

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

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02 9876 2853

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Email

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Single Donation

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Readings

18 JUNE 2023

Exodus 19:2-6

Romans 5:6-11

Matthew 9:36-10:8

25 JUNE 2023

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Romans 5:12-15

Matthew 10:26-33



The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford

Go forth to love and serve God and each other

YEAR A

18 JUNE 2023 ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25 JUNE 2023 TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



An exciting week: This will be an exciting week in our parish! Children continue to receive Communion for the first time this week and next. More than 40 men are gathering for the MenALIVE weekend. Fr Titus concludes the First Spiritual Exercises with more than 60 parishioners in small groups. Please pray for all the people in these programs.

Volunteers: Thank you to the many people who have volunteered for new ministries using the green volunteer forms this month. You will be joining a team which allows you to do good work in the name of Jesus. You should be hearing from the coordinators of these ministries in the weeks ahead. If not, please contact the parish office. If you've taken home a volunteer form, turn that good intention into a commitment and bring the form back to the church or email to the parish office.



OLHC Ministers of the Word: New volunteers are invited to come to an induction on **Tuesday June 27th at 6pm in OLHC Church**. Coordinator Christine Noel and Fr Jim will introduce you to the ministry. We'd love to see some of our existing Ministers if the Word also come along to share their experience and get a refresher.



It is with deep gratitude that we'd like to thank everyone who participated in my Ordination to become a Deacon.

It was good to see so many St Gerard's and OLHC parishioners. Thank you for the delicious cake. The Ordination was attended by a mixture of people from the Diocese, my friends and business associates. All were in rapture at the holiness and beauty of the ceremony that you created. Thanks to all and the Holy Spirit.

~Deacon Richard

Pictured left: Richard Houwing ordained Deacon, 6th June 2023. Also Fr Jim as Director of Programme of Formation for Diaconate.

Fr Jim will be away June 19th - 24th. Thank you to Fr Sam French who will celebrate one vigil Mass in Fr Jim's absence.



School Mass: St Gerard's School will be joining us for the 9.30am Mass on **Monday June 26th.**



Pastoral Works Fund: Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to the Pastoral Works Fund to support catechists and hospital chaplains across our diocese last month. We have received \$40K in donations which is extraordinary. This leaves a shortfall of \$18K to reach our annual levy of \$58K, and we will make this up out of parish funds. Alternatively, if you'd still like to make a tax deductible donation before the end of the financial year go to bbcatholic.org.au/donate/pastoral-works-broken-bay or use the QR code on the right.



Envelopes: If you donate cash by the weekly envelopes, your new envelopes are available to pick up from the back of the church. Many of you have already picked them up; thank you for your continued generosity. Numbers 1-100 are in OLHC and 1001-1100 are in St Gerard's. Contact the parish office if you need yours brought to the other church or if you'd like them sent to you. Receipts for all givers, by envelope, credit card and direct debit will be sent to you in July. Your generosity funds and fuels the great work of our parish.



2023 WINTER APPEAL

Women over 55 are one of the fastest growing group of people at risk of homelessness. Please consider donating to the "Vinnie's Winter Appeal" to help.

How to donate:

- Envelopes will be available on the seats and at the entrance to the Church.
- You are invited to make your donation with the assistance of one of the members of SVDP at the entrance to the Church after Mass. They will also be able to accept your card donations utilising a 'Payment Terminal' {EFTPOS}.
- They will provide a receipt to you straight away.
- Alternatively donations can be made by completing the 'Vinnies Envelope' and placing it in the 'Second Collection Box'. We will mail the receipt to you.
- Please also note that at St Gerard Majella Carlingford you may make your donation at the 'Piety Store'.

OLHC REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

We anticipate practical completion of the Parish Centre and School now to be June 26th 2024. As we have always been aware, the school precinct would be surrounded by an active construction site to complete the Assisted Living tower once the school moved back on-site. Due to the necessary placement of the crane, different to originally anticipated, it will now impinge across the playground and carpark areas.

As such, it has been determined that for the obvious safety of the students, staff and families that OLHC school now commences back at the Epping site from the beginning of the 2025 school year.

Although regrettable, this ensures that the significant construction works will be complete and movement around the school for the students and staff is safe and unhindered.

The Parish (including weekend school / parish masses) will be able to use the carpark and new Parish Centre on weekends and after hours from the middle of 2024. Further information closer to this time will be provided.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to enjoying the new school and Parish Centre facilities.

~ Fr Jim





Parish CENSUS

Every year we along with every Catholic Parish in the country count the number of people at Mass every week of May to get consistent longitudinal data on the trends of Mass attendance.

We know that there is a long term decline in Mass attendance at parishes across Australia and that covid and lockdowns hastened this decline. However, the more recent news is good.

Our parish has grown from 755 people in 2021 (May, between lockdowns), to 830 in 2022, to 1005 this year in 2023. The most noticeable growth has been in the 9.30am and 5pm Masses at St Gerard's.

What is also remarkable is that attendance at OLHC has held steady despite the lack of parking which shows the depth of people's commitment to their local worshipping community.



Fr Titus speaking after Mass at OLHC

Last weekend Fr Titus shared with parish the dire situation of his people in Myanmar who suffer under the oppression of the military government. He also shared the incredible work of the Church where people have such kindness for one another and such hope. We can support the Church's work there via <https://jesuitmission.org.au/>

Another Step towards OUR COMMITMENT

Solar Systems: Consistent with our commitment to protect the environment and to protect us against rising energy costs, we recently installed solar systems on the back of the Church and Presbytery at Carlingford. We are capturing some energy into batteries for non-daytime use in the Presbytery and the Office and are earning an income by feeding back into the grid. The expected payback is 2.5 to 3 years on current rates.

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



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to the following children who will celebrate their First Eucharist with us this and next weekend **17th & 18th June at St. Gerard's**, and the **24th June at OLHC**: Alessandro Fitzsimon, Chloe Hill, Claire Kim, Jacinta Murphy, Christopher Ngo, Yujin Oh, Greta Snow, Matilda Stevens, Olivia Taylor, Ziyu Wang, Abbey White, Liam Daley, Asher Dao, Thomas Dunn, Keira Fernando, Zoya Mareath, April Moujalli, Georgina Petch, Rebecca Raad, Flynn Ryder, Nicolas Saez, Regina Salas, Neville Satheesh, Joshua Semaan, Daniella Yanga, Nate Broad, Adrian D'Amore, Amelia Ferrao, Lachlan Freer, Liam Hays,

Hailey Low, Flynn Radford, Venice San Miguel and Neil Tendolkar.

At our First Holy Communion Mass last weekend, being the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the First Communicants were also able to participate in a Eucharistic Procession with their families and all our parishioners. Photo on the right. *Photo credit: Michael Voon.*



Eucharistic Procession at St Gerard's

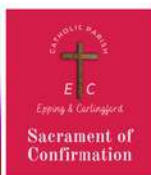
The parish would like to thank the parents and carers, our Parish School Principals, Barbara Yee and Dominique O'Sullivan, teachers, catechists/volunteers who have helped support these children as they prepared for their First Eucharist. Thank-you also to our sacristans, servers, music ministry and hospitality team, for their assistance in making this celebration smooth and memorable for the families!

We are very blessed to have a **morning tea celebration generously contributed and prepared by St Gerard's school parents**. There was one held last Sunday (see photos below) and this Sunday 18th June another one will be held after the 9:30am Mass under the school shelter shed. **All are invited to come and congratulate the children and their families!** *Photos credit: Michael Voon*



2023 Confirmation

For children in Year 3 & above who are baptised



Enrolment commences
end of June.

Please register your interest now to
avoid missing out.

Lynn Siau - Coordinator of Children's Ministries,
Sacramental Programme & Communications

Scan QR-code to email:

Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

phone: 9876 2853



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 28th June 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 provide an email address, a contact name and number in your article. Thank you.



Other ways to connect:



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



GRACE RADIO

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



Cana (Year 6-9) is on every Friday **7:30-9pm** during the school term. Next meeting is the **23rd June for our movie and pizza night! Wear your favourite PJs!**

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford, entrance via North Rocks Rd.

Note: Cana will be on a break and resume on the 1st September in term 3 (due to the leaders being away for World Youth Day) the 1st September in term 3 (due to the leaders being away for World Youth Day)



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Antioch next meets on the **18th and 25th June, 6-8pm** at St Gerard's meeting room.

Antioch will have **a break in July and resume on the 23rd July.**

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



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds) - Our young adults group will next meet on the **27th June, 7-8:30pm.**

WYD Update



Less than 5 weeks to go till we depart for our first stop to Italy! Please pray for our 20 pilgrims who will be attending either through our Diocese and schools or with Parra, Sydney and Armidale Diocese.



Parish Trivia Night

SATURDAY JULY 8

THEME: GENERATIONS
7- 10 pm @ St. Gerards Hall

\$20 pp
REGISTER UP TO 10 PEOPLE FOR
YOUR DREAM TEAM

**BYO FOOD
& DRINK**

FOOD WILL ALSO BE SOLD!!

LOTS OF PRIZES TO BE WON!!

If you have any donations eg. chocolates, gift hampers, gift cards, could you please drop them off in the boxes located at the back of the church.

To RSVP please email
joanna.mak@bbcatholic.org.au or write down your
details on the sign up sheets at the back of the Church

Parish Trivia Night: Save the date 8th July, 7-10pm @ St Gerard's Parish Hall. The theme is Generations. You can register by filling in your details on the signup sheets at the back of the church or email Joanna (contact details below). If you have any donations, please drop them off at the back of either church in one of the boxes.

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

I am a Catechist! BY NOREEN SORABJI

When I first put my hand up to be a Scripture teacher, I knew I could walk away at any time. After all, it was a voluntary role with no obligations.

However, after the first few weeks, I realised a few things: that there was a real need for catechists in our Public School System, that young minds needed to be nurtured with the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ, that as a baptised catholic, I had a responsibility... I could and should share my deep love of God and faith with the children.

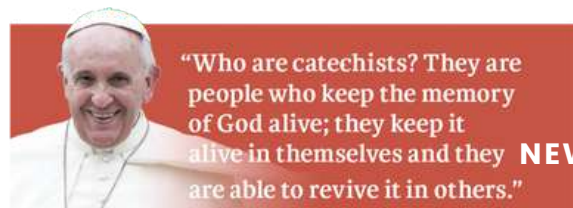
My first few lessons at Murray Farm Public School were as a helper. This is my 9th year at the same school, teaching Yr 2, and still enjoying it very much. Overall, my experience has been positive and I am happy to report that feedback from some parents attending St Gerard's Church have been favourable and very encouraging.

I have been well supported at Murray Farm, which has made teaching Scripture a joy. The Murray Farm School Coordinator, Trish Lucas, who has over 33 years' experience in this school has always been available to discuss issues that may arise. I am most grateful to Trish, and, also to Katherine Tam, the Primary Schools Coordinator for their support, advice, and words of encouragement.

For those considering becoming a catechist, but have doubts about their ability to teach, there is no need for concern. The two main prerequisites for a SRE teacher are: *Commitment and a Burning Desire* to share the faith. The rest is taken care of by the CCD, Broken Bay. They provide initial training to bring new catechists up to speed and continue the training on an ongoing basis. They further assist by issuing guidelines, various tools & resources, and the very useful Teacher's Manual.

There really are no downsides to being a SRE teacher other than a time commitment of no more than 2 hours a week. However, there are many positives. You will grow in your faith, continue learning the teachings of the church, and deepen your relationship with Jesus. Most importantly, you become a good role model of faith for the children.

St Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved". How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? We in our church, are all called to be the voice of Jesus Christ.



Can you proclaim the Good News and share your faith with the children of the Public School system? If you can, please contact katherine@eppcarl.org.au for primary schools and trish@eppcarl.org.au for secondary schools or call the Parish Office during office hours at 9876 2853.

~ Noreen Sorabji

Charisms of the Holy Spirit

Have you wondered how you can serve the Church using your charisms? There are so many ways to serve and we are so fortunate to have so many volunteers teaching at catechist schools, demonstrating mercy by giving communion to the sick and prison ministry and Vinnies, serving at Mass and in hospitality, running faith formation groups, youth groups and so much more.

Our charisms make us part of the body of Christ and these are some examples where your charisms could shine:

People who have a charism of **music** are often talented in music and worship/music ministry or media work.

Those with the charism of **craftsmanship** are good at being a handyman, woodworker, gardening or tending to the physical building of the Church.

Discernment of spirits are typically expressed in healing ministry and intercessory prayer.

Those with the gift of **evangelisation** could use their charisms in RCIA or catechist teaching or being a reader at Mass.

People with the charism of **healing** could be useful for intercessory prayer, or as a Eucharistic minister.

Those with the charism of **hospitality** may be good at catering for morning tea/retreats, hosting small groups/Alpha groups.

Those with the gift of **mercy** may use their charisms in prison ministry.



Celebrations this Week

Ordinary Time Week 11

- 19 June Monday: *St Romuald*
- 21 June Wednesday: *St Aloysius Gonzaga*
- 22 June Thursday: *Sts John Fisher and Thomas More*
- 23 June Friday: *St Paulinus of Nola*
- 24 June Saturday: *THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST*

Ordinary Time Week 12

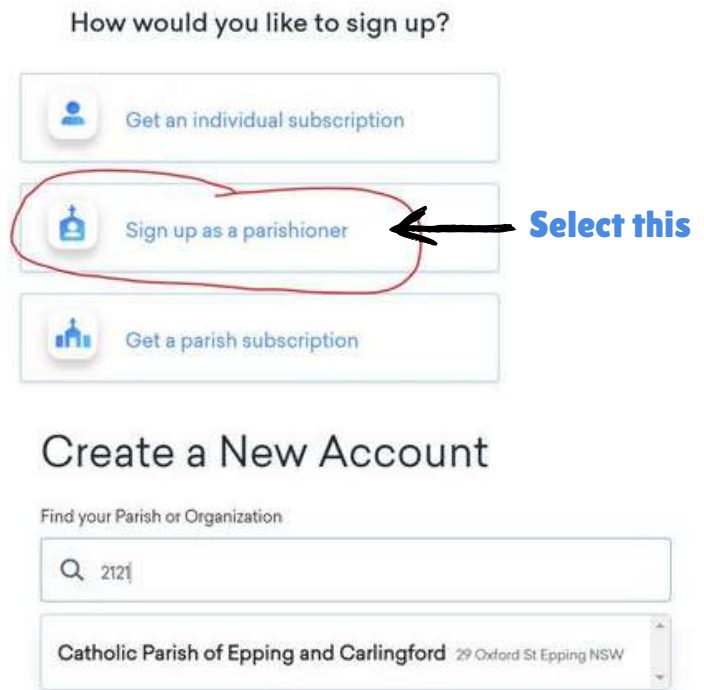
- 27 June Tuesday: *St Cyril of Alexandria*
- 28 June Wednesday: *St Irenaeus*
- 29 June Thursday: *STs PETER AND PAUL*
- 30 June Friday: *The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church*



New Content. Every Day.
Anywhere, Anytime.

Formed.org is a resource our parish offers to you for FREE. There are 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. You can also download it as an app.

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



**Our Parish Schools Students from OLHC
and St Gerard's Grow in Faith!**

To celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, Fr Aldrin visited St Gerard's and OLHC classrooms with a special vessel called a Monstrance, which holds the Blessed Sacrament. It was a wonderful learning opportunity as the children gained knowledge of the special meaning of the Feast Day and their reverence was commendable! Fr Aldrin also taught the children special prayers of praise to Jesus, and bestowed a very special blessing upon them all. Here are some photos from both our parish schools below:



Fr Aldrin at OLHC Primary School



OLHC Primary School



St Gerard's Primary School



Eucharistic Procession at St Gerard's Primary School

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.



**We are his people:
 the sheep of his flock.**

**The kingdom of God is near;
 repent and believe the Good News!**

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, 10am 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:

- Cohen Hadden (family of Pat & Margaret McArdle)
- Graham Yeates
- Dennis Porteous (our Parish Secretary)
- Eric Yeung (brother of Goretti Yeung)
- Margaret Floyd
- Graham Kelly
- Owen Harrison
- Ethan Seng Mestanza

- Maureen Carlon (Marie Saul's sister)
- Kevin Saul (Marie Saul's nephew)
- Yolanda Calderone
- Loreta Rosario
- Lorraine Warner
- Beryl and John Day
- Laura Doran
- Mary Chernov (sister of Trish Harrison)
- Margaret Hall



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 - Victor Lee, Joe Carlon, Edward Ngu (Li May's dad), Peter Boojong Lee

*Please pray for Noelene Viset who passed away last week. Noelene's funeral will be held at St Gerard's Church on **Monday 19th June at 10:30am.***

*Also for Domenico Staltari, whose funeral will be held at St Gerard's Church on **Wednesday 21st June at 11am.***

Anniversaries - Megan Barnett (Anne Kilby's daughter), Thomas Bonifas, Emma Gavin, Gan Chin Joo (Lynn Siau's father)