

Diocese of Broken Bay

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon
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Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueza
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Our Lady Help of Christians'

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St Gerard Majella's

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The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford



YEAR B

28 APRIL 2024 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5 MAY 2024 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In the Acts of the Apostles this week and next we meet two unlikely disciples. Firstly Paul, the former persecutor of the Church (Acts 9), and then the pagan centurion Cornelius. In both cases people were at first sceptical of whether their new found faith in Jesus was real, but for each of them an existing disciple - Barnabas for Paul, Peter for Cornelius - took them under their wing and showed them how to live the Christian life. Pope Francis has shone the spotlight on this process and called it accompaniment and asked that everyone in the Church - priests, religious and laity - learn this art so that we may help others to hear the call of God in their lives and respond to it (Evangelii Gaudium 169-173).

We see this process at work in so many of our volunteer ministries, when we deliberately pair a new volunteer with an experienced one. An new catechist with an experienced one, an new altar server with someone who has served for decades, our new younger Cana youth group leaders with our youth minister Joanna, new Children's Liturgy leaders with long term volunteers. *So trust, if you feel called to join a new ministry, that there will be someone there to be Barnabas for you, to help you and support you as you take up a new area of your Christian life.*

~Fr Jim



This week we begin the Metanoia program which invites us to turn our hearts around and to go deeper with Jesus. It's not too late to join - **come join us on Tuesday night, 7pm for dinner in the Parish Hall at St Gerard's.**

We look forward to sharing the evening with you.

Thank you for your patience these past two weeks as not just the forecourt, but also the footpath in front of OLHC Church has been resurfaced. We apologise that this had blocked access to the toilets last weekend.

Saturday morning **8am Mass will recommence Saturday May 4th** and Tuesday night **6pm Mass will recommence on Tuesday May 7th.**

Mass counts: During each week of May every parish in Australia counts the number of people at Mass which gives us both a snapshot about how many people are at each Mass that month, and the longer term trend over several years. This data has told us a good news story these past few years, with Mass attendance rising from 755 in 2021, to 830 in 2022 and 1005 in 2023. We are inching toward the pre-covid level of 1147 in 2019, and perhaps we'll get back there this year. To measure this, we need some volunteers to do the count during Mass at St Gerard's (OLHC is already sorted). *Please put your name on the list in the sacristy if you can help count for the four weeks of May. We'll need four volunteers per Mass.*

Readings

28 APRIL 2024

Acts 9:26-31
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

5 MAY 2024

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
1 John 4:11-16
John 15:9-17



PASTORAL WORKS FUND APPEAL

“Connecting to the Mission of Jesus Christ!”
MAY 2024 APPEAL

PASTORAL
WORKS
Broken
Lily



Confraternity of
Christian Doctrine (CCD)



Hospital Chaplaincy
and Pastoral Care



On May 4th & 5th we are taking up one of our two annual Pastoral Works Fund appeal collections for the diocese.

This primarily funds the resourcing of our catechists and Catholic hospital chaplaincy (including Fr Peter Dowd at Royal North Shore Hospital).

Our levy for this financial year is \$54,000, of which you generously gave \$29,000 in the November appeal. The remaining \$25,000 equates to \$25 for each of our 1000 parishioners. Not everyone can

afford this (and lots of our 1000 parishioners are children), so your donation of \$25 or more (which is tax deductible) would be a great gift both from you but also on behalf of others who cannot afford it.

You can give using the **Good Giving app** via this QR code which will send you a tax receipt immediately, or, using the envelopes which you'll find on your seats, and the parish will provide a tax receipt in July. You can also take an envelope from the back of the church this weekend.



PARISH NEWS & UPDATES



New parish email address for general enquiries: eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au
Please note parish@eppcarl.org.au will be obsolete.

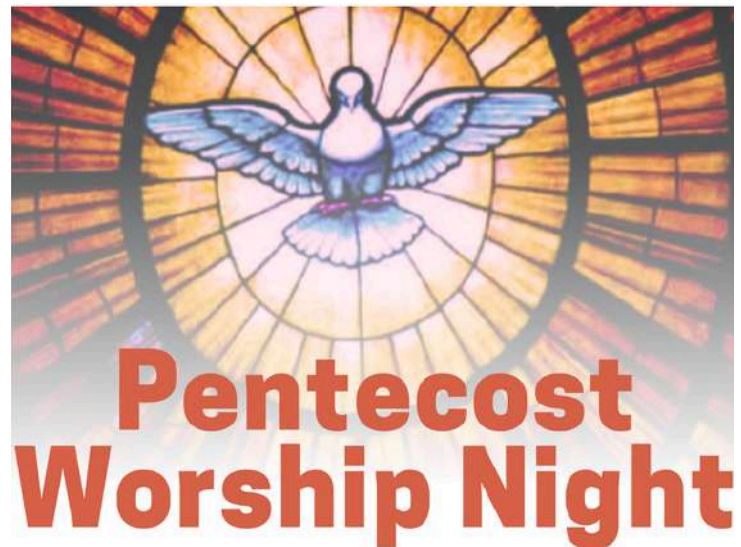


St Gerard's Healing Mass will be on **Tuesday May 14th, 10am in the meeting room**, rather than May 7th this month. Come join us to pray for yourself and others who are sick, and join us for morning tea. A plate to share would be welcome. Should you require transport please contact Carole Wilson at 9869 1036.

Monday Night Prayer: For the past few weeks some parishioners have been joining Fr Jim for online night prayer on Monday nights from 9pm – 9.15pm. Join him for this simple, gentle prayer of the Church to close the evening: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84435529798?pwd=WgF18sFEg7EXdkn51d5qO3bWbbQitp.1> or via QR code on the right. Meeting ID: 844 3552 9798 Passcode: 978414.



Ecumenism: Our parish has a long history of sharing prayer and fellowship with our neighbouring Christian churches as part of an ecumenical covenant with the Anglican and Uniting Churches of Epping. We have usually had night time liturgies which not everyone has been able to attend, so our Pentecost liturgy will be at the new time of **5pm**, followed by supper. This will be hosted at **West Epping Uniting Church, 161 Carlingford Rd (but parking is on Orchard Rd) on Tuesday May 14th.**



Pentecost Worship Night

Join us for a night of
spirit-filled worship.

▪ SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2024 ▪ 7.30 PM ▪

▪ ST GERARD MAJELLA ▪
543 NORTH ROCKS RD, CARLINGFORD

PROGRAM: Holy Rosary | Praise and Worship |
Testimonies | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
Supper will be provided.

For more information please contact:

eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au



Fr Jim will be on annual leave
Monday May 6
to Saturday 11th.

Our Lady Help of Christians Fund: Last weekend Fr Jim shared with the parish that we will be establishing the "Our Lady Help of Christians Fund" to receive the significant payments which the parish will be receiving from our development partner Levande over the next two years. This will be invested to produce a long term income which can be used for our own parish ministries, to support other parishes, and to support charitable and social justice works. We will hold a parish forum on **Sunday May 26th, 11.30am – 1pm in OLHC Church** to hear your feedback and ideas about that kinds of good works you'd like to see the parish do in the coming years.

~Fr Jim

Our Devotions Team brings to us:



Celebrating Mother's Day

SUN 12 MAY

09:30 AM
St. Gerard's



10:15 AM
OLHC Epping

Join us to celebrate and bless the extraordinary women in our lives who have nurtured and guided us with their love and prayers.

If you wish to donate flowers for the event, please place them in the designated vase at the back of the church before the mass.

TRAVELLING MARY

BOOKING OPEN NOW

5 MAY - 26 OCT



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

Mary, our Blessed Mother, was always a traveller. She travelled to visit Elizabeth, to Bethlehem to give birth to her Son, to Egypt to protect her family, to Calvary, and finally to heaven interceding for us. Some of Mary's travels were planned and safe, others were more dangerous. Mary understands and protects her Son's followers through all of life's journeys.

"Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).

These words of the Mother of God at the Wedding Feast of Cana are like a bright beacon pointing the way to the Heart of Christ.

Our "Traveling statue of Mary" will spend the week in your home. We are asking that families say the rosary together during that week. Please find a prominent place to set up the statue so that everyone in the family may see it daily. Along with the statue is a prayer card, some information on saying the Rosary, and some Rosary beads for you and your family to use.

She will be able to be picked up on a Sunday and stay through the week until the following Saturday. If you would like to host Our Lady, please use the signup form at the back of the Church.

Parish Team

Parish Secretary

Marcella Letteri Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au

Business Manager

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 - St Gerard's

Belinda Shi Ph: 0414 753 362

Email: Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au

Pastoral Worker - OLHC

Simone Noel Ph: 0414 753 799

Email: Simone.Noel@bbcatholic.org.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Feast Day will be celebrated on Friday 24th May at OLHC church.

Details to follow in the coming weeks.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



FIRST EUCHARIST 2024

Enrolment for First Eucharist will close on **Monday 29th April**. 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.

Not enrolled yet? Do hurry! The Parent Information sessions will be held online on Tuesday 30th April and Thursday 2nd May, with the Rite of Enrolment on the weekend of 4th/5th May. Email Lynn if you need more information. Contact details are below.

Pentecost Family Mass 19th May

As part of the First Eucharist programme, Fr Jim & Fr Aldrin are inviting the candidates to provide some ministries at the 9:30am Mass and the 10:15am Mass. The children can be involved in a number of ways. Other Year 4 children are also welcome! Please pick the Mass time or church for the correct link to sign up:

- St Gerard's 9:30am volunteersignup.org/KJKQA
- OLHC 10:15am volunteersignup.org/LT4QH

Want to know when we celebrate Confirmation this year?

We have a Sacramental Programme brochure available at the back of both churches. If you wish to receive a soft copy instead, please feel free to email Lynn (contact details on the right). The brochure contains eligibility to enrol, the key dates of the preparation periods, events and celebrations. Parents are advised to consider carefully before enrolling, as commitment to the full programme is expected.

Kidz Word resumes on Sunday 5th May at the 9:30am Mass.



KidzPlay Playgroup



THE ST GERARD'S PLAYGROUP RUNS EVERY FRIDAY DURING THE SCHOOL TERM. COME ALONG WITH YOUR LITTLE ONES TO THE CHURCH HALL 9:30AM - 11:30AM.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

BELINDA 0414 753 362.

Lynn Siau

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

Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

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 8th May 2024**. 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

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): Cana is on a break during the school holidays and resumes on the **3rd May** at St Gerard's in the parish hall **7:30-9pm**.

Entrance via 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) Antioch will have a games and planning night **28th April, 6-8pm** at St Gerard's meeting room. our regular meetings resume on the **5th May, 6-8pm**. All welcome! (Note: no meeting on 12th May on Mother's Day)

Contact the new Antioch parent support if you have any questions: Cres & Lui Yparraguirre Mobile: 0449228514.



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds): From 30th April, Emmaus will join the parish for the faith series on Metanoia. Come along at 7pm for free dinner, followed by a video and share groups. Meetings are in the parish hall instead of the meeting room.

FIAT 40 testimony

By Rachel (Emmaus member)

For Lent this year, a group of young men and women participated in the Exodus 40 and Fiat 40 (respectively). These programs involved multiple changes in our daily lifestyles that aimed to remove obstacles that separate us from God.

Habits that were given up or decreased included time spent on social media and TV, no major purchases and no desserts or sweets. It also involved increased daily prayer time, evening reflections, daily Gospel readings and regular physical activity. Each group would touch base with its members to support and encourage each other and share their struggles with any particular habits.

One thing that surprised me was how it was relatively easier to 'tick the boxes' (like not using technology) as opposed to sitting still for twenty minutes and actively dedicated a longer period of time each day to spend time with God. However, this was also the most rewarding in listening to God. I found that doing so changed my outlook on each day. We all grew closer to God through these small changes with some striving to continue these habits after Easter!

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE AT OUR PARISH

Helping a Refugee Family: Last fortnight we told you the plight of an Afghan refugee family of 5 who are facing eviction and in dire straits. One generous parishioner was prepared to offer their granny flat at a greatly reduced cost which would have been perfect, however this didn't turn out to be ready in time. Our parishioner Brian Moir and others who are advocating for this family have set up a Go Fund Me appeal to try to raise enough money to stave off their eviction, whilst at the same time looking for better options for the future. It's <https://gofund.me/9d361e94> if you'd like to help. You can also access this link via the QR code below.



We know that there are so many Australian families who are doing it tough right now. We also know from experience that refugees, if they receive help to settle in their first year, inevitably study and work hard, doing the cleaning, fruit picking and factory jobs which so many Australians don't want to do, and become self sufficient and thrive within a few years. We have the chance to help make that happen.

Meanwhile if you, like the other generous parishioner have a way of helping this family with either accommodation or employment please contact Brian Moir on 0419264117 or by email - bjmsj@ozemail.com.au or Fr Jim on 9876 2853 or by email - Jim.Mckeeon@bbcatholic.org.au



The Parish Social Justice Team is asking for your support on the weekend of 4th and 5th May on behalf of the clients at JRS Parramatta.

Specifically **NAPPIES sizes 3, 4, 5 and 6** have been requested. Alternatively a **card/voucher to the value of \$20 or \$25** would be very much appreciated as **Mothers Day** gifts.



Marked boxes will be placed in both churches on the **WEEKEND 4TH / 5TH MAY ONLY**. The continued support of our Parish for their clients is greatly valued by JRS.

Your old 3G phone will soon be obsolete, so if you have an old phone, its charger, or any other electronics to get rid of, bring them along for our electronics recycling collection at **St Gerard's on Sunday May 5th 8.30am – 10.30am** in partnership with Whirl Recycling. See www.whirlrecycling.com for a list of what can be collected.



MORE PARISH NEWS



Welcome to the Deriquito Family



CONGRATULATIONS & ABUNDANT BLESSINGS TO THIS FAMILY AS THEIR DAUGHTER SOFIA CERISE WAS BAPTISED INTO THE FAMILY OF CHRIST ON THE 14TH APRIL 2024.



A gentle reminder it's **Name Tag Sunday** on the weekend of **4th/5th May**. Remember to come with a name tag or use our marker to write your name on the labels provided.

Our fellowship is the relationship we have with one another and with Jesus; this is our witness to the world. Jesus said, "By this shall all know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another" (John 13:35).



CARLINGFORD CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Sunday prayer group will be on break from Easter till the end of May, however all prayer requested will still be actioned during this time.

CONTACT: Margaret at 0401 133 368 or via email mtmkelly@optusnet.com.au

CHARISMATIC PRAYER REQUEST MINISTRY

Need someone to pray with you? Our Charismatic Prayer Request Ministry is here for you. Whether you're seeking prayers for yourself or others, for any intention, big or small, we're here to support you.

How to Request a Prayer:

- **Pick up a form** - Prayer request forms are available at the back of the church.
- **Fill it out** - Write down your prayer request. Remember, it can be for any intention, whether for yourself or others.
- **Submit your request** - Place your completed form in the designated box at the back of the church.

Your prayer requests will not only be prayed over by our Charismatic Prayer Group, but will also be passed on to Charismatic NSW, Charismatic International, and Bruce Dowens Ministries on your behalf (tick the 'pass on' box). If you would like the request to remain private, just place an X on the form. God knows your intentions and who you are. All prayer requests are strictly confidential.

Share Your Blessings:

When your prayers have been answered, we invite you to complete a green 'answered' form. We love to hear about the blessings and miracles happening in our community! Remember, you are not alone. Our Charismatic community is here to pray with you and for you in your needs, no matter how big or small. Let us lift each other up in prayer.



OVER 50+++OUTING: Still time to meet us for lunch on Wednesday, May 1st. We plan to meet at **'Molly's Pavillon', 60-74 The Crescent Cheltenham. 11.30 AM.** Just a small group at present. Please let me know ASAP if you can join us. I will need to make a booking. Contact: Carole Wilson 9869 1036.



menALIVE - Single or married men aged 18 and up. Join us fortnightly @ **St Gerard's parish meeting room from 7:30pm to 8:30pm.** Dates for May:

- May 2 - St Gerard's, Meeting room
- May 16 - St Gerard's, Meeting room
- May 30 - St Gerard's, Meeting room

Contact: phillip.senger@eppcarl.org.au to find out more.

Join the conversation at our parish menALive group by clicking on the following link <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KHhr2uNQCbH7HfX4TWOF0j> or via the QR code here:



Our Parish Ministries Retreat at St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia

Hospitality Ministries Retreat: The date has changed to **Saturday May 25th, 10am – 3pm at St Benedict's Monastery Arcadia.**

If you're in the Welcoming or Morning Tea ministries don't forget to RSVP to Marcella in the parish office Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au or see your ministry coordinator for more details.

A photo to share. To the right: Our Altar Society Retreat day, held at the Monastery on Sat 13th April:



ANZAC DAY 2024: We came together on Thursday 25th April in remembrance and gratitude for those who served and died in war and on operational service past and present.

Pictured here on the left is Trish O'Donnell who gave the ANZAC Day address/tribute and recited the Ode.

Celebrations this Week

Easter Week 5

29 April Mon: St Catherine of Siena

30 April Tue: *St Pius V*

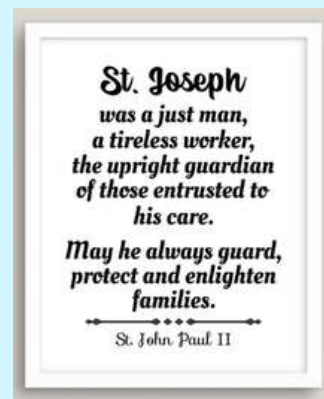
1 May Wed: *St Joseph the Worker*

2 May Thur: St Athanasius

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

Easter Week 6

10 May Fri: *St John De Avila*



SHARING HER EXPERIENCE ON THE LENTEN PROGRAM – CAROLIN LAST

Life can get in the way of a relationship with God, as we're all busy with work, family, friends and life in general. For a while, I recognised that my faith needed a top up and for the first time, I joined our parish Lenten program to explore what God means to me. I came out of the program having rediscovered what I mean to God.

God was there all along, and I just needed to reach out. In a small group we listened to readings, reflections, and shared our thoughts. The Lenten program showed me how to reconnect to God.

5th Sunday of Easter - 28 Apr 2024

Ps 21:26-28, 30-32 Response: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

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, 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

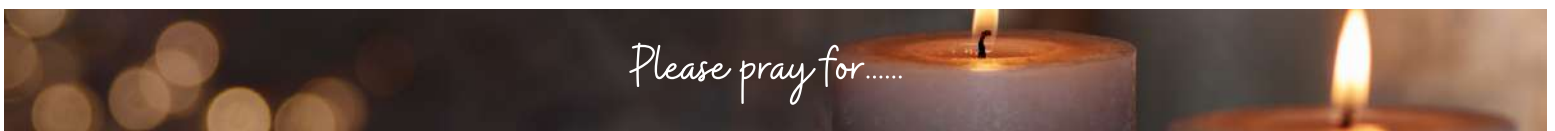
ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH - 7256 2140 Email - sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS' PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH - 9868 3322 Email - olhc@dbb.catholic.edu.au



Healing Mass: 14th May for this month.

Otherwise on the 1st Tuesday of the month, 10am at St Gerard's Meeting Room, Carlingford



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

- Maria Fong
- Grace Spyrou
- Dennis Porteous
- Cohen Hadden
- Peter McArdle
- Eileen Taylor
- Richard Davies (Michael Davies' father)



General Notice for our Prayer List: We would very much appreciate updates so we can inform everyone how things are. Kindly note: our bulletin prayer list is for new requests. No names will be published indefinitely but they still remain on our Prayer Ministry's list which is off the bulletin until advised by family. We will only publish new requests as they come through each fortnight and they remain published for 2 editions of the bulletin.

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 - Stefanus Purwanto, Agnes Maria Abadi, Joseph Munaba, Patricia Collins, Claude Rigney

Claude Rigney, husband of Jeanette and long time OLHC parishioner died on April 24th.

Funeral details will be available in the church on the weekend.

Anniversaries - Bert Saul, Patrick Murphy, Cedric Fernandes, Jan Doherty, Bev Alliprandi, Matthew & Judith Koorbanally (brother and mum of Rachel Chetty), Paul Kelly, Maureen Kiss, Iris Misquitta (Candy D'Sylva's mum)

6th Sunday of Easter - 5 May 2024

Ps 97:1-4 Response: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.