

# Diocese of Broken Bay

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon  
[Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au)

Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueza  
[Aldrin.Valdehueza@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto: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](http://eppcarl.org.au)

## Email

[parish@eppcarl.org.au](mailto:parish@eppcarl.org.au)

## Single Donation

### Click here for:

[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



## Readings

### 5 NOVEMBER 2023

Malachi 1:14 - 2:2, 8-10  
1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13  
Matthew 23:1-12

### 12 NOVEMBER 2023

Wisdom 6:12-16  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-14  
Matthew 25:1-13



## The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford



YEAR A

5 NOVEMBER 2023 THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

12 NOVEMBER 2023 THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Junior Altar Servers at St Gerards:

We'd like to invite young people who have received Holy Communion and who are in Year 4 or older to become junior altar servers at St Gerard's. What a wonderful way to love and serve Jesus! There will be a training



session lasting 45min - 1 hour scheduled for **Sunday 26th November at 11am**. Training will be done by Fr Aldrin and Senior Server Coordinator, Marcella Letteri. Please contact [Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au) in the parish office or take a Permission & Information form from the back of the church.



**Hien's Ordination:** Many of you will remember seminarian Hien Vu who spent 2021 with us on his pastoral placement and has continued to be a friend of the parish. His ordination to Diaconate will be on **Friday November 24th, 7.30pm at St Leonard's Church, Naremburn**.



**Pastoral Works Fund:** This weekend we take up our bi-annual Pastoral Works Fund appeal which supports the resourcing of our catechists, the purchase of student workbooks for our children in scripture classes in state schools, and Catholic hospital chaplaincy. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Our levy this year is **\$54,000** which works out to be around \$54 for each of our 1000 people at Mass this weekend, though some can't give this much and some of the 1000 people are children. If you're able to give, please do.

You will find envelopes and pens on your pew which provide a way to give by cash or credit card. These can be placed in either collection box in the church, or go to <https://brokenbay.goodgiving.com.au/home/brokenbay> and make sure to nominate our parish when you donate.

## YOUR GENEROSITY KEEPS EVERYTHING GOING - THANK YOU!

**Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers:** JRS currently provides vital support every week to over 150 families who are seeking asylum. These families, who are largely unable to access Federal Government assistance, have JRS as their only safety net.



*Would you be able to help?* We are asking you to support the Jesuit Refugee Service Parramatta Foodbank (JRS) with items listed below to be collected on the weekend of **11th and 12th November 2023**. Marked boxes will be at both St Gerards and OLHC on that weekend only.

- **Cooking oil - 750ml / 1 lt / 2 lt**
- **Basmati rice - 1 kg / 5 kg**
- **Coconut milk - canned**
- **Condensed milk - canned**
- **Long life milk**



JRS is also seeing an increasing rate of homelessness among their clients. This makes anything that requires storage and preparation not suitable for their particular needs. As an option you may care to donate a **Coles or Woolworths voucher** which allows clients to buy what they need as they need it. In this instance, the suggested amount is \$25.

*Thanking you for your continued support and prayers. We are so very grateful; indeed your generosity has helped clothe and feed those in need, and their self-esteem.*

~ Parish Social Justice Team

**Support for Women and Children:** In the coming weeks you'll see the "Angel Trees" at both St Gerard's and OLHC, inviting you to buy a gift which will be given to two ministries which are supported by our parish to help women and children in particular need:



- The Angel Tree at OLHC will have tags inviting you to buy a gift card which allows a prisoner to give a Christmas gift to their child.
- The "Angel Tree" at St Gerard's will have tags inviting you to buy a gift card to assist a woman fleeing domestic violence or residing at Parramatta Womens' Shelter.
- You can also give directly at <https://parrawomensshelter.org.au/make-a-donation>. Our parish will also make a direct donation of \$500 to the shelter to assist with a Christmas party for these families.

Coming on Dec 2nd & 3rd will be the **St Vincent de Paul** Christmas Appeal where Cash or credit card donations, or Christmas hampers will provide support families in crisis.

Escaping domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness and poverty. The Catholic Church provides teaching and resources for this difficult issue, and this inspires us to offer the practical help above we're seeking your engagement with:

- <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/resources/social-justice-statements/> and
- <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/social-justice/domestic-violence>



**Planned Giving:** The Parish Finance Committee would like to thank all parishioners who responded to our appeal in July. Total contributions for the Parish (2nd Collection) have trended upwards, as the graph shows. Your donations here help our pastoral ministries like new parishioner engagement, playgroup, youth, adult faith formation, the upkeep of our Churches and the running of our Parish. *Thank you!*

For more information see <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/giving>

**Flowers in November:** The flowers at OLHC are donated in memory of Appolinaris and Iris Pinto, and Mrs. Celine Pinto for the weekend of Nov 5th. *Would you like to sponsor the flowers at OLHC for one week during November in honour of someone you love who has died?* If you could bring 2 matching bunches of flowers to the church on the Saturday morning, please put your name on the roster at the back of the church and the name of the person whom you're donating flowers in honour of.



## OTHER PARISH NEWS & UPDATES

**Christmas Mass times:** For those of you who like to plan ahead we have confirmed our Christmas Mass times:

- At OLHC: Dec 24th - 5pm vigil and 9pm vigil.  
Dec 25th - 8.30am and 10.15am.
- At St Gerard's: Dec 24th - 6pm vigil and 10pm vigil. Dec 25th - 7.45am and 9.30am.



**Healing Mass at St Gerard's:** Join us for the Healing Mass on **Tuesday 7th November**. 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.

Do you have a problem with mobility? Are you someone who would like to attend and is in need of transport? **Transport can be arranged**. Please contact Carole Wilson at 9869 1036.

Our Altar Servers and Ministers of Communion are having a retreat at **St Benedict's Monastery on Sat November 18th**. If you haven't already RSVPd, please contact Marcella in the parish office on 9876 2853 or send her an email at [Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Office & Presbytery Electricity



**Cost-saving:** We have been consciously working on ways we can reduce our expenses. A little while back, we installed solar systems at Carlingford. This shields us against rising power costs and is good for our planet. Pope Francis is keen that we protect our 'Common Home' as he explains in his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*. Our consumption is down 65% (August - October), and we sold 3,887 kilo-watt hours back to the grid (\$310).

## Parish Team

### Parish Secretary

**Marcella Letteri** Ph: 9876 2853

Email: [Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Parish Facilities & Operations Coordinator

**Richard Houwing** Ph: 9876 2853

Email: [Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Admin. Assistant

**Michael Davies** Ph: 9876 2853

Email: [Michael.Davies@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Joanna Mak** Ph: 0404 710 588

Email: [Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au)

### New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator

**Belinda Shi** Ph: 0414 753 362

Email: [Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au)



*Happy Birthday*

to Les Kemp who celebrated his 80th birthday last weekend!

Do you remember *your* wedding day? Why not take some time with your spouse to reflect and celebrate at our marriage reflection afternoon on Sunday November 12th?

You might not think that this is something you need to do, but it is something which is celebrating the journey of love and equipping ourselves to continue to love. Join us in **St Gerard's Meeting Room, 2.30pm - 4.30pm on Sunday Nov 12th**. RSVP to the parish office, or call Pat & Margaret on 0417 219 234 or Eddie & Annie on 0416 345 644.



Current OLHC Redevelopment

**Epping redevelopment:** to see an update on the building works please visit <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/headlines/news>

~ more Parish News continued Page 6

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### Little Saints Dress-up!

Last weekend we had a lovely Kidz activity honouring the Saints at both churches! Some adults joined in too! During Kidz Word, the children learnt that "Hallow" meant "Holy" and that Halloween is actually the Eve of a Holy Day. They were given a booklet that had various activities to help them learn about All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day with the session finishing off with the Litany of Saints, asking all the Holy People to pray for us. With parents' efforts, the children will definitely understand the significance.



## NOVEMBER KIDZ MASS!

FOR CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

**3RD SUNDAY DURING SCHOOL TERM  
19 NOVEMBER**

**8:30AM OLHC  
9:30AM ST GERARD'S**



**YES! It's that time of the year again!**



**Preparations for 2023 Christmas Eve Kidz Masses at both churches:** All children are invited to take part in the Christmas Eve Masses (**5pm at OLHC and 6pm at St Gerard's on Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve**). We would love your children to participate in one of the many roles available:

- Reading the Welcome at the start
- Leading the Penitential Rite
- Various roles for the Gospel Mime of the Nativity - yes they get to dress-up... too cute!!!
- Leading the Prayers
- Preparation of the Gifts and Gospel processions

**Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for signup links and rehearsal dates. Ohhhh.... it's gonna be so fun!**

**Lynn Siau - [Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au)**

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

## 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](mailto:Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au) before **10am on Wednesday 15th November 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 via a desktop, the form on our website: [bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter](https://bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/parish-newsletter)

## YOUTH MINISTRIES



**Cana (Year 6-9)** is on the **3rd and 10th November** in the parish hall. 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford-entrance via North Rocks Road.

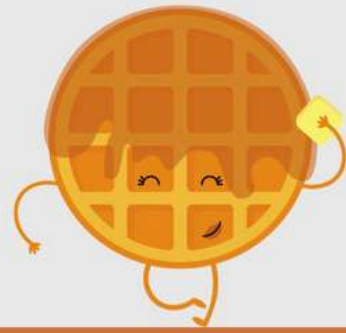


**Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds)** - Antioch will next meet on **5 and 12th November, 6-8pm** in the meeting room at St Gerard's.

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 **7th and 21st November, 7-8:30pm** in the meeting room at St Gerard's.



*Free Waffles at Antioch!  
5th Nov, 6-8pm @ St Gerard's  
to celebrate end of HSC  
Invite a friend to come along!*

For more information on any of our 3 youth groups and our youth 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](mailto:Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au)

## NEWS FROM OUR CATECHISTS



Let the little children  
& do not hinder them,  
for the KINGDOM of GOD  
belongs to such as these.  
LUKE 18:16



Photo : Jeanette Brady

On October 22 (Sunday), we celebrated our Public School Children's Mass at St Gerard Majella's Church, Carlingford. It was an occasion in which our children took part in various ministries in the Mass.

We had children making the Welcome Speech, reciting the Penitential Rites, doing the procession of the Gospel with candles, leading the Prayers of Faithful and performing the Presentation of Gifts (Bread and Wine with flowers). There was also a lovely children choir who sang hymns for the Mass and, not least of all, sang 'A Child's Prayer' unaccompanied for the congregation.

The occasion came to a close with morning tea and jumping castle after Mass where everyone enjoyed some good food, drinks and friendly chats.

We thank the children and parents for their effort in making the Children's Mass possible, the catechists for their unyielding support in the event and all people who have contributed to the celebration.

A special thank-you also to the schools: Epping Heights, Epping North, Epping Public, Epping West, Murray Farm and Roselea Public Schools for their continuous support to their Catholic SRE students.



Photo : Nina Deacon

Catechists at the Term 3 Coffee Meet-Up joined by Fr Jim and Fr Aldrin

~ more on Catechists overleaf



# WHY WE NEED CATECHISTS CATECHISTS CATECHISTS

## SOME OF THE GREAT BENEFITS OF SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

- **A POSITIVE MESSAGE** - We begin with the understanding that we were created by a loving God who calls us to fullness of life. Catholic SRE classes provide a breath of fresh air, where students are encouraged to see themselves as God sees them – inherently good, full of potential and capable of doing good in our world.
- **MORALS AND VALUES** - Encouraging children and young people to develop a relationship with Jesus is key to Catholic SRE. The lessons presented by Catholic SRE Catechists aim to help children and young people make moral choices that are life-giving for themselves and others. Through the exploration of the teachings of Jesus and by encouraging them to pray with Him, Catholic SRE aims to provide children and young people with a framework to help them make choices that recognise the value and importance of our relationship with God, others, and our world.
- **PATHWAYS TO THE SACRAMENTS** - SRE Catechists liaise with the local Catholic Parishes to ensure that students and their families are aware of the Sacramental programs being offered locally. Children attending Catholic SRE classes receive lessons that complement sacramental preparation in the parish and in their homes.

~ Taken from: the Broken Bay CCD Diocesan Office pamphlet

## cont'd from Page 3: "Other Parish News & Updates"

**50++ November Outing:** Please join us for an outing to **Watsons Bay on Monday 20th November**. Let us meet on Platform 4 at Epping Station at 10:00AM for the next train to Chatswood, then Wynyard & Circular Quay. Ferry to Watsons Bay every twenty minutes. Travel time 23 minutes. Time for lunch and a wander. Home by ferry or as an alternative, back to the City by bus. Bus 324. Through Vacluse, Rose Bay, Edgecliff, The Cross, down William Street past Hyde Park to Town Hall Station, or continue onto Wynyard Station for our train home. Bus travel time is 43 minutes. **All are welcome.** Enquiries Carole Wilson 9869 1036 or 0478 003 704.

**"Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible"**, an eight-week course has come to a successful conclusion, leaving us awestruck by the profound wisdom and love of our Creator that resides within the pages of scripture.

Over the past two months, we have embarked on an incredible journey of faith together, delving deep into the sacred text, and witnessing the unwavering love God has for His children through His Word. The pages of the Bible have unveiled the mysteries of His divine plan, guiding us on our spiritual path and deepening our connection with Him.



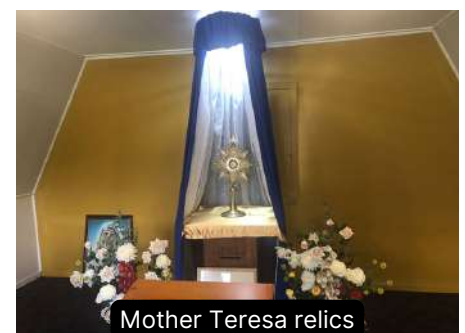
As we close this chapter, we eagerly anticipate the next opportunity to walk with God through His Word in 2024. We invite all members, both new and seasoned, to join us on this enriching journey, where we will continue to unlock the mysteries of the Bible and grow in our faith together. Stay tuned for more details, and prepare to experience the divine revelations that await in the coming year.

~ **Phil Senger, Faith Formation Team**

## Pilgrimage!

On the weekend of October 28th, Fr Aldrin led a group of about 50 parishioners on a **pilgrimage to some holy sites within our diocese**. We visited the Shrine of St John-Paul II at Gosford and the Shrine of St Faustina at Somersby. It was a blessed and fun day! Sharing photos here and the next page:

~ **Mery Auwyang, Faith Formation Team**





St Faustina relics

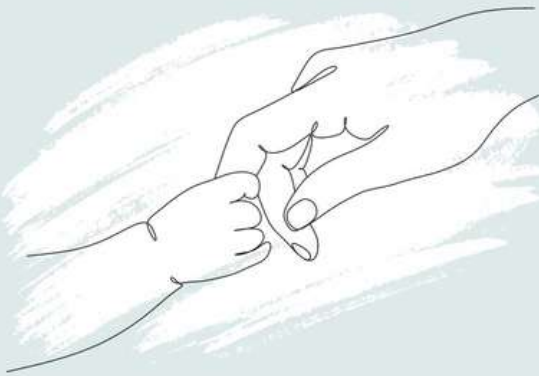


The 12th Station of the Cross

Together we remember our young people who have died

## A PARISH CELEBRATION FOR ALL SOULS SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

Remembrance Mass for Children  
Gone Before Us



Please bring a photo or a symbol of the young person you are remembering in prayer to place in the sacred space.  
Everyone is welcome.

Friday, 1 December 7pm at St Gerard's Church ♥



MACQUARIE PARK CEMETERY 11:30AM

HONOUR AND PRAY FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY.

All parishioners are welcome to gather for a brief prayer service followed by luncheon with tea/coffee and refreshments. Come, relax and enjoy each other's company in a peaceful, outdoor setting. Feel free to bring a plate to share (tea/coffee/sandwiches will be provided).

Date: Sunday November 5th

Time: 11:30 am to 2pm

Venue: David Lusby Pergola, Ascension Hill

Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium

Cnr Delhi and Plassey Roads, North Ryde



<https://nmclm.com.au/locations/macquarie-park/>

## OTHER NEWS & NOTICES

### Celebrations this Week

#### Ordinary Time Week 31

9 November Thur: **The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

10 November Fri: St Leo the Great

11 November Sat: St Martin of Tours

#### Ordinary Time Week 32

15 November Wed: *St Albert the Great*

16 November Thur: *St Margaret of Scotland, St Gertrude*

17 November Fri: St Elizabeth of Hungary

18 November Sat: *Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter & Paul*

Prepare for Advent through this women's retreat, as we spend time together listening to God's unique heart of love for each one of us.

- Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW
- Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/CFBRE>
- Contact: Berna - [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

Missionaries of God's Love  
**Sisters**

In partnership with:  
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

*El Roi:*  
*The God Who Sees Me*  
*A Retreat for Women*

**Carmel House**  
November 17-19

[trybooking.com/CFBRE](http://trybooking.com/CFBRE)

## Responsorial Psalm Response

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - 5 Nov 2023

Ps 130

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

## Gospel Acclamation

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - 5 Nov 2023

Alleluia, Alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;  
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.

### WEEKEND MASSES

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

### WEEKDAY MASSES

	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thur.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	
<b>EPPING</b>	No Mass	6:00pm	*	*	*	9:15am	
<b>CARLINGFORD</b>	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass	

**EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST:** Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm and Saturday 9:45-10:15am,

Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Epping Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm 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



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

**\*Wednesday, 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)
- Peter McArdle (brother of Pat McArdle)
- Graham Yeates
- Dennis Porteous (our retired Parish Secretary)
- Paul Grassi
- Ethan Seng Mestanza (grandson of Mario and Graciela Mestanza)

- Kevin Saul (Marie Saul's nephew)
- Maureen Carlon (Marie Saul's sister)
- Sardeeda Daniels
- Mary Chernov (sister of Trish Harrison)
- Bev and Geoff Gibbeson
- Colette Murray
- Margaret Hall
- Matthew Connors



**Thank you** for your prayers for all our brothers and sisters who are on our prayer list. They are strengthened by our united prayers for them. Our parish also has a Prayer Ministry group on Facebook. There are occasional prayer requests that come through the office via email or directly posted on this private group.

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** - David Traves, Rosario Sorbello, Dominican Trinh, Eric Yeung (brother of Goretti Yeung), Boji Kiss, John Furtado, Teresita Ortiga

**Anniversaries** - Daniel Scarfe, Maryanne, Anthony, Maureen & Hugh Mulligan

**Also for** - Sarah & Phillip Curry, Edward Mulhare

## Responsorial Psalm Response

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 12 Nov 2023

Ps 62:2-8

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

## Gospel Acclamation

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 12 Nov 2023

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:  
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.