

Diocese of Broken Bay

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Our Lady Help of Christians'

31 Oxford Street, Epping

St Gerard Majella's

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Giving

Click here for:

[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)

You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not
seen and yet believe

John 20:29

Readings

20 APRIL 2025

Acts 10:34, 37-43
1 Corinthians 5:6-8
Luke 24:1-12

27 APRIL 2025

Acts 5:12-16
Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31



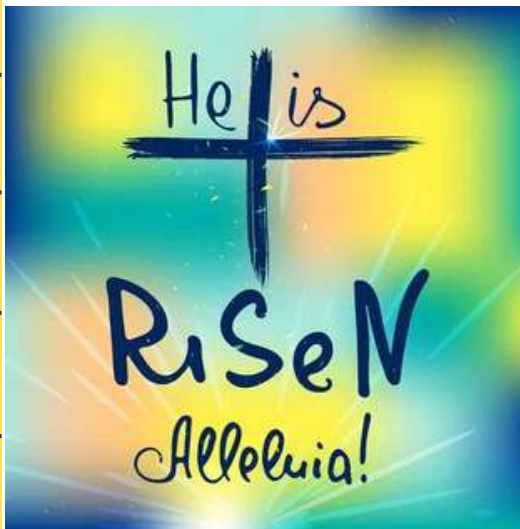
The Catholic Parish
of Epping & Carlingford



20 APRIL 2025 SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

27 APRIL 2025 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR C



≡ Welcome ≡

We are glad to have you here, joining in our worship of God through Jesus Christ. We're grateful to the many, many people who have contributed to these beautiful liturgies this Easter weekend as together we celebrate the centrality of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

We worship together every Sunday (see Mass times on the back page) but what else does our parish do? We offer a variety of programs to help you grow in your knowledge of God and love for Jesus Christ. See details in this bulletin about **Alpha**, **Laudato Si'**, the **Wild Goose**, the **Gospel of John** and **Men Alive**, as well as our programs and groups for children, teenagers and young adults.

We put our faith into action. There is more information within these pages about **Community Foundations Training** which empowers us to make a difference in the world. Our **St Vincent de Paul Society** serves people who struggle with the cost of living, and we support **Jesuit Refugee Services** who help people starting again in a new country. In the coming weeks we'll be launching a **Community Dinner for our area** – more about this in the next bulletin.

There will be many new ministries in the coming months making use of our new parish centre at OLHC Epping, while all our existing ministries will continue strong at St Gerard's Carlingford. Keep reading our parish newsletter in the coming weeks. Make sure you are signed up to receive our eBulletin: www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter

Laudato Si' is the curious name for Pope Francis' groundbreaking teaching on the care for the environment. With this document now ten years old but still unknown to many of us, we are gathering in book clubs to read and discuss it and the implications for our lives and our community together over 4 weeks during May.

Groups will be **Mondays at 7.30pm** via video, **Wednesdays 10am** at OLHC Church and **Thursday nights 7.30pm** at St Gerard's Church.

Sign up sheets are at the back of both churches.

LAUDATO SI'
ON CARE FOR
OUR COMMON HOME



POPE FRANCIS

ENCYCLICAL LETTER

Nethra and Teruo, will receive the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil at OLHC. Over many months, we have been able to join with Nethra and Teruo as a community, at each of the Masses at Epping. We invite parishioners to remember Nethra and Teruo in their prayers and to witness this joyous celebration on Saturday evening, as they come to this significant moment in their faith journey and spiritual lives.

Both of them have written about their incredible journey to share with us. Here is a peak:



Nethra

*"Hi everyone,
My name is Nethra—you might have already seen me around.
I was born into a Hindu family, and I suppose that one aspect sparked a bit of curiosity among people. I've had members of the parish approach me and ask, "What made you take this step?" I guess some are looking to hear a story or perhaps wondering if a situation or circumstance brought me closer to Christ.
But the truth is actually quite simple. I fell in love.
In love with a man whose wisdom was beyond my understanding, whose way of life was justified, and whose love is everlasting"*



Teruo

An excerpt from Teruo's testimony:

"Before this journey, I was unfaithful, influenced by works like "The Da Vinci Code," identifying as an atheist and challenging my wife's Catholic faith. These misguided words led to personal struggles: grappling with anger, intolerance, difficulty in forgiveness, and entanglement in corporate politics. These battles left me ensnared in depression, devoid of peace....."



We are deeply privileged to have travelled this journey with Nethra and Teruo. To continue reading their stories, please scan/click the QR code above, or you can find their complete testimonies printed and on the board/wall at the back of both churches.

MORE FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMMES

THE WILD GOOSE SERIES RETURNS



Mark your calendar and plan to join us for the Wild Goose Series with Fr Dave Pivonka in preparation to celebrate Pentecost

When: Every Wednesday morning from 30th April - 11th June 2025 at 10.15am

Where: St Gerard's Meeting Room.

The Wild Goose Series: "Wild Goose" was a term that the ancient Celts had for the Holy Spirit. This year we are presenting the final 7 of the 14 videos in the series on Wednesday mornings as a way of preparing for and celebrating Pentecost. This series invites viewers into an encounter, or a renewed encounter, with the Holy Spirit. The Wild Goose series will help you experience a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit.

If you are looking for something to lift your spirits – then this series is for you!

To join us please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church or contact the Parish Office.



You're Invited

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and God in a friendly, open and informal environment.



New Epping Parish Hall,
Our Lady Help of Christians,
33 Oxford Street, Epping NSW
Friday 18 July, 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

[Click to register](#)

Enquiries? Please Email: alpha@eppcarl.org.au

The Gospel of John is the gospel you're likely hearing at Mass this weekend, and it is the richest and most complex of the four gospels. Join **Fr Andrew Murray** as he brings a philosopher's lens to the gospel on **Wednesday mornings during June at OLHC**. Sign up sheets are at the back of both churches.

OUR DEVOTION TEAM BRINGS US:

Come to the
Fount of
His Mercy



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 27 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM
OLHC, EPPING

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet,
Confession, Benediction and Procession

Please bring a plate to share.

JESUS WE TRUST IN YOU

TRAVELLING MARY

BOOKING OPEN NOW

11 MAY - 26 OCT



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING A SIGN-UP FORM, IS
AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

Parish Team

Parish Secretary

Marcella Letteri Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au

Business Manager

Deacon Richard Houwing Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au

Admin. Assistant

Michael Davies Ph: 9876 2853

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Coordinator of Sacramental Programmes, Children's Ministries & Parish Communications

Lynn Siau Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Holly Lawton Ph: 0404 710 588

Email: Holly.Lawton@bbcatholic.org.au

New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator - St Gerard's

Belinda Shi Ph: 0414 753 362

Email: Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au

Sacristan - OLHC

Dennis Porteous Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au



Please note parish email address for general

enquiries: eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au

parish@eppcarl.org.au is now obsolete.

Updating your contact details for the Parish Office:

Please contact our Parish Secretary, Marcella Letteri, if you need to update your contact details, for eg: mobile number, email address, home address.

You can either pop in to the parish office to see Marcella in person, contact her using details above.



On Wednesday 19th March, the Devotions Team organised a St Joseph's Table to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph. A lovely way to "break Lenten fast" during Lent with a morning tea after morning Mass!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



FIRST EUCHARIST 2025

Enrolment for First Eucharist has commenced. The closing date has been extended to Sunday 4th May, just after Term 2 starts, to give parents a bit more time. 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 eligible to enrol.

If you wish to receive a copy of the brochure, 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.

Want to know when we celebrate Confirmation this year?

Please email Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au to enquire and be placed on the mailing list so that you can be informed when it is time for enrolment.

Kidz Word is on a break during school holidays and will resume in Term 2, Sunday 4th May at the 9:30am Mass (St Gerard's) and the 10:15am Mass (OLHC).

Lynn Siau - Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Sacramental Programme & Parish Communications
Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au or phone 9876 2853

Happy Easter

From playgroup

St Gerard's Playgroup runs on Friday mornings during the school term in the hall 9:30-11:30am. For more info contact Belinda Shi on 0414 753 362.

Relaunch of Kidz Word at OLHC!

Lord Jesus

Help us to be kind and compassionate people.

Teach us to give others and to...

forgive...

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 30th April 2025**. 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. Do note that PDFs will have to be reformatted and the clarity of your notice will be compromised. Remember to provide an email address, a contact name and number in your article. Thank you.

Other ways to connect:



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM

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

CANA

Term 2 dates

Fridays

- 2 May
- 16 May
- 30 May
- 13 June
- 27 June



Please join our Facebook Group for Parents



- St Gerards Church Hall
- 7:30PM-9:00PM
- Fridays Fortnightly During School Term

For enquiries contact Holly on 0404 710 588 or holly.lawton@bbcatholic.org.au

Cana Youth Group for students in **Yr 7 – Yr 9** will be meeting again in term 2 on **Fridays** 2nd, 16th and 30th May and 13th and 27th June. Cana meets from **7:30pm-9:00pm** in the Hall at St Gerards. If you are looking for a way to make new friends and learn more about your faith, we would love to see you there!

Emmaus Young Adults (**23 – 30 Years Old**) meet fortnightly on a **Thursday** from **6:30pm – 8:30pm** at the Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Epping. Our next meeting will be Thursday 1 May, and we would love to have you join us. For enquiries, please contact Holly Lawton, Youth Minister on 0404 710 588.



The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford

Antioch

Faith & Fellowship
Run by the Youth, for the Youth
Yr 10 Students - 23 Years Old

Upcoming EVENTS

APRIL 27 6 PM - 8 PM <i>'The Millennial Saint' Talk</i>	MAY 01 7 AM - 8 AM <i>Antioch weekday Mass & Breakfast</i>	JUNE 22 6 PM - 8:30 PM <i>Parents Evening</i>
JUNE 28 Trivia Night	JUL 10 - 13 THURS - SUN <i>Ignite Conference</i>	NOV 03 TO 2 ND DECEMBER <i>Australian Catholic Youth Festival</i>



YOUTH MINISTRY ENQUIRIES

Hi! I'm Holly the new Youth Minister for the Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford. In our Parish we have three wonderful Youth Groups for those aged 12 - 30 Years old...

- Cana (Students in year 7 - 9)**
- Antioch (Year 10 - 23 Years Old)**
- Emmaus (23 - 30 Years Old)**

Our Youth Groups participate in various weekly/fortnightly activities designed to grow our relationship with Jesus, and with each other.

If you or your child is interested in learning more about the amazing Youth Initiatives in our Parish I would love to hear from you. Please find my contact details below.

0404 710 588
holly.lawton@bbcatholic.org.au
 or contact me via the QR code



Antioch Youth Group (**Yr 10's – 23 Years Old**) continues to meet weekly on **Sundays** from **6:00pm – 8:00pm** in the Parish Meeting Room at St Gerards. Come along to hear talks written by the youth, for the youth and build friendships with like-minded young people. Please note, there will be **no Antioch meeting** on **Easter Sunday 20th April** or **Mothers day Sunday 4th May**.

CLOTHING DRIVE



The **St Vincent de Paul Society** of Carlingford / Epping will conduct a clothing drive on **Saturday 3rd May 2025**. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the recycling of good used clothing. Your contribution will assist those people who the local Society visit weekly.

Please collect bags and print your name and address in the book on the table which will be outside the church for the Masses on the weekend of April 26 & 27. Goods will be picked up from your home from 8:30am on Saturday 3rd May.

If you can assist on May 3, by helping to pick up the clothes, please call Pat on 0417 219 234. Please diarise this request and **thank you** for your ongoing support of this important initiative.

Finding Our Voice: How do we as Catholics raise our voice in a secular society where we're no longer in the majority? By joining with other people of faith and goodwill. We are members of the Sydney Alliance which brings together diverse community groups who want to work together for the common good. We're offering two days of **Foundations of Community Organising Training** which teach skills for analysing society, building relationships across diverse groups and discovering how to use our voice to speak to elected leaders.



This will be at **OLHC Parish Centre on Saturday May 24th and Saturday May 31st**. We have access to this course for free (usually \$250) through our membership of the Sydney Alliance and these are valuable skills for anyone who wants to see the Church make a difference in the world and to help bring about a just and fair society which is part of the Kingdom of God. <https://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/foundations-training> and let Fr Jim know too.

St Gerard's Primary contributes to Project Compassion



Students at St Gerard's Primary learnt about the importance of Lent. They are reminded that Lent focuses on three pillars: Prayer; Fasting and Almsgiving. To support Project Compassion and Caritas Australia, students took part in various fundraising activities.

On Shrove Tuesday, our new kinder parents served up pancakes and toppings to all our students. St Gerard's families raised \$657. In class the students were reminded of the goal of Project Compassion was to reduce global poverty. All classes had a project compassion box and were encouraged to give generously.



On 25th March, students held a mufti day and coin trail challenge, raising an additional \$800. These efforts highlight the generosity of the St Gerard's community, giving support to Project Compassion.

~Julia Martinovich

Parent Engagement Coordinator of St Gerard's Primary School

CATECHIST NEWS

SRE Catechists Volunteers authorised by the local parish to teach SRE in public schools. They come from all walks of life – young parents, retirees, university students, professional and trades people.

Why I Became a Catechist: I always wanted to make a contribution to our community when I retired from full time work in April last year. Like many Australians, I also had plans to travel overseas and perhaps do something more musically. I was already in a community choir called With One Voice, mostly playing guitar for them now, as I seem to have forgotten how to sing these days!

I shared my plans with God and made a simple prayer, "What do you want me to do?"

Then on the weekend I went to mass on Sunday and there was an ask made for catechists to meet a need. There was God's answer. So, here I am Lord, trying to do your will, as best I can. Oh, and having fun as well meeting wonderful catechist people and precious children.



~Steve Pollack

MORE PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS



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

WEEKDAY Mass Schedule Update

Wednesday Mass: **From Wed May 7th** the 9.30am Mass will move from St Gerard's to OLHC. This gives people on both sides of the parish equal access to weekday Mass, with:

St Gerard's

- Mondays 9.30am
- Thursdays 9.30am
- Fridays 9.30am

OLHC

- Tuesdays 6pm
- Wednesdays 9.30am
- Saturdays 8am

This is a sustainable timetable, ensuring that Masses continue when only one priest is available in the parish.

Positions Vacant *Epping OSHC needs you!* Join our friendly team at **Our Lady Help of Christians OSHC (Out of School Hours Care)** in Epping. We offer flexible casual shifts, ideal for part-time workers.

Key Duties:

- Build positive relationships with children, families, and staff
- Ensure policies and regulatory frameworks are met
- Safeguard children and provide a safe working environment

Requirements:

- Working With Children Check & Criminal History Check
- Experience in OSHC & Cert III/Diploma in Childcare (desirable)
- Strong communication and relationship-building skills, with the team and children aged 5-12

For more details, please contact **Joana Matias** via **0400 991 348** or oshc.epping@catholiccaresbb.org.au or JoanaDarc.AlvesMatias@catholiccaresbb.org.au



Catalyst for Renewal: Fr David Ranson will lead our reflection morning on Saturday, May 3rd, at Hunters Hill. On Sunday, May 4th, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, Archbishop of Adelaide and nephew of Clare Gallagher (parishioner), will speak for us in the Crypt of St Patrick's, Church Hill, Sydney. Please see the parish notice boards for complete information or ring Carole Wilson at 9869 1036.

OTHER NOTICES & EVENTS

Celebrations this Week

Easter Week 1

20 April to 26 April: The Octave of Easter

Easter Week 2

28 April Mon: St Peter Chanel

29 April Tue: St Catherine of Siena

30 April Wed: *St Pius V*

1 May Thur: *St Joseph the Worker*

2 May Fri: St Athanasius

3 May Sat: **Sts Philip and James**

How Ought A Catholic Vote? Our right to vote is a precious gift, not to be taken for granted, for it is through our elected governments that much work is done to contribute to the common good. Our faith calls us to engage in democracy, to build, in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, "a civilisation of love", and to contribute to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The Australia Catholic Bishops' election statement is here www.catholic.au/s/article/Election-Statement-2025 and a statement by Catholic Religious Australia is here www.catholicreligious.org.au/media-releases/cra-urges-informed-discerning-participation-in-the-federal-election

SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION - 20 Apr 2025

Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Response: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

WEEKEND MASSES							
Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am, 10:15am and 7:00pm (Youth)						
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am (Family/Children) and 5:00pm (Youth)						
WEEKDAY MASSES							
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	-	6:00pm	-	-	-	8:00am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	-	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	-	
EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm and Saturday 8:30-9:00am Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am							
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm and Saturday 8:30-9:00am 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'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH - 7256 2140 Email - sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au							
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS' PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH - 9868 3322 Email - olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au							

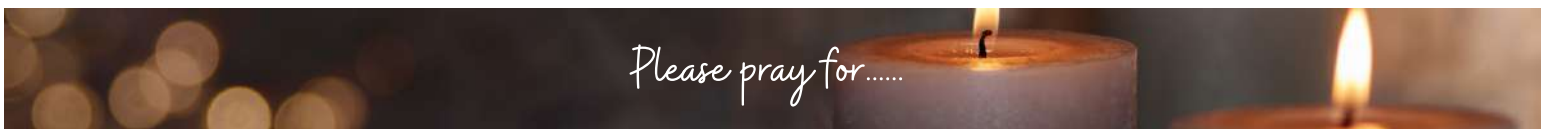



BE YOUR BEST SELF here





Healing Mass: 1st Tuesday of the month, 10am at St Gerard's Meeting Room, Carlingford



For those who are sick and suffering (new requests):

- Sr Rosalie Carlon
- Guy Chan
- Lillian Chan
- Anita Hoffman
- Louis Yeung (Goretti's brother)
- Elaine Finlayson
- Marites Valdehueza (Fr Aldrin's mother)
- Graham Kelly
- Stephen Last



Thank you for your faithful prayers. Our brothers and sisters in need are surely strengthened by them. Our parish Prayer Ministry also has a private group on Facebook where you can post your requests directly or email us to do so. 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 - Elizabeth Barton, Joan Magee, Sr Bernadette O'Sullivan RSJ, Josie Cross, Ignazio Gallo

Anniversaries & Remembrance - Cedric Fernandes, Patrick Murphy, Bert Saul, Peter Therodoras, Claude Rigney (24th April - 1st anniversary), Greg Crowley, Jane Sharbean, Richard McCarthy, Paul Grassy, Fay Monk, Jan Doherty, Iris Misquitta, Joe Younis, Chai Seng

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - 27 Apr 2025

Ps 117:2-4, 22-27 Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

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