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to support our pilgrims, please do a bank transfer to our parish account: BSB - 062784 Account number - 100012613. and reference WYD2023.



Cana (Year 6-9) is on a break. We resume on the *28th April*. Come join us for our youth sports event on the 16th April, 6-8pm! Details below.





Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - No Antioch meeting on Easter Sunday 9th April. Come join us for our youth sports event on the 16th April 6-8pm and laser tag outing on the 23rd April 6:30-8:30pm at Macquarie Centre Strike. Contact the parent support if you have any questions: Kirk Koelmeyer (0420 874 824) or Louise Koelmeyer (0404 496 554).

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

DIVINE MERCY

How did St Gerard's get a painting of Divine Mercy? During the time when Fr Bogdan was here, he was keen to purchase a Divine Mercy picture to hang at St Gerard's and introduce the DM devotion. When he shared this idea with me, I, in jest suggested I could do a painting of the picture to hang at St Gerard's. Surprisingly he took me up on the offer. Almost 2 years on, Fr Jim and parishioners have agreed to hang the painting for devotional purpose. The painting now hangs at the front of the church beside the St Gerard chapel (see photo on the next page).

What is Divine Mercy? Divine Mercy has biblical relevance throughout the salvation history of mankind. Put simply, it is when God's love meets us and helps us in the midst of our suffering and sin. In essence, Divine Mercy is God's "Love in Action".



Who is Sister Faustina (Kowalska)? Born on August 25, 1905, and died 33 years later, she is the first saint of the new millennium canonised by John Paul II on the 30 April 2000. She was chosen as the Apostle and "secretary" of His Mercy, so that she could tell the world of his great message of Mercy. Sr Faustina recorded in her diary all the messages she received from Christ including the Divine Mercy chaplet, the Divine Mercy Image and the Divine Mercy Novena.

cont'd... "Divine Mercy"



What is Divine Mercy Sunday? Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter and 8 days after the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, where the gift of mercy is given freely to all.

How are we celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday? At St Gerard's, there will be a 3pm service on the 16th April 2023 where the chaplet and prayers of Divine Mercy will be said, and confessions heard. Jesus promised a profound and immense grace to those who would celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy.

We invite you to come and join us and look forward to praying with you.

ring with you.

~ Joan Sally worsh



NEWS FROM THE CATECHISTS

The Catechists/Catholic SRE teachers wish you and your families

a Blessed Easter!

"Who are catechists? They are people who keep the memory of God alive; they keep it alive in themselves and they are able to revive it in others."

— Pope Francis, International Day for Catechists, Sept. 29, 2013





Our catechists reach out to hundreds of students in 9 Public State Schools in our Parish with Special Religious Education (SRE) classes.

If your child attends one of the 9 state schools in our parish, then they have the opportunity to receive weekly Special Religious Education (SRE lessons) from our volunteer catechists who go to the schools to teach an authorised Catholic religion curriculum to students. It is an opt-in system, so parents need to notify the school of this request.

Below are the schools where we serve:

Primary Schools

- Epping Public School (Tuesday: 9:20, 9:50am)
- Epping North Public School (Thursday: 2:10, 2:40pm)
- Epping West Public Schools (Tuesday: 11:40am, 12:10, 12:40pm)
- Epping Heights Public School (Friday: 9:10am)
- Murray Farm Public School (Tuesday: 9:00, 9:40, 10:20am)
- Roselea Public School (Wednesday: 11:30am, 12:05, 12:30pm)

Secondary Schools

Saturdays 5.15pm - 5.45pm.

- Carlingford High School (Wednesday: 10am, 11am)
- Cheltenham Grils School (Thursday: 10am)
- James Ruse Agricultural High School (Wednesday : 2pm)

We are grateful to our many volunteer catechists who do this important ministry, and we are always in need of new members to the team.

If you are interested to become a catechist or to obtain more information regarding this ministry, please contact **<u>katherine@eppcarl.org.au</u>** for primary school or **<u>trish@eppcarl.org.au</u>** for secondary school or call the Parish Office during office hours at 9876 2853.

OTHER NEWS & NOTICES

Anzac Day is *Tuesday April 25th*. The Church has readings and prayers for the celebration of Anzac Day, and we will pray this at the *9.30am Mass at St Gerard's*.

Reconciliation: We'll continue to offer the sacrament of Reconciliation at *OLHC* on *Wednesday* nights 5.30pm - 6.30pm and Saturdays 9.45am - 10.15am, and at

St Gerard's on Thursday mornings 10am - 10.30am, and

Celebrations this Week Easter Week

ANZAC Day - Tuesday 25 April

St Gerard's Church, Carlingford

10 Apr to 15 Apr: Easter Monday to Easter Saturday

Easter Week 2

21 Apr Friday: St Anselm of Canterbury

cont'd... "Other News & Notices"





We are excited to announce that our **Charismatic Prayer Group** meets every Sunday at 10:45 am at St. Gerard's Church. Our group is transformed by the Holy Spirit, and we welcome you to join us for an uplifting and inspiring time.

Come and experience the power of the Holy Spirit as we pray together, sing, and share our journeys of faith. Our group is open to all, and we invite you to bring your friends and family along with you.

We look forward to seeing you this **Sunday at 10:45 am** at St. Gerard's Church (Children's Crying Room at the back of the Church). For more info contact Margaret on 0401 133 368 or mtmkelly@optusnet.com.au

Formed.org - We recently completed our 7-part video series on The Search which began mid-February. Done in small groups at various times/venues each week, the groups met to have a meal together, watched a 30-minute video, then discussed the video. It was a huge success with close to 100 participants. Photos below show some active discussions: Fr Jim and Fr Aldrin with both our Epping & Carlingford communities.

Multicultural Ministries: We have such a rich mix of cultures in our parish. It is good that there are people from all cultural backgrounds involved in every area of parish life. There might also be the opportunity for people to come together as cultural groups and to contribute as part of that group. There are parishes where, for example, a Filipino choir sing at Mass once a month, which allows a couple of songs familiar in that culture to be sung, alongside hymns already familiar in Australia. Morning teas are another area where a particular culture might contribute in a unique way. If you would like to be part of a choir or a morning tea group from your culture, contact Fr Jim.



Becoming Catholic: Are your friends or spouse Catholic and you see something in their faith which you'd like to have yourself? We offer a pathway to explore Catholic faith called the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) which is open to anybody, whether they have a background in another faith tradition, or none. It's a gradual, gentle process which listens to where you are at, and builds from there. If you're interested in this, call Cliff on 0487 876 730 and we'll start this process for you soon.





The Search was a series from Formed.org - Did you know: Our parish was in the pilot programme subsidised by the diocese of Broken Bay in the first year. We discovered how amazing it was, that our parish decided to pay for it in full and continue to offer it to you as a resource for FREE. This has so very many faith formation series/videos to watch that can help us *grow* not just in faith and knowledge but also in our intrigue with our Catholic faith.

Signing up is easy! You just need to go to "formed.org" and and click on "SIGN UP". You get the following screen below:

How would you like to sign up?



Create a New Account

Q 2	121	
Catho	olic Parish of Epping and Carlingfo	ord 29 Oxford St Epping NSW

When you type in the Epping postcode "2121", our parish automatically shows up for you to select and you simply follow the prompts to complete your sign-up process. Once that's done, you can start enjoying the benefits at no cost to you. Take your time to explore. You will be amazed at what you come across and some series are just mindblowing! There are also sections for kids and families.

Responsorial Psalm Response Easter Sunday - 9 Apr 2023 Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Gospel Acclamation Easter Sunday - 9 Apr 2023 **The Easter Sequence** Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

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



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) Kevin Saul (Marie Saul's nephew)
- Graham Yeates
- Dennis Porteous (our Parish Secretary)
- Eric Yeung (brother of Goretti Yeung)
- Margaret Floyd
- · Graham Kelly
- Veronica Kemp

- Ethan Seng Mestanza (Mario Graciela Mestanza's grandson)
- Maureen Carlon (Marie Saul's sister)
- Marie Saul
- Yolanda Calderone
- · Loreta Rosario
- Margaret Hall
- · Lorraine Warner
- Beryl and John Day

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 if you would like to pray for someone or for your own intentions: https://www.facebook.com/groups/2660800900909668

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

Recently deceased - Margaret Maher, Lyn Parker, Cedric Fernandes (husband of Pat Fernandes), Jan Doherty, Iris Misquitta (Candy D'Sylva's mum), Chai Seng

Please pray for Jan Doherty who died last week. Jan's funeral will be held at St Gerard's Church on the 12th April at 11am.

Anniversaries - Maureen Vierboom, Patrick Murphy (Rachel & Stephen's son), Joe Younis, Nicola Gallo, Lucia Gallo, Nick Gallo

Responsorial Psalm Response 2nd Sunday of Easter - 16 Apr 2023 Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Gospel Acclamation 2nd Sunday of Easter - 16 Apr 2023 Alleluia, Alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.