

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

parish@eppcarl.org.au

Single Donation

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[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



The Catholic Parish
of Epping & Carlingford



31 MARCH 2024 SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

7 APRIL 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR B



Happy Easter! Thank you for joining us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you're here for the first time, welcome. If you're here for the first time in a long time, welcome back! It's great to have you with us. This newsletter is your invitation to come and get involved in the many things our parish can offer to find a place to belong, to explore faith, to get help or get involved.

These Easter celebrations are an expression of the faith of our community and the many, many people who have contributed to the hospitality, the music and the visual environment, and, who have served on the altar, proclaimed scripture to us, or shared holy Communion with us. And many more people working behind the scenes. Thank you to all of them.

~Fr Jim McKeon & Fr Aldrin Valdehueza and the Parish Team

Visiting the housebound: Fr Jim and Fr Aldrin will try to regularly visit the people in our parish who are housebound and are receiving Holy Communion from our wonderful Communion Ministers who visit them each week. Do you or a family member in our parish require anointing or Communion at home? Contact the parish office on 9876 2853.



Monday Night Prayer: During the lockdown in 2021 many of us gathered for Evening Prayer each night via Zoom. This worked so well that Fr Jim is going to bring back **online prayer on Monday nights** from Easter through to Pentecost **starting April 1st from 9pm – 9.15pm**. Join him for this simple, gentle prayer of the Church to close the evening. Meeting details -

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84435529798?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84435529798?pwd=WgF18sFEg7EXdkn51d5qO3bWbbQitp.1)

[pwd=WgF18sFEg7EXdkn51d5qO3bWbbQitp.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84435529798?pwd=WgF18sFEg7EXdkn51d5qO3bWbbQitp.1) or via QR code

Meeting ID: 844 3552 9798

Passcode: 978414



Readings

31 MARCH 2024

Acts 10:34, 37-43
1 Corinthians 5:6-8
Mark 16:1-7

7 APRIL 2024

Acts 4:32-35
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31

DO YOU LOVE ME?



Metanoia: Every Catholic, no matter where we are in our faith journey, is invited to a deeper conversion (metanoia). Metanoia is not a once-only event; rather, it is a continual process of turning away from the things of the world, from lies and sin and discovering a deeper union with Christ.

We invite you to join us for a video series called *Metanoia* which will challenge us to go deeper with Jesus. We'll run it in the same format as our other popular programs such as Alpha where we meet to share dinner, then watch the video, then share our response in small groups.

Metanoia is presented by Fr Dave Pivonka who presented the wonderful Wild Goose series which we watched together last year. The series is beautifully filmed on location in the Holy Land, highlighting sacred places such as the Sea of Galilee, the River Jordan, the desert of Temptations, and many of the holy sites in Jerusalem. Each episode explores areas of our life where conversion is so often necessary.

Metanoia will examine topics such as who is Jesus, what must we do to inherit eternal life, and many other significant matters of faith. With preaching from Fr. Dave as well as personal testimonies from men and women, young and old, religious and lay, their stories will inspire you to seek to encounter Jesus and the new life he is constantly inviting us to.

Click here to watch the *Metanoia* trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WAhYLVtiAM> or use the QR code on the right.



Join us on **Tuesday nights, 7pm- 9pm** including dinner, **in St Gerard's Hall from April 30th**. Sign up at the back of the church to RSVP.

GIVING

Collection for Holy Land: The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday. This collection cares for the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

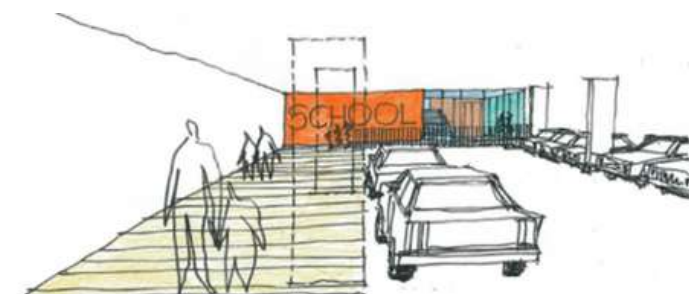
Giving to our mission of spreading the Good News: Through your generosity, you enable a variety of essential ministries that cater to everyone in our community. We are dedicated to spreading the love and grace of Jesus Christ by building connections and engaging with all, offering them chances to grow and embark on their own journey of discipleship, according to their unique pace and comprehension. Hence your kind contributions reflect your commitment to enable Jesus' mission in the world.

You'll notice that we no longer take up a collection during Mass. We invite people to become committed, regular givers using direct debit or credit card. We also have Our Tap & Go terminals at the back of each church which allow you to donate instantly, or, you can place cash in the red and blue money boxes in the church. To learn more about Giving, visit <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/giving> or use the QR code on the right:



OLHC REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The New Buildings at OLHC Epping: After many years of planning, then of relocation and disruption as we demolish and build, we are soon to move into our new Parish Centre and carpark at OLHC Epping. We are very excited to announce that



the new building development at Epping will have a hall, meetings rooms and parish office and offer around 90 parking spaces from July onwards. OLHC School will return in 2025. Thank you for your patience during this time, particularly while the forecourt is under construction. See

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/epping-redevelopment> for more information.

OUR DEVOTIONS TEAM BRINGS TO US:

HOLY HOUR

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



APRIL 7
3-4 PM
ST. GERARD'S

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

BREAD CRUMBS, SAW DUST AND HUMILITY:

The Feast of Saint Joseph

What do bread crumbs have to do with St Joseph? In many countries, the feast of St Joseph is celebrated with special breads, some shaped as hammers, others as ladders or saws. Those shapes, of course, symbolise St Joseph's work of carpentry. But why bread CRUMBS? They symbolise saw dust!

We had our own little version of a St Joseph dinner at OLHC last Tuesday evening. All the men in the congregation received a beautiful blessing then we shared beautiful food from curry to cake to homemade almond biscuits. **Thanks to Princey** who kept reminding us of this special day and to all who stayed and "broke bread" together.

May Saint Joseph who surrendered to love rather than save his reputation, who was humble enough to not make himself the centre of his own life, be a model to us.

~Simone Noel

A GENTLE REMINDER

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 on 9876 2853 or via email Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au

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



19th March Feast of St Joseph celebration at OLHC



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



FIRST RECONCILIATION 2024

Congratulations to the following children who have completed their preparation sessions for First Reconciliation: Elliot Ackland, Lucas Balingit, Michael Batty, Jamie Bayogan, Evie Bressa, Annabella Brett, Sofia Brodowska-Nidelkos, Lauren Buhain, Abigail Burrell, David Carpio, Scarlett Carroll, Leo Carroll, Nicholas Chia, Sophie Chiha, Elisha Chow, Elise Constantaras, Bridie Corcoran, Sophie Cricchiola, Phoebe de Carvalho, Skyler De Leon, Joaquin Nolan Diaz, Hannah Evans, Sean Evans, Phoenix Falecki, Matthew FitzGerald, Chloe Ai Forrest, Elise Jin Gallagher, Edric Gamboa, Maryann George, Keoni Hamill, Rian Jarred Hari, Rian Jarrod Hari, Patrick Hays, Greta Heher, Fiona Heijster, Eve Hodges, Angela Huang, Giuliana Ibarra, Ethan Joseph, Emily Kha, Ava Ladkany, Liam Le, Makayla Lean, Jillian Lim, Mia Mahoney, Mia Manganaro, Oliver Manton, Jacob Melhem, Charbel Michael, Sofia Mirenzi, Mark Mosende, Hazel Mouncey, Jack Reilly, Jonah Rhee, Joshua Ripamonti, Benjamin Rixon, Clarissa Saldanha, Raven Santos, Oliver Schmidhofer, Christian Shi, Caitlin Shortill, Isabelle Simone-Albornoz, Jayan Singaram, Nillah Singaram, Anamika Singaram, Josiah Smith, Lincoln Smith, Curtis Stevens, Sebastian Stevens, Oliver Szoloch, Ryan Taufer, Harrison Tay, Patrick Teulan, Annabelle Todhunter, Liem Tran, Eden Turley, Richard Wong, Yeji Amelia Yoon and Ye Jun Gabriel Yoon.

Kidz Word: Last session for Term 1 is on the 7th April. We will resume in Term 2, Sunday 5th May at the 9:30am Mass.



FIRST EUCHARIST 2024

Enrolment for First Eucharist will commence on Friday 5th 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.

All parents whose children have just completed their preparation for Reconciliation will be sent an email to enrol automatically. If you know of anyone whose child may be eligible to enrol, please feel free to send them my way for enquiries. Contact details are below.

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 below). 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.

Lynn Siau

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

Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

Happy Easter

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 Tuesday 9th April 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):

We are meeting on the **5th and 12th April** at St Gerard's in the parish hall **7:30-9pm**. Pizza night on the 12th April! **No meetings during the school holidays.**

Entrance via 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) meets on the **7th April, 6-8pm** at St Gerard's meeting room. On the **14th April**, Antioch will be driving to Liverpool to support their Antioch group for their annual retreat. We will be departing St Gerard's at 6:15pm and return at 10:15pm, with a Maccas stop. Contact the new Antioch parent support if you have any questions: Cres & Lui Yparraguirre Mobile: 0449228514.



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds):

Our young adults group will be meeting at St Gerard's meeting room on the **2nd April, 7-8:30pm**.

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

PARISH NEWS & UPDATES



Healing Mass (with Anointing of the Sick): Please join us for the Healing Mass in the **meeting room of St Gerards on Tuesday 2nd April at 10am**. An opportunity to continue to celebrate Easter together. Please stay for morning tea. A plate to share would be welcome. Should you require transport please contact Carole Wilson at 9869 1036.

We look forward to re-starting a monthly Healing Mass at OLHC once the new building and car park are open this year.

Happy Easter
from
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.

NAMETAG SUNDAY
AT BOTH CHURCHES!

every 1st Sunday of the month, all Masses

A gentle reminder it's **Name Tag Sunday** on the weekend of **6th/7th April**. Remember to come with a name tag or use our marker to write your name on the labels provided.

Reconciliation: We'll continue to offer the sacrament of Reconciliation at both churches.

- Tuesday 5pm – 6pm at OLHC
- Thursday 10am – 10.30 at St Gerard's
- Saturday 8.30am – 9am at OLHC
- Saturday 5.15pm – 5.45pm at St Gerard's

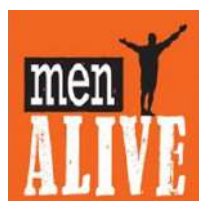


Anzac Day is **Thursday April 25th**. The Church has readings and prayers for the celebration of Anzac Day, and we will pray this at the Thursday 9.30am Mass at St Gerard's.

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. *The retreat for the altar society on April 13th is unchanged.*



Confirmation for Adults: Have you been baptised but missed out on receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, perhaps because you moved house or country during your childhood? Bishop Anthony will be celebrating Confirmation for adults like you on the most fitting day of the year - **Pentecost Sunday, May 19th at OLOR Cathedral at Waitara**. Contact Fr Jim if you'd like to do some preparation and be Confirmed this year Jim.Mckeon@bbcatholic.org.au



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

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:



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.



Defibrillators: we have these at the entrance to both our Churches. While these are very useful for cardiac issues, do remember the fundamentals before hand like call for assistance or 000, check breathing, and so on. To learn more, scan the QR code to visit <https://youtu.be/DHkyq20bbMg?si=OSsASS0rm-J-lfAP&t=342>



SOCIAL JUSTICE AT OUR PARISH

Social Justice Team: Social Justice is an intrinsic part of being a disciple of Jesus and is an important part of the life of our parish.

Social Justice #1: We are committed to “Care for our Common Home” in the words of Pope Francis. Some very practical ways we do this have been the installation of solar panels at St Gerard’s and our recent Clean Up Australia Day site at Epping.

Our next project is to host an 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.

Social Justice #2: Another focus for us is support of refugees and asylum seekers. We take up monthly collections of specific food and toiletries for Jesuit Refugee Services. See <https://aus.jrs.net>



Hays siblings hard at work on Clean Up Day!

OTHER NEWS

Celebrations this Week

Easter Week 1

31 March to 7 April: The Octave of Easter

Easter Week 2

8 April Mon: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

11 April Thurs: St Stanislaus

13 April Sat: *St Martin I*

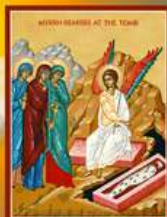
A group of people from local churches meets once a term to **pray for Carlingford, Epping Boys’, and Cheltenham Girls’ High Schools**. Please join us in praying for the students, staff, scripture teachers and chaplains at these schools. We will meet **via Zoom from 8-9pm on Thursday 11 April**. Contact Katrina Collins for Zoom details ckjsge@gmail.com or 0400 488 459.

OCTAVE OF EASTER (BRIGHT WEEK)

The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one “great Sunday.”... The first eight days of the Easter season make up the octave of Easter and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord. – 22, 24 General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, CDW



EASTER SUNDAY



EASTER MONDAY



EASTER TUESDAY



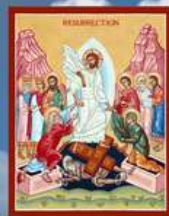
EASTER WEDNESDAY



EASTER THURSDAY



EASTER FRIDAY (NOT A DAY OF PENANCE)



EASTER SATURDAY



DIVINE MERCY (THOMAS) SUNDAY

Facebook.com/saintjosephstudios
Youtube.com/c/joseboumoussa

Catholic Vocations Broken Bay
Young Adult Event
Encounter
FRIDAY APRIL 19, 6PM

Save the Date!

Special Guest Speaker
Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay

VENUE: ST AGATHA'S CHURCH
TREBOR ROAD PENNANT HILLS 2120

P: 0418 522 449 | 02 8379 1626
E: vocations.ministry@bbcatholic.org.au

EVENTS @ BROKEN BAY
[HTTPS://HERO.PAGE/VOCATIONSMINISTRY/VOCATIONS-OFFICE-BROKEN-BAY](https://hero.page/vocationsministry/vocations-office-broken-bay)

ST BENEDICT’S COUNTRY FETE – ARCADIA: St Benedict’s Country Fete will have Live Music, Trash and Treasure, Chocolate Wheel, Fresh farm fruit and vegetables, Barbecue, Devonshire Tea, Coffee, Cakes, Flowers & Plants, Rides... and lots more!

- Location: 2 Fagans Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159
- Date: 10 AM - 3 PM on Sunday 7 April 2024
- Phone Number: 02 9653 2312
- Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Sunday of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday) - 31 Mar 2024

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

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

WEEKEND MASSES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
EPPING	-	6:00pm	-	-	-	8:00am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	-	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	-	

EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST: Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm and Saturday 8:30-9:00am

Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm and Saturday 8:30-9:00am

Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am and Saturday 5:15-5:45pm, **OR BY APPOINTMENT at either church**

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: BY APPOINTMENT

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

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: PH - 7256 2140 Email - sgc@dbb.catholic.edu.au *Please note change of phone number*

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

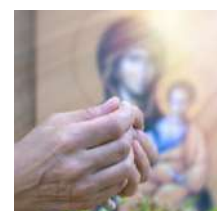


Healing Mass: 1st Tuesday of the month, 10am at St Gerard's Meeting Room, Carlingford

Please pray for.....

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

- Dennis Porteous (OLHC Sacristan)
- John Totonjian
- Bev Gibbeson
- Sr. Rosalia Carlon (Marie Saul's elder sister)
- Cohen Hadden
- Peter McArdle
- Katherine Barnett



General Notice for our Prayer List: We would very much appreciate updates so we can inform everyone how things are. Kindly note: we now have a new system for our prayer list. No names will be published indefinitely but they remain on our Prayer Ministry's list 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 - Greg Crowley, Jane Sharbean, Richard McCarthy, Paul Grassy, Fay Monk

The family of Paul Grassy wishes to thank everyone for their prayers.

Anniversaries - Bert Saul, Basil Connors, Patrick Flanagan, Patrick Murphy, Norm Bampton, Cedric Fernandes, Jan Doherty, Michael Tchang

Also for - Birthday Remembrance for Chin Joo Gan, Lynn Siau's father (4th April)

2nd Sunday of Easter - 7 Apr 2024

Ps 117:2-4, 15-18, 22-24 Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

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