

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

Phone

02 9876 2853

Website

eppcarl.org.au

Email

parish@eppcarl.org.au

Single Donation

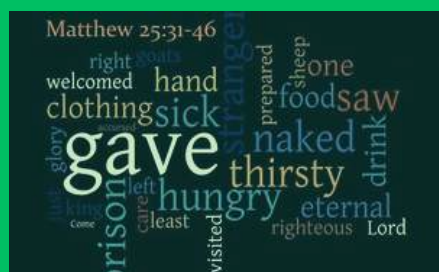
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[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



Readings

19 NOVEMBER 2023

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21

26 NOVEMBER 2023

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Matthew 25:31-46



The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford



YEAR A

19 NOVEMBER 2023 THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

26 NOVEMBER 2023 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



Thank you to everyone who supported me in my recent illness. I was recently on sick leave for a week with a severe chest infection and asthma. This did require an ambulance to be called but I was not admitted to hospital. I will take my planned annual leave next week to continue to full recovery. I am grateful to Fr Aldrin and the whole parish team who supported me in this time, to Fr Stephen Wayoyi, Fr Vincent Musindalo and Fr Jessie Balorio who covered Masses for me. I am grateful too for the prayers and support of so many of you in the parish.

On another note, I am happy to announce that **Simone Noel** (pictured below) will be joining our Parish Team in January next year in the part time role of Pastoral Support Worker with a particular focus on the OLHC community.

The Pastoral Council identified that additional pastoral support is needed for the people and ministries of the OLHC Epping community because the clergy and parish office have been based at St Gerard's these past two years. There will also be wonderful new pastoral and evangelical opportunities once the new parish facilities are open at OLHC next year, and so Simone will help empower us to take up these possibilities. Simone is the daughter of Christine and Bernard Espitalier-Noel; she grew up in Epping and so already has strong connections to the OLHC community. She is married to Paul and has adult children. Please make her welcome in January 2024.



The Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Committee are the key advisory and support groups to the parish priest in the leadership of the parish. Members are chosen from among parishioners for one or two three or two year terms to provide stable, but rotating membership for each group. This year five members of our Parish Pastoral Council are completing their second two-year term and stepping down.

Thank you to **Louise McVittie, Helen Barry, Joanna Mak, Kerry Paxton and Paddy Watts** for your wise and insightful service to the parish, and to assisting me in my first years as parish priest. Thank you also to **Mario Rodrigues and Tricia Whealy** who are stepping down from the parish finance committee. You have given me invaluable support in the leadership and governance of our parish.

This creates the opportunity for new members of each group in 2024. Each has a distinct role. The Pastoral Council focuses on the vision and mission of the parish. It doesn't have to run all the programs, but rather, discerns prayerfully, listening to parishioners and advising how best the parish can assist people in

... cont'd from previous page

their life transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. The Finance Committee supports the governance and risk management of the parish so that there is a safe and strong operating environment for the pastoral, liturgical and spiritual life of the parish to take place.

2024 will present some extraordinary opportunities as we take possession of our new parish facilities at OLHC mid-year. I invite you to consider whether you could assist me in the leadership of our parish by joining either the PPC or PFC in 2024. Please contact me.

~ Fr Jim

GIVING SIMPLY FEELS AWESOME!

Incredible Outreach Efforts: Antioch Group Joins Samaritan's Purse Operation Shoe Box



We're proud to share the heartwarming efforts of our Antioch group members: **Jack, Bentia, Ben, and Phil**, who joined forces with 50 others to repack over 2,000 shoeboxes for children in need worldwide through Samaritan's Purse's Operation ShoeBox. This incredible project aims to bless underprivileged children by providing them with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and joyful gifts for Christmas.

These shoeboxes carry God's love and message to children living in vulnerable situations. In the spirit of Christ's teachings, which emphasize the union of faith with acts of mercy, this project stands as a beautiful embodiment of His teachings. It allowed us to follow in His footsteps, sharing love and hope with those who need it most.

~ Phil Senger, Faith Formation Team

Another wonderful response by our Parish to the request for support of the Foodbank at JRS Parramatta!



Your donations were delivered on Monday 13th November; the staff at JRS were overwhelmed by the quantity and variety of goods. The 140 kgs of rice and more than 50 litres of long-life milk restored their almost empty reserves. \$500 in gift cards will be appreciated by those clients who do not have the facilities to store and cook their food. The donations of tinned milk, oil and other items will help stock the pantry at JRS. THANK YOU ALL!

~ Parish Social Justice Team

Flowers in November: The flowers at OLHC on Nov 25th are donated by Elizabeth Bryant in memory of Malcolm Bryant. *Would you like to sponsor the flowers at OLHC for one week during November in honour of someone you love who has died?* If you could bring 2 matching bunches of flowers to the church on the Saturday morning, please put your name on the roster at the back of the church and the name of the person whom you're donating flowers in honour of.



Coming on Dec 2nd & 3rd will be the **St Vincent de Paul** Christmas Appeal where Cash or credit card donations, or Christmas hampers will provide support families in crisis. With the escalating costs of living, the festive season will be a time of uncertainty and anxiety for some. Your gift can help provide essential food, clothing, living expenses and crisis support that families and many others, urgently need to survive this Christmas and beyond. Visit <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-kindness> for more details.



Support for Women and Children: In the coming weeks you'll see the "Angel Trees" at both St Gerard's and OLHC, inviting you to buy a gift which will be given to two ministries which are supported by our parish to help women and children in particular need:

- The Angel Tree at OLHC will have tags inviting you to buy a gift card which allows a prisoner to give a Christmas gift to their child.
- The "Angel Tree" at St Gerard's will have tags inviting you to buy a gift card to assist a woman fleeing domestic violence or residing at Parramatta Womens' Shelter.
- You can also give directly at <https://parrawomensshelter.org.au/make-a-donation>.

Our parish will also make a direct donation of \$500 to the shelter to assist with a Christmas party for these families.

Escaping domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness and poverty. The Catholic Church provides teaching and resources for this difficult issue, and this inspires us to offer the practical help we're seeking your engagement with:

- <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/resources/social-justice-statements/> and
- <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/social-justice/domestic-violence>



Pastoral Works Fund: Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the bi-annual Pastoral Works Fund appeal which supports the resourcing of our catechists, the purchase of student workbooks for our children in scripture classes in state schools, and Catholic hospital chaplaincy. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Our levy this year is **\$54,000** which works out to be around \$54 for each of our 1000 people at Mass this weekend, though some can't give this much and some of the 1000 people are children. If you're able to give, please do.

If you've brought an envelope back you can place it in either collection box in the church or go to <https://brokenbay.goodgiving.com.au/home/brokenbay> and make sure to nominate our parish when you donate.

Parish Team

Parish Secretary

Marcella Letteri Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Marcella.Letteri@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 & Parish 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

Belinda Shi Ph: 0414 753 362

Email: Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au



Pray for Hien



Last weekend, Hien made his Profession of Faith, Oath of Fidelity and Commitment to Celibacy publicly in Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in Waitara.



Hien's Ordination: Bishop Anthony invites the whole diocese to join us in celebrating the ordination of Hien Vu to diaconate on **Friday Nov 24th, 7.30pm at St Leonard's Church, Donnelly St, Naremburn**. Make your own way there or car pool with others.

LET'S TRY THIS!

New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!



This could be a meaningful add-on activity alongside your household Advent calendar. Your child will be enlightened learning about a true story! If you do not have an age-appropriate Bible for your child, please contact me (details below) and I will be more than happy to introduce a few very good Children's Bible to you (no, they are not all the same!).

to for the Christmas Eve Mass. See below for practice dates and times:

OLHC Epping - Wednesday, 20th December

- 10am - 11am - Gospel mime learning and procession
- 11am - 11:30am - Readers and Offertory procession

To sign your child up for **OLHC** 5pm Mass, please use this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/MFD3Y> or via the QR code on the right.



As always, please feel free to send me an email if you have any questions. Our Christmas Eve Kidz Masses are the BEST. So make sure you contact me if you need assistance signing up.

Lynn Siau - Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au , Phone: 9876 2853

Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Sacramental Programme & Communications

Christmas Eve Family Mass!



Preparations for 2023 Christmas Eve Kidz Masses at both churches: All children are invited to take part in the Christmas Eve Masses (**5pm at OLHC and 6pm at St Gerard's on Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve**). We would love your children to participate in one of the many roles available:

- Reading the Welcome at the start
- Leading the Penitential Rite
- Various roles for the Gospel Mime of the Nativity - yes they get to dress-up... too cute!!!
- Leading the Prayers
- Preparation of the Gifts and Gospel processions

Parents and children who are participating are requested to attend a practice according to the church you choose to go

to for the Christmas Eve Mass. See below for practice dates and times:

St Gerard's Carlingford - Saturday, 23rd December

- 10am - 11am - Gospel mime learning and procession
- 11am - 11:30am - Readers and Offertory procession

To sign your child up for **St Gerard's** 6pm Mass, please use this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/KTYMM> or via the QR code on the right.



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 29th November 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 via a desktop, the form on our website: bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Cana (Year 6-9) is on the **17th Nov and 1st Dec** in the parish hall. **Note:** no Cana on 24th Nov due to Hien's Diaconate Ordination.
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford-entrance via North Rocks Road.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Antioch will next meet on **19th and 26th Nov, 6-8pm** in the meeting room at St Gerard's.

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 **21st November** and the final meeting will be **5th December, 7-8:30pm** in the meeting room at St Gerard's.

Youth groups Christmas Party

@ St Gerard's Parish Hall (543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford)

<p>CANA (yr 6-9) 8th December (Fri) 7:30-9pm Bring a \$5 secret santa gift</p>	<p>EMMAUS (23-30yrs) 5th December (Tues) 7-8:30pm Bring a \$20 secret santa gift</p>
<p>ANTIOCH (yr 10-23) 3rd December (Sun) 6-8pm Bring a \$10 secret santa gift</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">To enquire more, or to RSVP, please contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on Email: joanna.mak@bbcatholic.org.au or Phone: 0404 710 588</p>

IT IS WITH DEEPEST PRIDE AND GREATEST PLEASURE THAT WE WELCOME YOU... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOREVER... TO EMMAUS'

Disney

THEMED EVENING

SATURDAY — 6:00PM
2 DEC, 2023
CARLINGFORD PARISH MEETING ROOM

RSVP TO RACHEL BY 24/11/2023

POTLUCK AND DISNEY MOVIE!
COME DRESSED AS YOUR FAVOURITE DISNEY CHARACTER!



We have more World Youth Day Testimonies! Julian & Phillip write about WYD.

From Julian: Post World Youth Day, we had a retreat at Fatima for 3 nights. In the peaceful dark of Fatima's night, surrounded by friends, locals, and fellow pilgrims from around the world, I held a candle and prayed the rosary. It was a greatly unifying moment because it made me aware of the universality of Christianity, especially when all the different flags gathered behind the cross in a long procession. For me it was such a special experience because of the reverence of every person there. Raising my candle to sing Ave Maria alongside hundreds is a vivid and treasured memory that I will never forget!



From Phillip: World Youth Day was a once in a lifetime experience that I was fortunate enough to go on along with my friends from St Gerard's. While it didn't come without its challenges, the opportunities offered were inspiring. Having such a diverse body of Catholics around the world come together, meeting them in the flesh, let you feel a tightknit community like never before. The Church was alive, and we got to come together for the final WYD celebrations and sleep out appreciating the beautiful world God gave us to care for. It's like a global jigsaw puzzle, finally feeling the pieces connecting and seeing the whole picture of the Universal Catholic Church.

For more information on any of our 3 youth groups and our Antioch and Emmaus social media pages, please contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or send her an email at Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au

NEWS FROM OUR CATECHISTS



2023 CCD Annual Diocesan Mass
and Presentation of Award Ceremony
was held on
Saturday October 28, 2023
at Our Lady of Rosary Cathedral
23 Yardley Ave, Waitara

Service Awardees : Parish of Epping and Carlingford

Nina Deacon	25 years of service
Donagh D'Silva	10 years of service
Miranda Lam	5 years of service
Susan Lynch	5 years of service
Hugo Park	5 years of service
Katherine Tam	5 years of service
Reena Baby	Level 1 certificate

Congratulations to Nina Deacon who received her award for 25 years of service as a Catechists in the 2023 CCD Annual Diocesan Mass at Our Lady of Rosary Cathedral where Fr Jim took part in the Celebration of the Mass. Nina is pictured here with Fr Jim on the left.

We also congratulate **Donagh D'Silva, Miranda Lam, Susan Lynch, Hugo Park, Katherine Tam** for achieving a milestone of service and **Reena Baby** for completing her Level 1 certificate.

Their awards and certificate will be presented to them by Fr Jim and Fr Aldrin on the weekend of Nov 25/26 during Mass.

A CATECHIST'S REFLECTION by Donagh D'Silva

It was ten years ago after Sunday mass when a plea was made for more Catechists to teach scripture in public schools. I volunteered immediately and have enjoyed every minute of the ten years at a high school teaching years 7, 8 and 9 alternately. Taking the world of today and the excitement of discovering Jesus into a classroom is a blessing most teachers would dream of.

The Religious Education curriculum states "that Catechists with the assistance of the spirit, lead both children and their families to deepen their responses as disciples". The Pathways of Discipleship folder offers all the resource material required. The mentoring and in services are ongoing cementing in the teachers.

Essentially you go in there and share your love and friendship with Jesus. Show them how his kindness and compassion shaped your own relationship with Jesus and others. Through music, song, visuals and drama children experience for themselves the unshakable love God has for his children revealed in Scripture. I must confess I have sneaked in the Jesuit Gerard Manley Hopkin's psalm inspired poem 'Thou art indeed just O Lord' and W. B Yeats' 'The Second Coming' to emphasise God's intrinsic presence in literature which reflects life.

Please give it a shot and after a few months when the children thank you with a smile on their way out you know in your heart you are doing your bit with the Holy Spirit guiding you along. Armed with your own love of Jesus and his love for you and the joy of imparting that is all that you need.

"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for such is the kingdom of God". ~Luke 18:16



If you are interested in becoming a Catechist or to obtain more information about it, please call the Parish Office weekdays 9am-4pm at 9876 2853 or contact Katherine Tam for Primary Schools at katherine@eppcarl.org.au and Trish O'Donnell for Secondary Schools at trish@eppcarl.org.au

OTHER PARISH NEWS & UPDATES



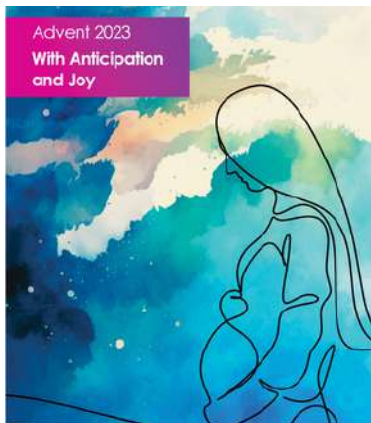
Congratulations!

Father Peter Carroll MSC baptised Margaret and Brian Wiseman's Great Granddaughter Anna Rose Gyzen at OLHC Epping on the 29th October. The Wiseman's have been in our Parish for 56 years. Congratulations to all the family!



Christmas Mass times: Our parish Christmas Mass times are confirmed as follows -

- At OLHC: Dec 24th - 5pm vigil and 9pm vigil. Dec 25th - 8.30am and 10.15am.
- At St Gerard's: Dec 24th - 6pm vigil and 10pm vigil. Dec 25th - 7.45am and 9.30am.



Preparing for Christmas - Advent Program "Anticipation and Joy" from the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese. Advent is a time for us to understand that God is always doing something new for us. It is all about watching and waiting. We are called during this holy time to wait with anticipation knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. This is a time we come together to celebrate this joy.

You are invited to join us for this program **each Friday morning, starting 1st December** in the **St Gerard's Meeting room from 10:15 - 11.30am** during Advent. Morning Tea will be served. Please sign up using the sheets at the back of the church so we know how many booklets we need or contact Marie on 0408 495 193.



Remembrance Mass for Children
Gone Before Us

Please bring a photo or a symbol of the young person you are remembering in prayer to place in the sacred space.
Everyone is welcome.

Friday, 1 December 7pm at St Gerard's Church ♥

This very special candle lit celebration of the Eucharist provides an opportunity for anyone who has been impacted by the death of a baby (before or after birth), child or young adult to remember them in prayer and with love.

Ecumenism: We will celebrate Advent ecumenically with our neighbouring Christian churches at **St Alban's Anglican Church Epping on Tues Dec 5th 7.45pm**. This will also be an opportunity to farewell Rev Greg Woolnough from Epping Uniting Church before his retirement.



Congratulations to Maureen & Garry McKeough, who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 9th November! Maureen and Garry have been members of St Gerard's parish since 1969. All their 6 children went to school at St Gerard's Primary.

Christmas Postcard Delivery: Invite your neighbours for Christmas! On Dec 2nd & 3rd we will have Christmas invitation postcards for you to deliver in your street. Check off a street or two from the list and deliver them near you.

Memorial at St Gerard's: On Dec 2nd we will have a small ceremony to unveil a plaque in memory of survivors of past sexual abuse in our parish. This plaque was announced in 2022 as part of acknowledging the difficult parts of our history whilst also celebrating all good of the 50 years at St Gerard's. The plaque will be placed in the garden along the side of St Gerard's Church with a short ceremony at 11am. This an action is also our commitment to safeguarding for the future generations of our parish.

Join us for Carols in the Park at Boronia Park, sponsored by us and our local Christian Churches. Music, food, community and fireworks from 5pm Sunday Dec 10th.



OTHER NEWS & NOTICES

Celebrations this Week

Ordinary Time Week 33

- 21 November Tue: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 22 November Wed: St Cecilia
- 23 November Thur: *St Clement I, St Columban*
- 24 November Fri: St Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions
- 25 November Sat: *St Catherine of Alexandria*

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

30 November Thur: **St Andrew**



The Association of the Miraculous Medal Australia wishes to invite you to the Eucharistic celebration honouring the Feast of the Manifestation of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal on Saturday, 25th November 2023, at 10.00 AM at St. Anthony's Parish Church, 54 Agincourt Road Marsfield 2122. Light refreshment follows in the Parish Hall after the mass. All are welcome.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19 Nov 2023

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5, Response: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

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	6:00pm	*	*	*	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	

EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am,

Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm 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

***Wednesday, 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)
- Peter McArdle (brother of Pat McArdle)
- Graham Yeates
- Dennis Porteous (our retired Parish Secretary)
- Paul Grassi
- Ethan Seng Mestanza (grandson of Mario and Graciela Mestanza)
- Beryl and John Day

- Kevin Saul (Marie Saul's nephew)
- Maureen Carlon (Marie Saul's sister)
- Sardeeda Daniels
- Mary Chernov (sister of Trish Harrison)
- Bev and Geoff Gibbeson
- Colette Murray
- Margaret Hall
- John Haydon
- Eileen Rourke



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 this private group if you would like to pray for someone or for your own intentions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2660800900909668> or via QR code on the right.



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

Recently deceased - Eric Yeung (brother of Goretta Yeung), John Furtado, Teresita Ortiga, John Dowd, David Birch, Shaun Cowell, Fr John Alt, Peter Whittaker (twin brother of Paul Whittaker), Vida Noble, John O'Reilly

Anniversaries - Fr John Harcombe (former parish priest of OLHC Epping), Margaret McShane

Also for - deceased members of Kiss Family, Mr Sumanthiran (Summa) Navaratnam

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE - 26 Nov 2023

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-3, 5-6, Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!