

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

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Single Donation

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[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



Readings

30 JULY 2023

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-46

6 AUGUST 2023

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
2 Peter 1:16-19
Matthew 17:1-9



The Catholic Parish
of Epping & Carlingford



YEAR A

30 JULY 2023 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6 AUGUST 2023 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Welcome to Fr Geoff Bugden who will be celebrating weekend Masses on July 30th and August 6th while Fr Aldrin is in Portugal for World Youth Day.



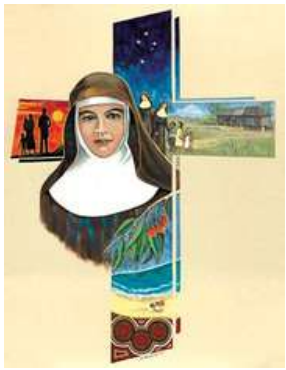
Deacon Richard Houwing was ordained a deacon on June 6th. He ministers as deacon at his home parish of St Agatha's on weekends, and continues his employment as our Parish Operations Coordinator. However, we've invited Richard to be our guest at the **6pm vigil Mass at St Gerard's on August 5th** where he will minister at the Mass and give the homily. Come and join us in celebrating with Richard and with supper afterward in the meeting room.



Name Tag Sunday has been an initiative of the Parish Pastoral Council to build community by simply assisting us to call each other by name. We've been doing this at OLHC on the first Sunday of the month for a few months, and **in August we'll begin at St Gerard's too**. If you have a name badge already please wear it, and then we'll have stick-on labels for all of us. Take a moment to write a name tag as you come into Mass, and then take a moment after Mass to greet people by name. Perhaps there are people you've known by sight for years whose name you can finally know! **Both churches the weekend of 5th/6th August.**

"When you give to our church, you contribute to the growth of Jesus' ministry in each individual. Your support enables us to offer guests speakers on spiritual topics, discipleship programs, and spiritual retreats, fostering personal growth and transformation."

UPCOMING SOLEMNITY/FEAST CELEBRATIONS



The Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop is on **Tuesday August 8th**. We will have Mass at 9.30am at St Gerard's to celebrate Australia's patron saint.



The Feast of the Assumption is on **August 15th**. Masses will be celebrated at

- St Gerard's at 9.30am (with St Gerard's School) and 7pm
- at OLHC at 6pm, and
- at St Agatha's Pennant Hills with OLHC Primary School at 11.40am.

Our neighbouring parishes may have complementary Mass times also.

GROW IN FAITH



Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible: Many Catholics want to read the Bible because they know it is God's Word, but they give up because it seems so complicated. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible helps you get the "big picture" by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. Presenter Jeff Cavins shows you how to read the Bible so that you can actually understand it.

Unlocking the Bible enriches our Catholic identity. We discover our connection to Abraham and the chosen people of Israel. We understand how Jesus fulfills the promises made to them in the New Covenant. We have been adopted and inherited the new Law of Love.

Join us to *Unlock the Mystery of the Bible*, 8 Online Sessions starting **September 5th (Tuesday) from 7 pm to 9 pm**. No need to go out. Just go to your computer. You can invite neighbours, friends and family. They can join online from the comfort of their home.

To register or for more information - Email philip.senger@eppcarl.org.au by **August 29** / or put your name on the list at the back of the church. Around 200 parishioners in our parish have already Unlocked the Mystery. If you haven't already, come join us!

"Why do I have to go to Mass?"

Have you ever felt bored or confused during Mass? Do you sometimes find yourself distracted and find it difficult to stay focused? Mass may be one of the few times during the week when we are "Unplugged".

The Mystery of the Mass Revealed is a new four-part study on the Mass, called Altaration. Watch a sneak peek: <https://youtu.be/nwqpan7umwQ>

Altaration addresses head-on one of the biggest problems we all face: how do we appreciate the awesome beauty and mystery of the Mass...and to actually look forward to attending and participating?

Join us for 4 weekdays at

- 7pm Tuesday nights **St Gerard's hall** from 5th Sept. Contact Mery meryauwyang@hotmail.com
- 7pm Friday nights **OLHC Church** from 8th Sept. Contact Leon dsylva01@hotmail.com

To join, put your name on the list at the back of the church.

ALTARATION
THE MYSTERY OF THE MASS REVEALED

The Answer to
"Why Do I Have to Go to Mass?"

The goal of *Altaration* is not to fill teens' heads with information but to pierce their hearts with transformation and get them to appreciate the awesome beauty and mystery of the Mass.

Through a unique five-part learning experience, teens will come to see the Mass and the priesthood in a dramatically new way.

After experiencing the "whys" behind the "whats" of the Mass, Catholic teens will:

- Enter prepared,
- Participate with sincerity,
- And exit with purpose!

Featuring:

FROM THE MAKERS OF **CHOSEN**

Mark Hart Jackie Francois Angel Ike Ndolo Fr. Mike Schmitz Chris Staffanick Fr. Josh Johnson



Defibrillation Training: We will be holding training on when and how to use our defibrillators on **Saturday, August 5, at 3:00 pm in St Gerard's Meeting Room.** All are welcome, even if you have a general interest and want to know more about defibrillators. Please email Richard at Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au to assist with seating. A defibrillator is best used with CPR and sudden cardiac arrest or to restore normal heart rhythm. Here is a 2:30 minute video on using one - <https://youtu.be/Ryd3C7tl4Jw>

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

New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator - OLHC

Serena Kozanic Ph: 0414 753 799

Email: Serena.Kozanic@bbcatholic.org.au

New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator - St Gerard's

Belinda Shi Ph: 0414 753 362

Email: Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au

CatholicCare
Diocese of Broken Bay

COMBATING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

Please help us fundraise for CatholicCare's homelessness services across the Diocese

Donor envelopes available during Mass Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 August.

There is no place like home – but for many having a home is not a reality. The causes may be diverse, but the impact is the same – a loss of dignity and a sense of hopelessness. Thank you to our Parishes for helping us fundraise for CatholicCare's homelessness services. A donation drive will take place during Homelessness Week on 5 & 6 August. Thank you in advance for supporting this important Diocesan initiative.

The facts



Homelessness has increased by 13.7% in 4 years.



20% of people experiencing homelessness are Aboriginal & Torres Straits Islander people. 30% were born overseas.



2 out of 5 people experiencing homelessness are under 25.

55+

There has been a 28% increase in Australians aged 55+ experiencing homelessness.



Only 6% of people experiencing homelessness actually sleep on the streets.

For more information, see www.catholiccareddb.org.au or contact Nicole Anderson - Community & Outreach Coordinator on 0423 079 936, email: nicole.anderson@catholiccareddb.org.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Confirmation: The Rite of Enrolment will take place this weekend 29th/30th July at select Masses. The families will be presented during Mass where they affirm their wish to share more fully in the life and faith of Jesus.

There will be a JUMPING CASTLE after the 9:30am Mass on the 30th July!



We want to celebrate the families whose children are embarking on this exciting journey! Please come and show your support for these families and catch up for a cuppa whilst the children play! Morning tea will be provided by our parish hospitality team at the undercover area of St Gerard's Primary School. Even if you are attending another Mass, if you can, do still come and join this celebration which will begin at around 10:30am.

Preparation sessions will commence on the 1st August over 4 weeks. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they embark on this journey.

Little Saints

Exploring the Catholic Faith as a young person

One of our young adult parishioners, Kate Falzon, has created Little Saints, a website that educates primary school aged children to learn more about the Catholic Faith. This website is filled with activities and engaging knowledge that will hopefully help children and young people learn and grow in their faith journey in a unique and exciting way. Check the website out here: www.cclittlesaints.com

Kate says, "I wanted to help children be able to access a variety of content that is child-friendly and engaging. Children and young people are very important to Christ, and in our parish too. I hope and pray that this website can be a useful and an exciting opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith."

Scan or click QR code below to join our Kidz Facebook group:

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

Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au



KidzPlay is on during school term!

KidzPlay Playgroup



Our parish playgroup runs every Friday morning from 9:30am in the hall.

Contact Belinda for KidzPlay: 0414 753 362
or Belinda.Shi@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 9th August 2023**. Kindly understand I am unable to accommodate late submissions. Please send in a Word document. Photos or graphics are acceptable in PNG or JPEG format. Please note that PDFs will have to be reformatted and the clarity of your notice will be compromised. Do provide an email address, a contact name and number in your article. Thank you.

Other ways to connect:



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



GRACE RADIO

eBulletin: If you know someone who would like to receive the electronic version of the bulletin, please forward this link for them to fill in the form on our website: bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Cana (Year 6-9) is on every Friday **7:30-9pm** during the school term. However due to the leaders being away for World Youth Day, the next meeting will resume on the **1st September in Term 3**.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Antioch will meet on the **20th August, 6-8pm, after the World Youth Day pilgrims return**.

Contact the parent support if you have any questions: Kirk Koelmeyer (0420 874 824) or Louise Koelmeyer (0404 496 554).



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds) - Our young adults group will next meet on the **8th August, 7-8:30pm**.

World Youth Day Update!



Departing Sydney airport with Broken Bay pilgrims

Our World Youth Day pilgrims have arrived safely in Italy! So many highlights already including visiting Venice, Padua, Ravenna, Bologna, Florence and we are about to travel to the gorgeous Assisi.

We've had Mass at St Mark's Basilica and the Basilica of San Domenico and have prayed at the tomb of St Anthony of Padua as well as seeing his first class relics and incorrupt tongue, vocal chords and jaw. We've also visited the remains of St Luke and tried a variety of Italian cuisine including gelato, tiramisu, pasta and more! We are praying for you and our parish in our daily Masses, please pray for us!

Arete 2024: Register here to receive the zoom link www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1085333?qr=true Details on Page 7 of this bulletin - Testimony from Joanna our Youth Minister.

A Message from Joanna, our Youth Minister

I will be overseas and on annual leave from the 21st July and will return to work on the 31st August.

If you have a question about the Antioch youth group, please contact the parent support, Louise or Kirk Koelmeyer on 0404 496 554 or 0420 874 824.

For enquiries on Cana or the Emmaus youth group, as well as the Youth Mass at St Gerard's, please contact Fr Jim at Jim.Mckeeon@bbcatholic.org.au

WYD Snippets



Outside St Mark's Basilica in Venice



Visiting the Basilica of St Anthony of Padua



First day in Padua in the town centre

We also have Facebook groups for Antioch and Emmaus.

If you would like to join or would like more information on any of our 3 youth groups, please contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or email her at Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au

PARISH SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) at Parramatta has recently initiated some changes in its delivery of services to their clients. There continues to be opportunities for us to volunteer. These may include : reception, employment support, English conversational language, Women's Space. Also backup food packers and drivers, donation collection, help at community events and, of course, in the small garden. Please contact May Hadaya at JRS 0413 596 658 or may.hadaya@jrs.org.au with your enquiries.



Father's Day Appeal



What We Need

Soap - Deodorant - Shampoo - Socks - etc

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS

We ask the Parish to support our Fathers Day Appeal **on the weekend 26th/27th August**. Marked boxes will be placed at both St Gerards and OLHC - Fathers Day is celebrated Sunday 3rd September.

Items requested are:

- soap (liquid and cakes)
- disposable razors
- deodorant
- shampoo and conditioner
- socks
- instant coffee

Further enquiries to John Whealy at johnwwhealy@gmail.com

OTHER NEWS & NOTICES



Catalyst Reflection Morning: Fr David Ranson will lead our reflection morning on Saturday 5th August. We gather in the parish hall of Hunters Hill. 9.30 AM - 12.30 PM. A time for reflection. Enquiries Carole Wilson 9869 1036

Our **Charismatic Prayer Group** meets **every Sunday at 10:45am at St. Gerard's Church**. Our group is transformed by the Holy Spirit, and we welcome you to join us for an uplifting and inspiring time.

Come and experience the power of the Holy Spirit as we pray together, sing, and share our journeys of faith. Our group is open to all, and we invite

you to bring your friends and family along with you. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday at 10:45 am at St. Gerard's Church (Children's Crying Room at the back of the Church). For more info contact Margaret on 0401 133 368 or mtmkelly@optusnet.com.au



cont'd... "Other News & Notices"

Celebrations this Week

Ordinary Time Week 17

- 31 July Mon: St Ignatius Loyola
- 1 August Tues: St Alphonsus Liguori
- 2 August Wed: *St Eusebius of Vercelli, St Peter Julian Eymard*
- 3 August Thurs: St Dominic
- 4 August Fri: St John Vianney
- 5 August Sat: *The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major*

Ordinary Time Week 18

- 7 August Mon: *Sts Sixtus II and companions, St Cajetan*
- 8 August Tues: ST MARY OF THE CROSS
- 9 August Wed: *St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*
- 10 August Thurs: **St Lawrence**
- 11 August Fri: St Clare
- 12 August Sat: *St Jane Frances de Chantal*



Men's Retreat

On August 25, Friday (evening) – August 29, Tuesday

Fr. Adrian Wee is conducting a 4-day retreat for men based on the spirituality of Cardinal Newman.

Location : Hartzler Park Conference and Retreat Centre, 25 Eridge Park Rd, Burradoo NSW 2576.

For Registrations please contact Fr. Wee at : theoudoulos@gmail.com



Congratulations to Louisa and Anthony Cricchiola who recently celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary. The couple along with their two children Sophie and Jacob received a blessing from Fr Jim and the congregation as they marked this joyous milestone.

MADE FOR MORE THAN THIS

DISCOVER THE ROLE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS PLAY IN THE CHURCH'S MISSION

ARETÉ CENTRE VIRTUAL OPEN NIGHT



Fr Chris Ryan MGL
Director
Areté Centre



Fr Simon Lobo CC
Parish Priest
St Benedict Halifax



Fr Rob Galea
Executive Director
FRG Ministry



Professor Renee Kohler-Ryan
National Head of the
School of Philosophy
and Theology,
University of
Notre Dame



Emma Plant
Communications
Manager
Evangelisation
Brisbane

FREE ONLINE EVENT | ONE NIGHT ONLY

Join Fr Chris Ryan MGL and an exciting panel of guests for a wide ranging conversation about the powerful role lay people can play in the Church's Mission. Find out more about the Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program & how you can enrol for 2024.

📅 17 August 2023

🕒 7.30pm (AEST)

📍 Live on Zoom

Register for this free event

[Aretecentre.org](https://www.aretecentre.org)

SCAN ME



Open night for **Arete 2024**: Register here to receive Zoom details using this link or via the qr code above - www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1085333?qr=true

There are opportunities to be sponsored to complete the Arete course. For more information, please contact Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au

"I was part of the 2022 Arete course after a friend shared her experience and strongly recommended me to sign up. Over the year, I experienced an abundance of God's love and mercy through the retreats, talks, workshops, mentoring and praise and worship. I learnt about Church and culture, evangelization, missionary leadership, charisms of the Holy Spirit, thresholds of conversion and so much more. I have made amazing friendships and have been inspired by so many other enthusiastic Catholics as we make up the body of Christ. It really was lifechanging. If you have a passion for evangelization or sharing your faith or about making disciples, please attend this open night!"

~Joanna Mak (Youth Minister since 2019)

Is Everything OK with the Catholic Church?
How can you enrich your Catholic Faith?

All Hallows Catholic Men's Group is hosting a Men's Breakfast.

Speaker: George Favotto
Topic: Letter to a *Suffering Church* by Bishop Robert Barron
Saturday 2 September 2023
Mass at 8:00am followed by breakfast 8:30am.
Sausage and egg in a roll. \$10 donation.
Ready to start 9:00am to 10:30am (Includes a group discussion)

All Hallows Parish Hall Five Dock
2 Halley St Five Dock

Book online <https://www.trybooking.com/CJ50M>
or RSVP any member no later than 28 August

George Favotto 0407 927 787
Norm Reavell 0438 515 441
Phillip Moschella 0413 995 101
Patrick Di Cosmo 0412 259 571




Responsorial Psalm Response

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 30 Jul 2023

Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

Gospel Acclamation

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 30 Jul 2023

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Lord, I love your commands. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

WEEKEND MASSES

Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am (Family/Children), 10:15am and 6:00pm (Youth)
Carlingford	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am (Family/Children) and 5:00pm (Youth)

WEEKDAY MASSES

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	No Mass	*	5:00pm	*	*	9:15am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	

EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am, Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am, Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am and Saturday 5:15-5:45pm, **OR BY APPOINTMENT at either church**

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: BY APPOINTMENT

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

ST GERARD MAJELLA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH: 9871 1633 **Email:** sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au

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



No Healing Mass 1st August due to a funeral at the same time.

***Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Mass at OLHC on hold till further notice.**

Please pray for.....

For those who are sick and suffering:

- Cohen Hadden (family of Pat & Margaret McArdle)
- Graham Yeates
- Dennis Porteous (our Parish Secretary)
- Eric Yeung (brother of Goretti Yeung)
- Margaret Floyd
- Graham Kelly
- Paul Grassi
- Kevin Saul (Marie Saul's nephew)
- Maureen Carlon (Marie Saul's sister)
- Lorraine Warner
- Beryl and John Day
- Mary Chernov (sister of Trish Harrison)
- Margaret Hall
- Grace Spyrou (aunty of Kevin Siau)



"We would like to thank the Parish for their prayers for Owen Harrison which were a success." ~Trish Harrison

Farewell: Two parishioners with long histories in our parish died this past week. You are invited to join us in praying for them: The funeral for

- Joan Thompson (nee Pedemont) will be on **Monday July 31st 11am at St Gerard's.**
- A rosary Vigil for Serafina Gallo **Monday 31st 7pm at St Gerard's.** The funeral for Serafina Gallo will be **Tuesday August 1st 10am.**



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

Recently deceased - Eloiza Andrade, Amanda Doronila, Canesio Emata, Joan Thompson (nee Pedemont), Serafina Gallo, Fr Noel Molloy, Neville Wilkin, Rita Rajanayagam, Hoi Yin Chan

Anniversaries - Margaret & Laurie Beckett, Gregory McShane, Giovanni Strati, Bill Kilby, Donita Buenafior, Delfin Enriquez, Alfredo Crisostomo, Margaret & Cliff Johnstone, Mararett Beckett, Laurrie Beckett, Phil Murphy

Responsorial Psalm Response

The Transfiguration of the Lord - 6 Aug 2023

Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 9

The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

The Transfiguration of the Lord - 6 Aug 2023

Alleluia, Alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him.