

Diocese of Broken Bay

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon
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Assistant Priest: Fr Vincent Trung Nguyen
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Our Lady Help of Christians'

31 Oxford Street, Epping

St Gerard Majella's

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

Phone

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Website

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[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford



YEAR C

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Easter Liturgies:

OLHC Epping

Holy Thursday 7.30pm

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10am

The Lord's Passion 3pm

Saturday Easter Vigil 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 8.30am, 10.15am and 6pm

St Gerard's Carlingford

Holy Thursday 7pm

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10am

The Lord's Passion 3pm

Saturday Easter Vigil 7pm

Easter Sunday 7.45am, 9.30am and 5pm

Volunteering for Easter liturgies: Planning is now well underway for the Easter liturgies, and those ministries which require advance preparation such as music, proclaiming the Word and service on the altar are being rostered. There will be other roles however such as having your feet washed on Holy Thursday, carrying the Cross on Good Friday, and additional welcomers at all Masses for which we'll be calling for volunteers in the coming weeks. Keep an eye out for sign up sheets in the church and for invitations in the bulletin.

Palm Sunday is April 10th this year. Palms are no longer commercially available, so we're hoping that there might be some parishioners who would be able to donate some large palm branches or palm fronds to decorate the churches. Please contact the parish office 9876 2853.

St Gerard's Church 50th anniversary: This year we celebrate 50 years since the opening of St Gerard's Church. Some of you were there on that day, April 9th 1972! This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate together, which we'll do later this year. We'll have a simple morning tea after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday April 10th, and then at 11am you're invited to a gathering in the church where we will plan how to celebrate later in the year. We'll be looking for people willing to organise that celebration. We'll also take the opportunity to look at some possible improvements to St Gerard's which we might be undertake as part of the 50th anniversary year. Suggestions include ramp access to the back door, a BBQ area, signage visible from the street, a welcoming driveway wall, a Divine Mercy image and improving visibility of the Stations of the Cross. If you have suggestions which you'd like added to the list for discussion, please contact Fr Jim at Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au

Healing Masses: It's been a while since we have had our regular monthly healing Masses. From April, we will have these in each church on the first Tuesday of each month. At St Gerard's this will be at 10am, in the parish meeting room, with morning tea to follow. At OLHC, we'll make anointing of the sick available at the end of the 12.15pm Mass to those who need it. We would like to be able to offer some hospitality with drinks and snacks after this Mass. Is there someone who would like to offer this at OLHC? Please contact Fr Jim.

Ecumenical Prayer: In the past two weeks we've gathered at St Alban's Anglican Church and at OLHC for an ecumenical liturgy with members of our local Anglican and Uniting churches. Come join us for our next two ecumenical liturgies:

- **Tuesday March 22nd** 7.45pm at West Epping Uniting Church Cnr Carlingford Road and Orchard Street Epping
- **Tuesday March 29th** 7.45pm at Epping Uniting Church cnr Oxford Street and Chester Street



Readings

20 MARCH 2022
Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Luke 13:1-9

27 MARCH 2022
Joshua 5:9-12
Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

NCLS: Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the National Church Life Survey during or after Mass last weekend. This will provide a valuable snapshot for us of the experiences, values and opinions of our parish, which we'll receive later this year.

Project Compassion: Thank you to everyone who is using a money box to donate to Project Compassion. Please bring these back to the church on Palm Sunday.



Catalyst for Renewal Reflection Morning: You are invited to join us in the parish hall of Hunters Hill cnr Gladesville Road and Mary Street on Saturday 2nd April 9.30 AM – 12.30 PM. Sister Leone Pallisier OSU will lead our reflection time. The topic/theme 'Come and See'. All most welcome. No need to book. We do appreciate a donation. Tea and Coffee available. Enquiries: phone Carole Wilson 9869 1036. A time to be still. A time to reflect.

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: In many places throughout the world there is a shortage of priests and therefore religious sisters are the custodians of the faith. These sisters however often struggle to live and support the faithful, so across the course of a year ACN supports more than 18,000 religious sisters in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Could you help support a religious sister? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/sisters



PARISH MINISTRIES: *How can I help?*



A cup of tea please?

Our hospitality team invites you to come and join our team. Church attendance is growing and we could do with some extra hands to help with morning tea after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday. We expect you will be rostered once every six weeks or so depending on response.

This ministry guarantees a smile, a thank-you and work satisfaction! Please phone Lorraine Lobsey on **9872 4005** or email Lorraine on robaine2@bigpond.com

2022 Easter Vigil Musicians, Instrumentalists, and Singers

We will celebrate the Easter Vigil 2022 in both Our Lady Help of Christians Epping and St Gerard's Carlingford churches this year on Holy Saturday 16th April.

- St Gerard's Carlingford – We invite parishioners who play the piano/keyboard, an instrument or sing to volunteer, to assist in celebrating this most important Mass of the Liturgical year.
- Our practices at St Gerard's will be on Wednesday nights starting @ 7pm from 30th March, with a rehearsal on Sunday 10th April @ 2pm.



To indicate your interest, please email your details: name, contact number & email address to Elizabeth Austin: dneausti@optusnet.com.au by Wednesday 23rd March.

We encourage you to be part of this special music group to celebrate this pinnacle point in the Church's liturgical year. Thank you!

Taking the Gospel to the World



Are you called to serve as a witness to your faith?

interested in being I'M A CATECHIST

We are much in need of experienced and also new catechists in both primary and secondary schools to join the ministry to continue with the mission of taking the Gospel to the children.

If you are interested in becoming a catechist or to obtain more information regarding this ministry, 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.

If you would like to stay connected by subscribing to receive the electronic version of the bulletin, please scan this QR code to fill in the subscription form on our website:



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: Dennis.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

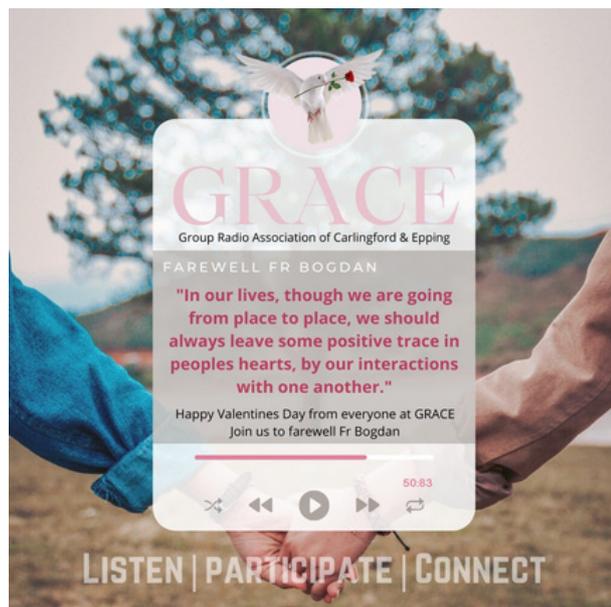
Congratulations to our Catechists for receiving their Service Awards from Fr Jim at OLHC Epping . They are Carol Nichols (10 Years) and Regina Soeryanto (5 Years). The photo below is Carol Nichols with Fr Jim at the Award Presentation:



Farewell to Jeremy and Sharon Bowen pictured below, who are moving to the Blue Mountains after 20+ years in our parish. We sent them off with our love and blessings at morning tea after Mass last Sunday. They will be missed!



G.R.A.C.E. RADIO



Our parish G.R.A.C.E. Radio podcast is now once a month. Have you had a chance to listen to our latest one? It is a fantastic way for you to stay connected to us in your own time. Tap or click on the Spotify icon or visit <https://anchor.fm/grace2020>

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Congratulations to the following children who have completed their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our parish: Isabella Abdalnour, Erin Andrews, Kirrana Baine, Sara Bejoy, Joshua Bennett, Aaron Bothello, Austen Bothello, James Buoro, Samson Burrell, Owen Byrne, Celine Carpio, Eliana Castalone, Sophira Chenery, Avaleigh Chenery, Kenneth Chia, Charlotte Childs, Jaiden Chow, Lucas Coleman, Juliette Corne, Rosemary Cuddy, Jack Dargan, James Dayapan, Jermaine De Mello, Heidi Doyle, Shanaya D'Souza, Quentin Feliciano, Benjamin FitzGerald, Cameron Gallo, Elijah Gamboa, Shevaun Gamilo, Elliot Gan, Emilia Gan, Tommy Gill, Keana Glayjo, Noah Heher, Sophia Heijster, Connor Hodges, Savannah Hogan, Toby Huntsdale, Annalise Isaac, Harrison James, Ethan Jones, Baxter Judges, Julia Klimkeit, Isabella Lawrence, Lily Leung, Christy Li, Timothy Loo, Hailey Low, Patrick Mahoney, Ava Martin, Chloe Martin, Andi Sage Melgar, Amber Melhem, Max Minard, Sophie Minard, Emilio Mirenci, Olivia Park, Zac Pinto, Mia Rees, Noah Rhee, Lucas Ripamonti, Oliver Rixon, Margaux Rondilla, Andi Samson, Elijah Samson, William Sia, Lotsie Simpson, Anneliese Smith, Sebastian Stevens, Ava Tanudji, Charlotte Tanudji, Lachlan Teulan, Makayla Texier, Joel Vellapallil, Hope Xavier, Gabriella Yanga, Sophia Zammit, Mikayla Zammit and Diego Zubiaga Terrazas.

Thank you to the parents and carers, our Catholic School Principals, Mrs. Barbara Yee and Miss Dominique O'Sullivan, teachers and catechists who have also helped these children prepare for Reconciliation.



Enrolment for First Eucharist will open on Monday, 28 March. In our Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, undergone preparation for Reconciliation and who are currently in Year 4 or above are invited to enrol.

Our Sacramental Programme is advertised through the parish website, bulletins, announcements at Mass, both parish school newsletters, catechists and word-of-mouth. If you do know of anyone who may wish to enrol their children, please feel free to spread the word for us.

Enrolment forms will be emailed to all who are currently enrolled in First Reconciliation and to all who have enquired online.

OLHC EPPING 10:15AM MASS

FOR CHILDREN

**A DIFFERENT WAY TO CELEBRATE
LITURGY OF THE WORD**



Children at OLHC 10.15am Mass: We welcome the involvement of our children at the 10.15am Mass every *Sunday*. This could include being involved in songs with actions, processions, and prayers of intercession.

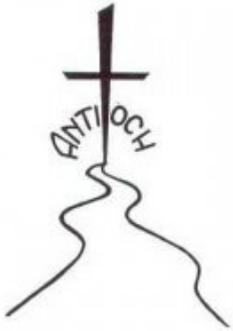
If your child would like to be involved, please bring them to the **back of the church at 10am** where roles will be allocated by volunteers and parts rehearsed just before Mass begins.

Further queries, please email Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Cana (Year 6-9) - Join us for Cana on Friday 18th March and 25th March 7:30-9pm at St Gerard's Parish Hall!
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford - entrance via North Rocks Road.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Join Antioch for the Youth Mass on Sundays 5pm and free BBQ.

20th and 27th March 6-8pm at St Gerard's meeting room.

Contact the parent support if you have any questions: Kirk Koelmeyer (0420874824) or Louise Koelmeyer (0404496554).

"It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians"



Pictured above: Antioch having their International themed day.

Click [here](#) to visit the youth ministry page on our parish website.

Joanna Mak

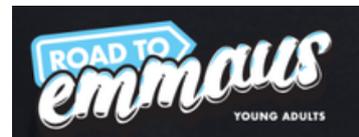
Youth Coordinator

Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au

0404 710 588



**Come to our new
Youth Mass
Sundays 5pm @ St Gerard's
Followed by a free BBQ**



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

Emmaus will be running a Lenten group during Lent. We are meeting on the 22nd and 29th March, 7-8:30pm at St Gerard's meeting room. Dinner will be provided on the 29th March for our community night.

We also have Facebook groups for Antioch and Emmaus. If you would like to join, please contact Joanna. Other ways to connect: (tap or click on the social media icons)



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THIS FORTNIGHT'S FEATURE: FR. JIM MCKEON TALKS ABOUT RECONCILIATION



A Time of Reconciliation: This Sunday we hear the striking words of Jesus that “unless you repent you will perish as they [who died in a tragic accident] did”. What sounds at first like a threat is in fact a warning and an invitation: those who died in the accident died suddenly and unprepared, unrepentant, but we have this precious opportunity to repent now and not be unprepared should the moment of our death arrive sooner than anticipated.

Next week we hear the classic parable of the return of the prodigal son, who becomes a model for us to turn back to be reconciled to a God who is a loving Father. So, let us take up the opportunity in these coming weeks to approach the sacrament of Reconciliation where we reflect on our lives, name and confess our sin, and receive the forgiveness of God.

We continue to have the sacrament of Reconciliation at our regular times (Mondays at 6pm at OLHC, Fridays at 6pm at St Gerard's, Saturdays at 9.45am at OLHC and Saturdays at 5.30pm at St Gerard's).

We'll also have a **special Second Rite of Reconciliation at St Gerard's on Tuesday April 5th at 7pm**. This is a shared Liturgy of the Word and examination of conscience, followed by individual confession and absolution with one of several priests who will be available (*we've invited a few of your favourite previous priests to come join us*).

Examination of Conscience: It is good to prepare for the sacrament of Reconciliation by reflecting on where we have fallen short of being the person God calls us to be. Last year's lockdowns brought out the best and the worst in many of us, so perhaps this could be a lens through which to have an honest look at ourselves:

- Am I more or less compassionate toward others than I was a year ago?
- Do I give more or less to charity?
- Have my worst habits increased or decreased?
- Do I over indulge in alcohol, gambling, over-eating, pornography, online gaming or social media?
- Do I spend more or less time in prayer?
- Am I angrier than I used to be?
- Have I given up on people?
- Do I trust that God is good?
- Have I renewed my good practices of prayer, exercise, volunteering, study and work?
- Have I read a good book in the past year?
- Am I seeking to grow in holiness?

Lent

Stations of the Cross will be held on Friday evenings during Lent at:

- 6pm St Gerard's Church, Carlingford
- 7pm Our Lady Help of Christians' Church, Epping

The remaining dates are:

18-March-22 01-April-22
25-March-22 08-April-22

Any questions, please SMS Leon on 0431 496 984



OTHER GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

Celebrations this Week

Lent Week 3

23 Mar. Wednesday: Memoria St Turibius de Mogrovejo

25 Mar. Friday: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Lent Week 4

2 Apr. Saturday: Memoria St Francis of Paola

Reflection on next Sunday's Scriptures

A reminder that our weekly time of reflection on the coming Sunday's Scriptures will take place each **Friday**, at Carlingford and will commence immediately following the 9:30am Mass, in the Parish Meeting Room. All welcome!

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.

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.

Disability Support Worker needed for a 3-year-old. For more details, please email Melissa at ward_melissa@outlook.com



Welcome to the Men of St Joseph

The group is dedicated to Catholic men, who together spend time to pray and to discuss how Catholic men live in today's world, discuss and support Catholic family issues and choices we make.

You are most welcome to join us on Every Thursday in the parish meeting room, Carlingford at 6:30pm

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!

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come and join us on April 22-24, at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on **0490 774 419** or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

SUPPORTING THE PARISH FINANCIALLY

The First Collection: Money collected from the first collection supports the needs of priests of the parish.

- The priests' monthly salary.
- Upkeep of the presbytery, e.g. food, utilities, cleaner, etc.
- A small percentage to cover the expenses of the Bishop in caring for elderly priests.

Income from other sources includes Easter and Christmas offerings (via envelope contributions made at these times), Wedding and baptism donations are also added into the first collection.

The Second Collection (Parish): Money from the second collection supports the maintenance of the parish buildings and pastoral programs. The parish must work within its own budget and is unable to draw funds for expenses from any source other than its own parish income. Loans for church works are permitted as long as they can be serviced.

Some of the expenses are:

- Parish running costs, e.g. administration, insurance utilities, general maintenance and upkeep of the church, presbytery and parish property.
- Parish staff salaries including superannuation.
- Priests' car expenses.
- Charitable Works Fund shortfall.

The collection combines income from planned giving envelopes and cash (in the boxes at the back of the church)

Internet Banking—Commonwealth Bank of Australia: If you wish to give via EFT, please note the details below.

Pastoral Revenue Account (1st Collection) Please use your surname as a reference.

BSB: 062784 Account No: 100001604

Church Account (2nd Collection) Please use your envelope number and surname as the reference.

BSB: 062784 Account No: 100001603

Responsorial Psalm Response

3rd Sunday of Lent
PS 102:1-4, 6-8, 11. R. v. 8

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation

3rd Sunday of Lent
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

A snapshot of some of our Catechists below: Fr Jim and Fr Vincent conducted the Commissioning service with blessing ceremony for catechists during one of the Masses.



Please pray for.....

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

Recently deceased: Jim Lynch, Edith Shannon, Jose Jnr Dante, Stephen Toth, Nancy Mary Keogh, Ruth Barker, Mary Anne, Anthony Hugh, Maureen & Sarah Mulligan, Josef Strumberger, Tony Scott, Juris Limyu Laranang, Fortunato Malfetria, Jim Hanlon, Fidela Frez, Maired (Margaret) O'Colman, Michael Wong, Maria Lourdes Gregorio, Joyce Warnock, Peter Kelly (brother of Kay Scarfe), Charlotta Roeschl, Kathleen Schwager.

Please also pray for: Edward (Ted) Reynolds who died recently.

His funeral will be held at St Gerard's Carlingford on 28 March 2022 at 1.30pm

Anniversaries: Jane Ng, Fr Mo, Ming Yang

Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsya, Mark Di Palma, Andrew Hannam, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard, Stieger, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Margaret Floyd, Barbara Madafiglio, Radhi Riley, Patrick Thornton, Jan Doherty, Ana Matijasic, Benjamin Verco, John Goodwin, George Bell, Michael & Susan Tuite, Noelene Viset, Eileen Brownlow, Leonie Hale, Elaine & Graham Yeates, Anne Kilby, Cohen Hadden, Yuqin Li, Paul Kelly, David Wakeling, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Maureen Carlon, Augustine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Patricia Muschalik, Sr Abanasia Lee, Maria Belisario, Stella Edwards, Fara Vargas, Theo Stevens, Monica Weeden, Thomas Woodward, Wai Chun Wong, Heather Stoodley, Alex Benjamin Zaragoza, Janice Lemon, Mary Lou Petony, Donald Wong, Joyce Heidke, Dennis Porteous, Tony McEneaney, John Mullens

Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the family.

COMMUNICATIONS

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, 30 March 2022.

Articles can have pictures and texts. Please also provide an email address and a contact name and number. Thank you.

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

Responsorial Psalm Response

4th Sunday of Lent
Ps 33:2-7, R. v. 9

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

4th Sunday of Lent
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.