

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

eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au

Giving

Click here for:

[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)

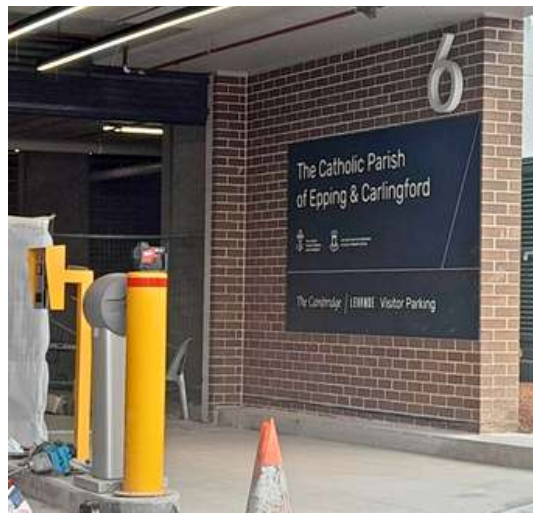


YEAR C

The new OLHC Parish Centre and carpark is now open!

There will be an official opening combined with OLHC School led by Bishop Anthony later in the year, but we'll kick off with our own **celebrations on the weekend of April 5th & 6th**. At all Masses we will have morning tea or supper, so please bring a plate of sweet or savoury food to share. At the vigil and Sunday night Mass we'd like to have a BBQ using our new BBQ facilities. We will need some volunteers for the BBQ and serving. If you can help, please contact Fr Jim. There will also a jumping castle on the forecourt at the morning Masses. Come and celebrate!

Parking: The carpark entry is at **6 Cambridge Street**. When you approach the boom gate your number plate will be scanned and the boom gate will lift. You will be on the P2 level carpark on which you can park, or drive further and go either up to P1 or down to P3. Stair and elevator access are on P1 & P3 levels, which give you access up to the Parish Centre from which you can walk into the church via the glazed walkway link.



Readings

23 MARCH 2025

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

30 MARCH 2025

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

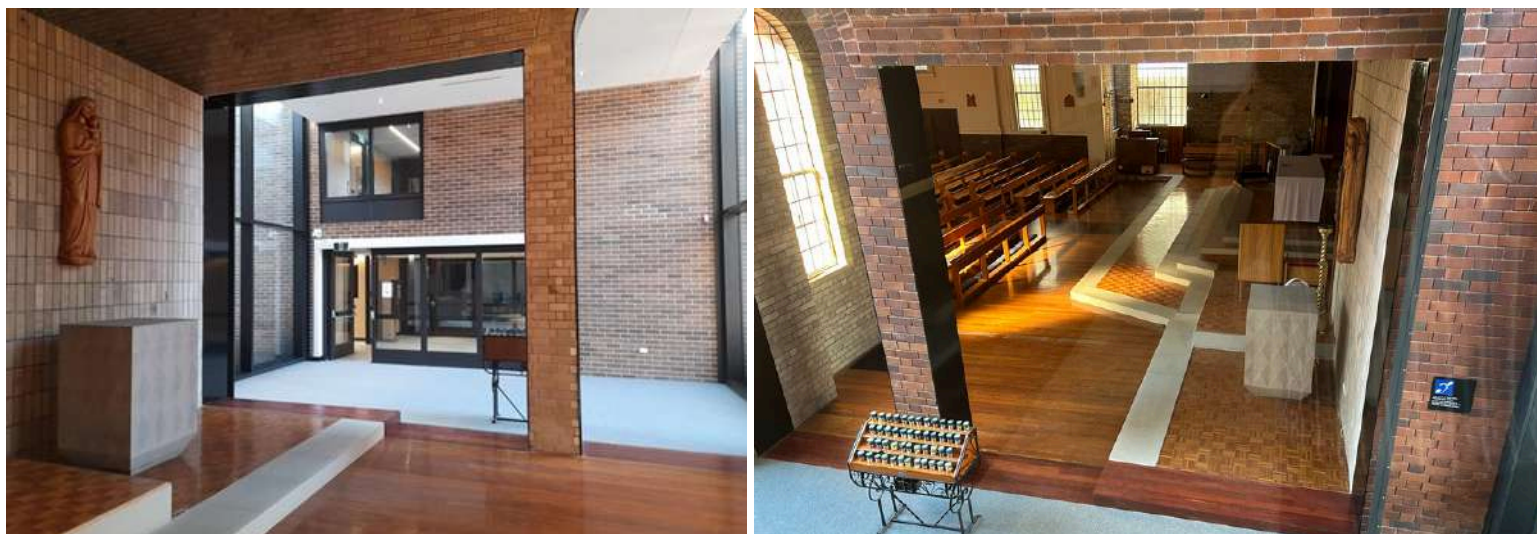
There will be 2 hours of free parking around weekend Mass times, giving you time to arrive, come to Mass, and stay for fellowship afterwards. Ministers who need additional time such as musicians, and hospitality would have already given your number plates which will give you additional time.

30 minutes of free parking on weekdays will allow for deliveries and in the future, school drop off, but anyone coming for parish or school business will have the needed additional time free. We need to have these time limits however, to avoid the general public taking all the parking spaces which would leave you, our parishioners with nowhere to park.

Toilets: There are two accessible toilets on the Ground Floor Hall & Church level, and additional toilets are on the Lower Ground Floor meeting room level.

~cont'd next page

Office: The main Parish Office is now on the upper level of the parish centre and open **8.30am – 4pm**. The Carlingford office will continue to be open usually 9am – 11am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday to provide access for catechists etc to do copying and get resources. The phone number 9876 2853 remains the same and will be diverted to whichever office is staffed at the time.



Thank you to you our parishioners for your many years of patience during the development and a special word of thanks must also go to **Deacon Richard Houwing** who has worked so diligently behind the scenes, especially these last six months. Now let us enjoy our beautiful new facilities!

CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIOCESE FROM THE OLHC DEVELOPMENT

At long last we have access to our beautiful new facilities at OLHC Epping. The Parish Centre includes the hall and kitchen at ground level, the parish office upstairs, and the meeting rooms and parish garden downstairs. The underground carpark has 93 parking spaces for parish and school use. There is a new OLHC Primary School, an OOSHC facility, a retail space facing Cambridge St, and fresh new landscaping throughout.

The scale and scope of this redevelopment, with a build cost of \$32 million, is far beyond the means of our parish to have achieved on our own. It has been made possible by a commercial arrangement with Levande, a company that operates 58 retirement villages, housing 10,000 residents, around Australia. Our arrangement has been that in return for Levande taking a 99 year lease on the Cambridge St side of our property to build a 29 story tower housing their Retirement Living apartments, they have undertaken construction of our facilities as part of the redevelopment of the entire site. In addition to the new facilities, Levande is also paying the parish approximately \$20 million.

This extraordinary redevelopment has been made possible through the resources and support of the Diocese of Broken Bay, notably the many years of hard work by former Diocesan Financial Administrator Emma McDonald. Many of you will remember Emma's leadership in presenting the possibility of the redevelopment to the parish, in seeking a commercial partner acceptable to the parish, and then with great skill and diligence working with developers and designers to bring about this wonderful outcome for the parish. The diocese provided Emma's extraordinary skill at no cost to the parish. Whilst now reimbursed, the diocese also provided the first \$900k of funding for legal fees, design fees etc, long before there was any certainty that the project would go ahead. In doing so it took a significant financial risk.

It is appropriate that now, with our new buildings opened and around half of the cash payments received that we make a contribution to the Diocese in return for its financial and personnel support in this project over many years and which continues to this day. The Diocese continues to offer very significant support to the Parish as we manage the ongoing legal and operational requirements.

In consultation with the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee I discerned that ten percent, being the biblical amount of a tithe (an offering or donation) would be an appropriate amount. This ten percent will be calculated on the proceeds of the cash and buildings received by the parish, less the cost of the buildings which were demolished and the development costs incurred over the years, which is a net amount of \$37 million. The contribution of \$3.7 million will be paid to the diocese in the coming weeks.

I have written to the parish previously about the establishment of a fund to be called the Our Lady Help of Christians Fund to administer and invest the money we receive from Levande. The plan is to invest the principal in the fund for the long term, with the income generated to be used to support our parish, other parishes in the diocese and other charitable causes. More work will be done on this in the coming months.

~Fr Jim McKeon



Easter: We are now halfway through the season of Lent, so it is timely to make plans for our Easter celebrations. Next fortnight we'll be looking for volunteers for various roles as Communion Ministers, Ushers, and to have their feet washed. Liturgy times will be the same as last year with the Triduum liturgies at both churches:

- **Holy Thursday April 17th 7.30pm**
- **Good Friday Stations 10am**
- **Good Friday Passion 3pm**
- **Easter Vigil 7pm**

We will also celebrate the Office of Readings on **Easter Saturday at 10am at OLHC.**

Easter Sunday follows the usual Sunday times, except, there will be no 5pm Sunday night Mass at St Gerard's on April 20th:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| OLHC Epping | St Gerard's Carlingford |
| • 8.30am | • 7.45am |
| • 10.15am | • 9.30am |
| • 7pm | • No evening Mass |

PLEASE NOTE Stations of the Cross at St Gerard's Time Change

Join us on Fridays during Lent
7th March to 11th April

6:00 PM
Our Lady Help of Christians, Epping

7:00 PM ←
St. Gerard Majella's, Carlingford

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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
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

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.



Weekday Masses: A gentle reminder there is a **7am Mass on Wednesdays at OLHC each week during Lent.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



FIRST RECONCILIATION 2025

Act of Contrition: On the weekend of 15th/16th March, the Candidates were presented at some Masses across our parish to receive a copy of the Act of Contrition. They were asked to recite this and taught the Act of Contrition carries with it 3 simple and special messages:

- it is a recognition of having to seek forgiveness for our poor choices and therefore a 'sorry' prayer to our Father,
- it is a prayer asking our Father to help us be strong,
- it is a reminder to start afresh and try harder to live as God created us to.

This week, in Session 3, we explore the **Examination of Conscience** which helps us review our thoughts, words and actions. This is to help the Candidates develop a sense of accountability and responsibility by examining their choices and the consequences as a result of their choices. This is also something that will help them prepare what they want to say each time they go for Reconciliation.

We also talk about **God's mercy** and experiencing **Forgiveness**. There are no better people in the children's lives than their parents to model forgiveness in the family.

Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as the children prepare to receive the sacrament for the first time in the coming weeks.

Reconciliation for Parents: This is the final week Fr Jim invites the parents to Reconciliation (on top of our regular times) from **2:30pm to 3pm:**

- St Gerard's Church - Monday 24/03/2025
- OLHC Church - Wednesday 26/03/2025



watch
this
space

Guess what's coming soon!



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

Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au or phone Parish Office 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 2nd 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:



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

YOUTH GROUP
FAITH . FUN . FRIENDS

COME ALONG AND LEARN MORE ABOUT
FAITH, PLAY SOME GAMES AND MAKE NEW
FRIENDS!
FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 7-9



Please join our
Facebook Group
for Parents

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

Cana for students in years 7-9 will next meet on **Friday 4th April from 7:30pm – 9:00pm at St Gerards for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!**

Emmaus for people aged 23 – 30 years old will meet again on **Thursday 3rd April.**



Emmaus Young Adults

For those aged 23 - 30 looking to grow in Faith & Fellowship

- St Gerards Meeting Room
- 6:30PM-8:30PM
- Thursdays Fortnightly



"On that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem."
Luke 24:13



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@bbccatholic.org.au
or contact me via the QR code



Antioch



Sundays 6.00pm – 8:00 pm

@ St Gerard's Meeting Room

For Year 10's – 23 year olds



Faith & Fellowship
Run by the Youth, for the Youth

The Rite of Election at Our Diocesan Cathedral, Our Lady of the Rosary



On the First Sunday of Lent, 9th March, **Nethra and Teruo**, came together with over 100 other Catechumens from around the Diocese to be enrolled into the Order of the Elect – those who are called to the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the coming Easter Vigil – with Bishop Anthony officiating. It was truly an exciting event for all present.

The photo on the far left shows Fr Jim and Dennis looking on whilst Bishop Anthony signed the Book of the Elect.

Our RCIA Elect - Nethra and Teruo, is pictured on the left with Fr Jim and Dennis.

Celebrating the Rites during Lent with our Elect

Nethra and Teruo, pictured on the right, our Elect who are now in their final preparation for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.



- This coming weekend, 23rd March, the Third Sunday of Lent, we will be celebrating the First Scrutiny using the Cycle A Readings at the 8:30am Mass.
- Next weekend, on Saturday 29th March at the 8am Mass, we will be celebrating the Rite of the Presentation of the Creed and on Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we will be celebrating the Second Scrutiny using again the Cycle A Readings at the 10:15am Mass.

We invite parishioners to remember Nethra and Teruo in their prayers as they come to this significant moments in their faith journey and spiritual lives.

~Dennis Porteous

MORE PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS



Calling for 2025 Easter Vigil Musicians and Singers at St Gerard's Carlingford!

We will celebrate the Easter Vigil 2025 in both Our Lady Help of Christians Epping and St Gerard's Carlingford churches this year on **Holy Saturday 19th April @ 7pm**.

St Gerard's Carlingford – We invite parishioners who play the piano/keyboard or sing, to volunteer for a part in this special Music Group to celebrate this pinnacle point in the Church's liturgical year. Our practices at St Gerard's will be on **Thursday nights starting @ 7pm from 27th March**, with a **rehearsal on Sunday 13th April**.

To indicate your interest, please email your details to: Name, Contact Number, email address to Elizabeth Austin: dneausti@optusnet.com.au by **Tuesday 25th March**. Thank you.

~Elizabeth Austin

Healing Mass at St Gerard's: Join us for the Healing Mass on **Tuesday 1st April**. We gather in the meeting room for Mass at 10am. Please stay for morning tea following Mass, and if you are able to, do bring a plate to share. If you would like to attend and are in need of transport, that can also be arranged. Please contact Carole Wilson at 9869 1036.





Ecumenical Lenten Service and Lunch organised by the communities of the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford; the Epping Uniting Church; West Epping Uniting Church; and the Anglican Parish of Epping will be held on **Thursday 27 March 2025 at 12 noon Epping Uniting Church Corner Oxford Street and Chester Street, Epping.**

Come and join our neighbouring churches in prayer for the Season of Lent and give support to Fr Jim who has kindly agreed to give the homily.

This will be followed by fellowship over a light lunch. While there is no charge for the lunch a financial contribution of approximately \$10 will be appreciated. Please consider car pooling — limited parking. Lorraine Lobsey 0438 605 773.

Studio apartment for rent - Beecroft

Furnished studio apartment, newly renovated, complete with new kitchenette, own car space, two rooms, own bathroom, storage area, free wifi and a reverse cycle A/C unit. Completely separate from main home, own entrance. Quiet location. Suit student or single person. Female preferred. Inspection available. \$350pw, including electricity. Long lease available. Call Pat on 0407908640 or email at cedpat@internode.on.net

OTHER NOTICES & EVENTS

Celebrations this Fortnight

Lent Week 3

25 March Tue: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Lent Week 4

2 April Wed: *St Francis of Paola (commemoration)*

4 April Fri: *St Isidore (commemoration)*

5 April Sat: *St Vincent Ferrer (commemoration)*



Journey Through the Gospels with Bishop David Walker



Bishop David Walker has spent a lifetime reflecting on the Gospels, studying Scripture, and exploring how they guide Christian discipleship. Now, he invites you to join him in a series of enriching discussion on the Gospels:

- ✓ Weekly Gospel Video Access – FREE
- ✓ Live Online Discussions Every Saturday (4–5PM)
- ✓ Ask Questions, Share Reflections, Seek Clarification
- ✓ Connect with Like-Minded Catholics

💡 Ideal for Parish Bible Study Groups or anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of Scripture.

🔔 Sign Up & Stay Notified! Get weekly reminders and video access before each session.

Click for **[More Info & Register Here!](#)** Or scan the QR code on the right.



CATALYST FOR RENEWAL: Once a month, on the **1st Saturday** from March to October, Catalyst holds well-worth attending reflection mornings. I know Hunters Hill is a distance, however, it is all part of the time you have put aside for yourself and God. **In April**, you will hear **Sr Michele Connolly, rsj**, a brilliant biblical scholar with a down-to-earth, easy-to-understand teaching style. **In May, Fr. David Ranson**, whom we all know and love. See both parish notice boards for details and the full program. Or contact Carole Wilson at 9869 1036.

24 HOURS FOR THE Lord
A Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation.

REGISTER NOW → trybooking.com/CZUBM

9am - 9am
28-29 March 2025
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
23 Yardley Ave, Waitara

PILGRIMS OF HOPE



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

Throughout this time, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Registration is via this link **www.trybooking.com/1366910** which will ensure all 24 Hours are covered.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mission Broken Bay via email **mission@bbcatholic.org.au** or speak to Libby on 8379 1634 or 0408 749 366.

3rd Sunday of Lent - 23 Mar 2025

Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11 Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

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

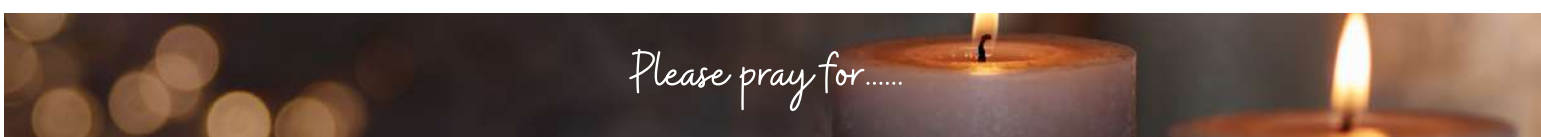
POSTAL ADDRESS FOR THE PARISH OFFICE: PO Box 369, Epping NSW 1710

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



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
- Brendan Stone (Andrew's son)
- Melissa Wong
- Marites Valdehueza (Fr Aldrin's mother)



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 - Sylvia Rañola Hari, Elizabeth Barton, Joan Magee, Sr Bernadette O'Sullivan RSJ

Vale Elizabeth Barton: Our beloved parishioner Elizabeth Barton, wife of Charles has gone home to the Lord. Her funeral will be in OLHC Church on Monday March 24th at 11am. For this funeral, and for all future funerals and parish events the carpark will be set to allow free parking, with no need to contact the parish office.

Anniversaries & Remembrance - Julita Cadiz (mother of Yael Manongdo), Wendy Slattery (25th March - daughter of Matt & Robin Slattery), Jan Doherty (30th March), Cedric Fernandes (30th March), Patrick Murphy (2nd April)

4th Sunday of Lent - 30 Mar 2025

Ps 33:2-7 Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour 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.