

Diocese of Broken Bay

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Vincent Trung Nguyen
Vincent.Nguyen@bbcatholic.org.au



The Catholic Parish
of Epping & Carlingford

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

Email

parish@eppcarl.org.au

Click here for:

[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)

YEAR C

15 MAY 2022 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

22 MAY 2022 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Stations of the Cross at St Gerard's: In the early Christian centuries devout Catholics would make their way to Jerusalem to retrace the steps which Jesus took on the way to his crucifixion. This became known as The Way of the Cross. When in the Middle Ages this became too difficult and too dangerous, the custom arose of

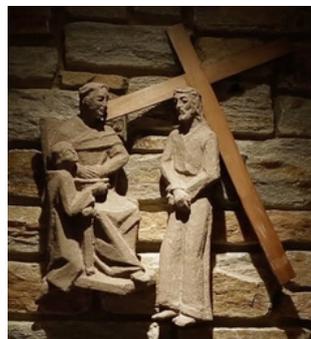
having representation of the various steps or stations which Jesus took depicted in or around churches, popularised by St Francis, and these became known as the Stations of the Cross. By the 18th century all churches were encouraged to have stations erected.

Most churches, including OLHC have the stations evenly spaced around the walls of the church so that people can make a procession around the church to pray with Jesus in his passion. At St Gerard's, however, the stations are grouped together in two small locations either side of the sanctuary which precludes them being used in the traditional way.

At a recent parish forum on April 10th and again at the May 4th pastoral council meeting there was agreement that it would be good move the stations around the body of the church so that they become an effective aid to prayer. To do this would require the removal of the large painted mural sections which are presently around the church. These murals were originally commissioned in 1975 and were painted by Brigidine sister Sr M. Joy Reynolds. They were a form of the stations of the cross, though quite different to either the traditional stations or the more recent Pope John Paul II scriptural stations, and were a mix of pictures and scripture quotes. They were centred around a large central mural of the Last Supper which was on the sanctuary but which has since been removed.

There seems to be a fairly widespread opinion that these paintings, though popular in their time in the 1970s have lost their aesthetic appeal and are not an aid to prayer, and could now be removed. If so, they would be carefully photographed and some smaller representation of them would be kept in the church as part of its history. However, as this would be a significant change to the interior of the church, **I invite any comments for or against this proposal in the coming month up until June 15th.** Such a change would also require the permission of the bishop.

Another item for consideration is the addition of an image of Divine Mercy to each church. Two images have been offered by parishioners and are displayed temporarily for comment. Would it be good to have an image displayed, if so, this image or another version, and, where in each church would it best fit? ~ Fr Jim



Readings

15 MAY 2022
Acts 14:21-27
Apocalypse 21:1-5
John 13:31-35

22 MAY 2022
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Apocalypse 21:10-14, 22-23
John 14:23-29

HOW CAN MY PARISH HELP REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS?

The Parish Social Justice Team invites you to be part of our 'Community Conversation' to explore this challenging topic.

Both Epping and Carlingford churches have participated in the Jesuit Refugee Service Foodbank collection for a number of years now, during the Lenten season and last year on Mothers Day. However, how many of us understand the difficulties faced by refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced people who are living in our community?

Our 'conversation' will be guided by our friends from JRS, a Catholic organisation, whose mission is to accompany, serve and advocate for the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and other people who have been forcibly displaced.

In small groups we will discuss our shared values in relation to refugees, hear and learn from those who have experienced these situations, then together agree on practical initiatives through which we can offer support to them.

Please join us on **Sunday May 29th 11am to 1pm** in the St Gerard's meeting room with morning tea from 10.30am.

We would ask that you indicate your intention to be with us by contacting John Whealy johnwwhealy@gmail.com or Mark Smith mark.luciasmith@gmail.com or call the Parish Office on 9876 2853.



A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
with refugees & people seeking protection

You are invited to this Community Conversation where you will hear personal stories from someone seeking asylum and someone who has been a refugee in our community. Join us to learn about the challenges that refugees and people seeking asylum are facing in NSW and hear from experts working in the field.

Sunday 29 May 2022
11am - 1pm (with morning tea from 10.30am)

Carlingford Parish Meeting Room
543 North Rocks Rd, Carlingford
(parking available behind the church)

This event is being run by The Epping - Carlingford Catholic Parish in partnership with Jesuit Refugee Service Australia

 RSVP using this QR code
For more info:
John Whealy - johnwwhealy@gmail.com

 The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford 

PASTORAL WORKS FUND COLLECTION - MESSAGE FROM FR JIM MCKEON

I'd like to invite you to take a moment to support our **May appeal for Pastoral Works Broken Bay**, which is the pastoral charity of the Catholic community of Broken Bay. The Pastoral Works collection supports Catholic chaplains in public hospitals (*including Fr Peter Dowd*), and the resourcing of our catechists for their ministry of evangelisation and catechesis in state schools.



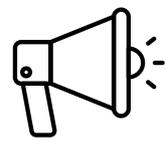
 <p>Hospital Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Practitioners Helping those who are vulnerable, experiencing loneliness or sick in hospital.</p>	 <p>Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Catechists taking the gospel to State school students.</p>	 <p>St Lucy's School Serving year K-12 students with disability.</p>	 <p>St Edmund's College Serving year 7-12 students with disability.</p>	 <p>Ephpheta Centre Pastoral care, sacraments, and advocacy for the deaf community.</p>
<p>Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community.</p>				



The diocese levies each parish to ensure that these important ministries can continue, and in 2021-22 our parish levy is \$56,000. We have so far raised \$11,000, which leaves us with **\$45,000 to raise** by the end of this financial year. We usually spread this appeal over three collections each year, but our shortfall is due to lockdown and church restrictions last year.

This \$45,000 averaged out across our 900 or so active parishioners is **\$50 per person**, and while some people can't afford to give, we know that many people are generous and have the means to give more to cover others.

The good news is that donations are fully tax deductible and a receipt can be offered before the end of the financial year. We'll take up this collection on **Sunday May 15th**, but you can also donate now at www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks or scan the QR code above.



SOMEONE NEEDS YOUR HELP

A request for 'CD/DVD Player' and 'Digital TV' has been received.

If you have one available that you are prepared to donate to a worthy cause, please contact Ted Green on 0418540274.



WANTED: Dudes to Sing!

MEN'S "A CAPELLA" CHOIR

For those of you who attended the Stations of the Cross at St. Gerard's on Good Friday, you may have noticed that we had some gentlemen dressed in black in white who led us in the chant "O Jesus crucified" and then "Jesus Remember me" (see photos below).

We have started a Men's "a Capella" choir following the early Christian tradition of the monks singing Gregorian chant in the Middle Ages. "A Capella" basically means unaccompanied (in reference to singing). We would love to have new members!

We rehearse on a Sunday evening at 6.30pm BUT we prepare our musical contribution for special occasions only. That means, you are not tied down to a permanent commitment throughout the year.

Our next contribution will be on **May 29th at the 9.30am Mass at St. Gerard's.**

The rehearsals are currently held in Beecroft and would only last a maximum of one hour. Already we have seven strong members, but we know there are more strong male singers from both Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Gerard's and we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the present music director, **Pat Fernandes: 0407908640** or cedpat@internode.on.net if you are keen. Reading music is not mandatory.



Men's A Capella Choir



Men's A Capella Choir on Good Friday 2022

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

Missionary Discipleship Coordinator:

Denis McNamara Ph: 0410 041 944

Email: Denis.McNamara@bbcatholic.org.au

Bookkeeper:

Karen Price Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Karen.Price@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

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.

From Lynn's Desk



Parents of the candidates gathered online last week on Tuesday and Thursday evening. Fr Jim and Fr Vincent were present to pray with the families. Fr Jim led us in a reflection so sublime that I was unable to draw my thoughts away from for days.

He asked us to imagine that we had only 24 hours left to live, not that the world was ending but that we would be leaving behind everything in 24 hours when our lives ended: what would we do in that final 24 hours that we had left? Parents typed in their responses in the chat, some very detailed such as "wine and dine with my loved ones, definitely laughter accompanied by lots of Thai and Chinese food", or

watching the sunset with my family", or "squeeze in Confession somewhere, then spend the day with my family", etc. Fr Jim noted that in all the years he had asked people this question, everyone's answers no matter how different, would invariably be ultimately to spend time with family and loved ones.

The next question was: how did Jesus spend his last 24 hours? So many thoughts raced through my head and in a short few seconds I was lost in my own emotions. It took me days to unpack my thoughts. The evening being a First Eucharist parent gathering, the focus was naturally on Jesus' sacrifice for us and his institution of the sacrament of the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life. It did not start or end there for me though. Being a convert to the Catholic faith, I have had a number of St Thomas' "my Lord and my God" moments and the reflection on Jesus' last 24 hours was another one of those moments for me. We all want to spend our last 24 hours with our families..... oh my Lord and my God, how much more do you love us, that I haven't yet felt and realised? Who did Jesus spend his last 24 hours with? Whether they were his beloved friends and disciples *or his enemies*, they were all his family; he gave away everything he had, even his mum whom we now call *our* Mother Mary, he gave it all for his "family"..... us. Not that we didn't already know that, but to feel it with a clenched heart and tears in my eyes, is a different story. It isn't everyday that you get to experience something like this, as though you were there. Because of Jesus, we will never really be alone in our last 24 hours. We are all his family.

As this weekend of the 15th May is the Rite of Enrolment for the children embarking on their First Eucharist journey, may I ask you, dear parishioners, who are also these children's "family", to please pray for them? I have left some plain paper and pen on the First Eucharist board in the church. Please take a moment if you wish, to write a prayer for the children and stick it on or around the board with the blu tac provided.

Children's Liturgy AKA Kidz Word on Mother's Day gave all Mothers a lovely surprise! A huge thank-you to Belinda and Toby who came up with such a creative way to talk about Jesus Our Shepherd and our mothers, followed by a beautiful quick craft of "flowers in a pot", using origami, paddle pop sticks, sticky tape, a paper cup and some soft tissue! Please see photos.

Mothers were pleasantly surprised to be presented with their unexpected "pot of flowers" by their children when they returned to church in time for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Lynn Siau

Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au



Mother's Day Activity!



COMMUNICATIONS

Please Note

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 25th May 2022**. 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.

Admitted to Hospital

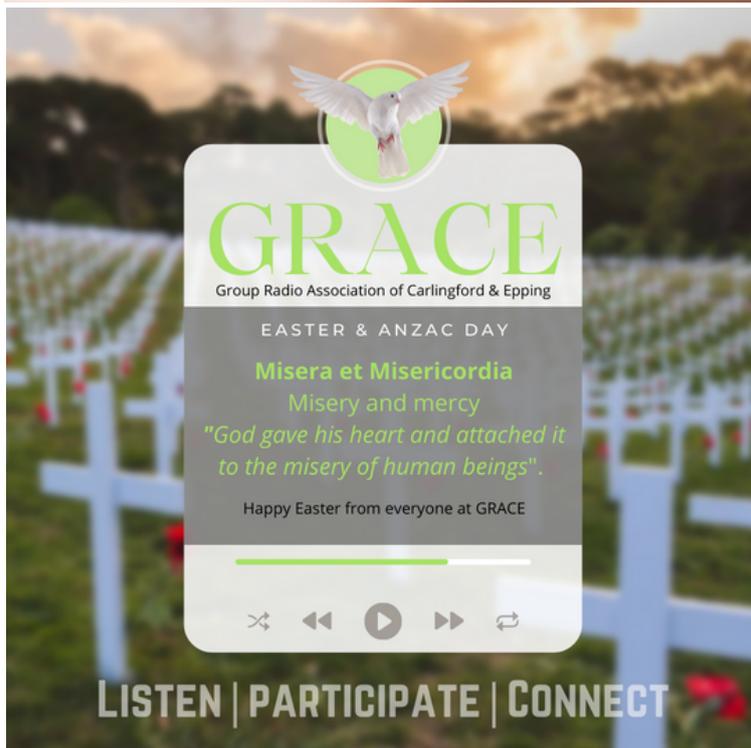
A reminder that if you are admitted to hospital, please try to ensure that you write down your religion as Catholic on the admission form, so that you can receive Catholic services during your stay.

TRIVIA NIGHT 21ST MAY!
7-10PM
RSVP YOUR SPOT FOR TRIVIA TO JOANNA BY THE 15TH MAY!

We are also asking parishioners to submit their favourite recipe with photos and a blurb on why their dish is significant for the limited edition Parish cookbook.

Due: 31st May

For enquiries, please contact Joanna Mak, the Youth Minister on 0404 710 588 or Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au

GRACE
 Group Radio Association of Carlingford & Epping

EASTER & ANZAC DAY

Misera et Misericordia
 Misery and mercy
"God gave his heart and attached it to the misery of human beings".

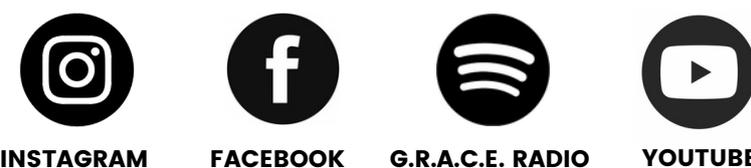
Happy Easter from everyone at GRACE

LISTEN | PARTICIPATE | CONNECT

Our latest GRACE podcast is a very special episode so make sure you tune in! Featuring Fr Jim, Fr Vincent and Deacon Adrian!
<https://anchor.fm/grace2020> or tap on the Spotify icon below.

We also have Facebook groups for Antioch and Emmaus. If you would like to join, please contact Joanna.

Joanna Mak
 Youth Coordinator
Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au
 0404 710 588



Cana (Year 6-9) - Cana youth group is on Fridays! Cana will have a meeting on 13th May and 20th May at St Gerard's Parish Hall!
 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford - entrance via North Rocks Rd.

Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Join us on 15th May and 22nd May 6-8pm at St Gerard's meeting room from 6-8pm.
 Contact the parent support if you have any questions: Kirk Koelmeyer (0420874824) or Louise Koelmeyer (0404496554).



Antioch would like to say thank you to everyone who helped donate baked goods and purchased from our fundraising bakesale on the 30th April/1st May. We raised just under \$2000! All funds raised will help our pilgrims go to World Youth Day in Portugal, 2023! In upcoming weeks, we will begin sharing about why we want to go to World Youth Day and what it means for us so stay tuned. All the funds raised from the parish trivia night on the 21st May will also go towards our pilgrimage to Portugal.



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds) - Our young adults group meets on Tuesdays 7-8:30pm.

- Join us:
- **Special event** - 24th May, guest speaker Simon Carrington is coming to give a talk on 'A call to love', 18-30 year olds invited.

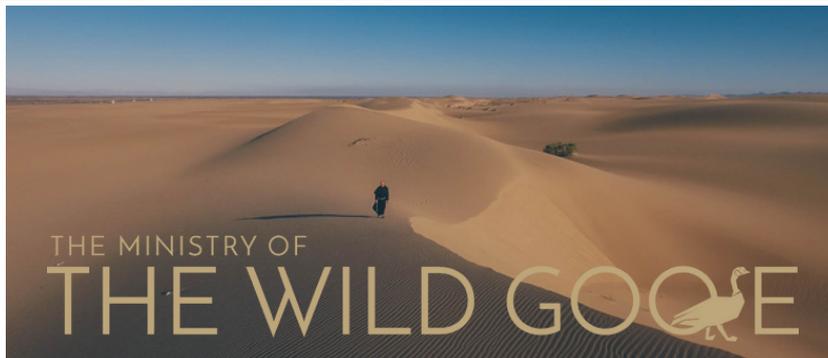
SEXUAL DESIRE:
A CALL TO LOVE

TUESDAY, 10TH MAY • 7PM

ST GERARD MAJELLA CATHOLIC CHURCH,
 543 NORTH ROCKS, ROAD CARLINGFORD



FIRE UP



4 weeks to prepare for Pentecost

The Wild Goose prepares us to pray, Come Holy Spirit

The videos of The Wild Goose are proving to be inspiring. Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is being energised with Divine insight.

Learn more about *The working of the Holy Spirit* on the Parish Website - <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/groups-and-ministries/wild-goose/the-working-of-the-holy-spirit>

See where and when you can join.

The team at Epping met in the church last Friday to be prepared so as to welcome you this Friday evening for Session 1 at 7pm. You can tell family and friends they can also join on Zoom on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. To receive the link to the meeting, please email Denis.Mcnamara@bbcatholic.org.au

Prepare for Pentecost. Simply pray Come Holy Spirit here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHZ_mRvXLZM and sing as you pray. You can also watch the first video ~ *God's love poured out* by clicking or tapping [here](#).

Denis McNamara

Missionary Discipleship Coordinator
Denis.McNamara@bbcatholic.org.au
0410 041 944

CATECHISTS' CORNER



Catechists are those who're called to serve through teaching, witness, prayer, service and building community.

Here's where we are needed:

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

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

Remember ...

You won't be 'thrown in the deep end' and many people start as a classroom helper. You will receive quality training in the curriculum and classroom management so that you feel confident in the classroom and can focus on sharing the gift of the faith.

interested in being
I'M A CATECHIST

If you are interested to become a catechist or to obtain more information regarding this ministry as well as the days and times of the scripture classes, please contact Fr Jim at Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au for Secondary Public Schools **or** Katherine Tam at katherine@eppcarl.org.au for Primary Public Schools or call the Parish Office during office hours at 9876 2853.



The Marriage Course

Navigating life together

You're invited



7 sessions designed to strengthen your relationship

The course helps couples to:

- ❖ *Communicate more effectively*
- ❖ *Understand each other's needs*
- ❖ *Resolve conflict*
- ❖ *Recognise how upbringing affects your relationship*
- ❖ *Develop greater sexual intimacy*
- ❖ *And much, much more...*



Starts 28 May 2022 at 2-4:30 PM
St Gerard Church Carlingford Hall

www.themarriagecourse.org

Contact: Philip & Ivy Senger
(0420525178 or pathways.sydney@gmail.com)



Register online via QR code

The Marriage Course is a series of seven sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage.

Nicky and Sila Lee, authors of *The Marriage Book*, developed *The Marriage Course* for couples looking for practical support to strengthen their relationship. The course is designed to help couples build strong foundations, learn to communicate more effectively and resolve differences well.

Pathways Sydney is a movement composed of Christian men and women seeking ways to further deepen their faith and Pathways is sponsoring a run of *The Marriage Course* for our parish! It will be held in **St Gerard's Hall on May 28 from 2-4:30pm**. The Course is FREE! Register at <https://forms.gle/YDSK3MkdFkMNcf799> or scan the QR code above if you have the hard copy of the bulletin. For more information, contact Phillip & Ivy Senger at 0420 525 178 or pathways.sydney@gmail.com

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION & NOTICES

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: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter>

Celebrations this Week

Easter Week 5

18 May Wednesday: St John I

20 May Friday: St Bernadine of Siena

21 May Saturday: St Christopher Magallanes

Easter Week 6

24 May Tuesday: OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

25 May Wed: Sts Gregory VII, Mary Magdalene de Pazzi & Bede

26 May Thursday: St Philip Neri

27 May Friday: St Augustine of Canterbury

Dads' Club

The monthly gathering of the parish Dads' Club (for all dads in both the Epping and Carlingford communities of the parish) takes place the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm. For details contact John Williams 0416 064 460. Dads are welcome for a relaxing and enjoyable evening! They just had a drooling BBQ feast of Lebanese skewers last Friday May 6th!



Pentecost Ecumenical Gathering: In Australia, the week between the Ascension and Pentecost Sunday is dedicated each year to praying for Christian Unity. This is an opportunity to connect with neighbouring churches around the Feast of Pentecost. We continue our strong tradition of ecumenism in Epping with a gathering at Epping Uniting Church (cnr Chester St and Norfolk St) on Tues June 7th at 7.45pm.

'Pregnancy Help Sydney, a life-affirming organisation, has been receiving calls of help Australia-wide for over 40 years. Our free, confidential and non-judgemental 24/7 telephone support service has helped thousands of women who have reached out to us. Embarking on motherhood should be a joyous occasion when a baby is planned for and welcomed into the life of its mother. Yet, for a significant number of women, this is not their reality. Our organisation provides an empathetic listening ear to support the woman who is challenged by her pregnancy, and together, explore the best options for her and her baby. We are thrilled to be launching, as another tool to help women facing a difficult situation, our refreshed website - <http://www.pregnancyhelpsydney.com> Pregnant? Worried, confused, feeling alone? Want to chat? Call our 24/7 support line 1300 792 798 or visit our website.

I will praise your name forever,
my king and my God.

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

WEEKEND MASSES

Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am and 6:00pm						
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am and 5:00pm Youth Mass						

WEEKDAY MASSES

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	No Mass	12:15pm	6:00pm	12:15pm	12:15pm	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	

EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Monday 6-7pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am,
Carlingford 1st Thursday 10am and Friday 6-7pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Monday 6-7pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am,
Carlingford Friday at 6-7pm and Saturday 5:30-5:45pm, **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

THE COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS OF NEW SOUTH WALES



SHOAH MEMORIAL SERVICE
'A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE'

for Christians and all people of
compassion to remember 1933-1945

TUESDAY 31 MAY 2022 | 6PM
The Great Synagogue, Sydney
Entry Via 166 Castlereagh Street



GUEST SPEAKER

Rev Dr Patrick McInerney has worked in interfaith in Sydney since 2002. He is currently Director of the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations located in Blacktown in the Diocese of Parramatta. He is a member of the Australian Catholic Council for Interreligious Dialogue

Please pray for.....

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

Recently deceased: Geoff Reid, Jan Burgin

Anniversaries: Christopher Cross, Patrick (Pat) Francis, Ludovico Zulita, Romulo Zulita, Anecito Cueuca, Lunar Cueuca

For the repose of the souls of: Robert Goodwin, Belated Mother's Day prayers for Elizabeth & Kathleen McEneaney, Noonie Barry & Florence Ronston

Also for: Maril Hillier, Richard Barry

Please pray for those who are sick and suffering:

- Nancy Walker (family of Eileen Nicoll)
- Martin McGuire (family of Eileen Nicoll)
- Patrick Thornton (family of Pat & Margaret Mcardle)
- Cohen Hadden (family of Pat & Margaret Mcardle)
- Graham & Elaine Yeates (elderly couple in nursing home)
- Dennis Porteous (our Parish Secretary)

