

Diocese of Broken Bay

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon
Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueza
Aldrin.Valdehueza@bbcatholic.org.au

Our Lady Help of Christians'

31 Oxford Street, Epping

St Gerard Majella's

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

Phone

02 9876 2853

Website

eppcarl.org.au

Email

eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au

Giving

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[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



Readings

6 APRIL 2025

Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11

13 APRIL 2025

Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Luke 22:14 - 23:56



The Catholic Parish
of Epping & Carlingford



6 APRIL 2025 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

13 APRIL 2025 PASSION SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY)

YEAR C



Easter is the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus, which is the central event of human history. Join us for the three liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter at both churches:

- **Holy Thursday April 17th** **7.30pm** (no morning Mass)
- **Good Friday Stations** **10am**
- **Good Friday Passion** **3pm**
- **Easter Vigil** **7pm**

Please note that these are long and solemn services which are *important* for adults, but not so suitable for very young children. The more family-friendly service will be the Good Friday Stations at 10am at St Gerard's which will again be an outdoor procession, starting at the hall and making our way up to the church.

We also celebrate the Office of Readings and RCIA preparatory rites, a short, stark service of psalms and reflection on **Holy Saturday 10am at OLHC**. Please note there is *no 8am morning Mass at OLHC* on Holy Saturday.

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

OLHC Epping

- 8.30am
- 10.15am
- 7pm

St Gerard's Carlingford

- 7.45am
- 9.30am
- No evening Mass

We need you to get involved at Easter. We will need additional ushers, welcomers and communion ministers. Sign-up sheets will be at the back of the church this weekend.

The Hospitality Team would greatly appreciate additional volunteers to help with setting up and serving supper and refreshments at our Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday celebrations. Please contact **Alice So on 0452 372 628 (St Gerard's)** or **Felicity Macdonald on 0427 906 960 fmkm100@gmail.com** (**OLHC**) to join our team for Easter! If you are able to, please bring a plate of food to Easter Vigil Supper at OLHC.



Palms for Palm Sunday: Once again we are relying on your generosity to provide palms for the parish to use on Palm Sunday April 13th. We don't need large palms (contact the parish office directly if you have these), but smaller ones which can be cut into pieces for individual use. Please bring them to either church on **Friday 11th or Saturday 12th**.



Palm Sunday Procession: Every year we have a procession with palms and singing with our ecumenical covenant churches. We invite you to **meet at OLHC at 9.10am** for the procession which will go to Epping Uniting Church, then to St Alban's Anglican, then return to OLHC in time for the 10.15am Mass.

Working Bee

Helping hands make all the difference!

Working Bees: There's lots we need to do to get our churches looking good for Easter, both inside and out, including weeding, polishing, cleaning, cutting up palms and putting candles in their holders. Join us on **Saturday April 12th from 9am at either church.**

THE LAST WEEKS OF LENT 2025



RCIA - Celebrating the Rites during Lent with our Elect

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

- This coming weekend, 6th April, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we will be celebrating the Third Scrutiny using the Cycle A Readings at the 7pm Mass.
- Next Tuesday, 8th April at the 6pm Mass, we will be celebrating the Rite of the Presentation of the Lord's Prayer.



Over these weeks of Lent, we have been able to join with Nethra and Teruo as a community, at each of the Masses at Epping. We invite parishioners to remember Nethra and Teruo in their prayers as they come to this significant moments in their faith journey and spiritual lives, as the celebration of Easter approaches.

~Dennis Porteous



The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after the Stations of the Cross and after the Lord's Passion at both churches on Good Friday, however, from past experience expect long lines and waits of up to one hour. Instead, you might like to come to reconciliation at one of the usual times:

- 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

Or one of the extra times we're offering in Holy Week:

- Monday & Wednesday at St Gerard's following 9.30am Mass
- Thursday 9.30am in lieu of Mass



Project Compassion Boxes with your donations to support overseas aid and development through Caritas Australia can be **brought back on Palm Sunday or Holy Thursday** where they will be included in the procession of gifts. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. You can also give directly by calling 1800 024 413, or at caritas.org.au/project-compassion



Stations of the Cross

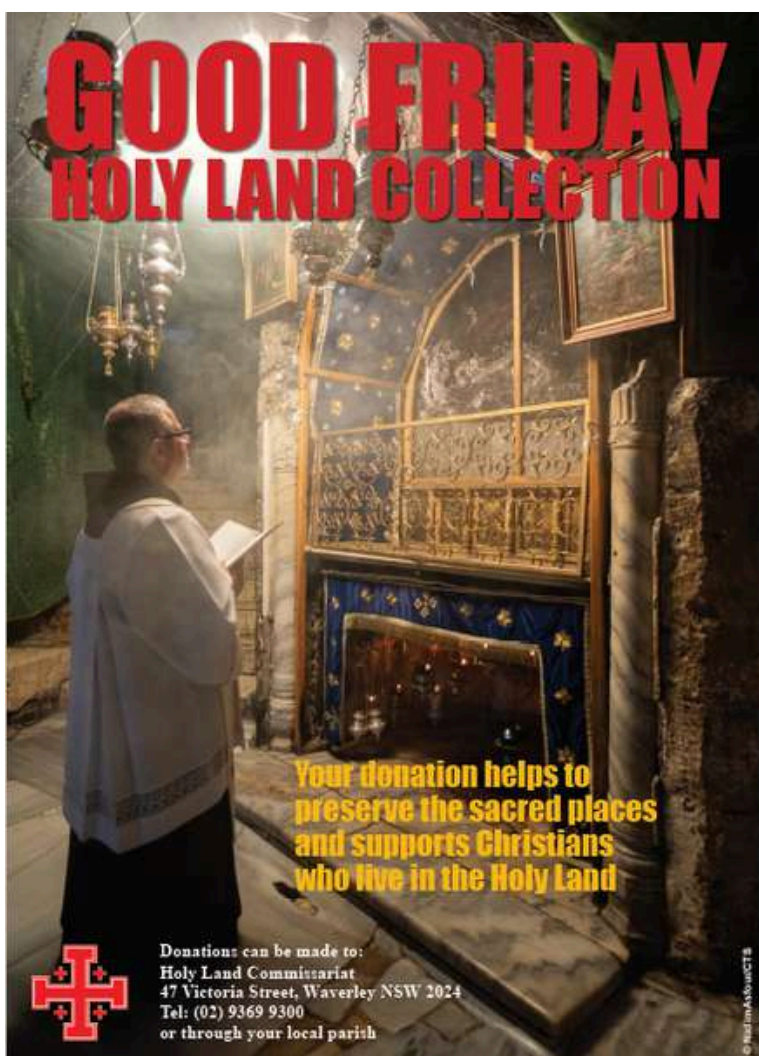
**6pm OLHC Church, Epping
7pm St Gerard's Church, Carlingford**

Last one before Good Friday:
11th April



The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at **7.30pm on Tuesday April 15th at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara**. Priests of the Diocese of Broken Bay gather for this celebration with Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitments. During Mass, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and brought back to each parish for use in various sacramental liturgies throughout the year.

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend this sacred occasion in the life of our diocese.



This Good Friday, April 18th, please support the Church in the Holy Land. Your generosity provides vital aid for health, education, housing, and employment, and helps preserve over 70 sacred sites.

Despite hardship and declining pilgrimages, the faithful endure. Last year, Australian Catholics gave nearly \$1.5 million. The need remains urgent.

Please give generously and pray for our brothers and sisters in the land of Christ's birth. Thank you, and may God bless you.

Fr. Bernie Thomas ofm

Fr Bernie Thomas ofm
Commissary of the Holy Land (Australia)



Parish Team

Parish Secretary

Marcella Letteri Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au

Business Manager

Deacon Richard Houwing Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au

Admin. Assistant

Michael Davies Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Michael.Davies@bbcatholic.org.au

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

Lynn Siau Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Holly Lawton Ph: 0404 710 588

Email: Holly.Lawton@bbcatholic.org.au

New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator - St Gerard's

Belinda Shi Ph: 0414 753 362

Email: Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au

Sacristan - OLHC

Dennis Porteous Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Dennis.Porteous@bbcatholic.org.au



Please note parish email address for general

enquiries: eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au

parish@eppcarl.org.au is now obsolete.

Updating your contact details for the Parish Office:

Please contact our Parish Secretary, Marcella Letteri, if you need to update your contact details, for eg: mobile number, email address, home address.

You can either pop in to the parish office to see Marcella in person, contact her using details above.

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

Positions Vacant - could this be you?

Position Vacant #1 New Parishioner Engagement

Coordinator: Our Parish is seeking a Pastoral Support Worker to help create a welcoming and engaged parish community. This role involves supporting new parishioners, leading playgroup, assisting with baptisms and hospitality, and fostering connections within the parish.

A current Working With Children Check (WWCC) and National Police History Check (NPHC) are required. This is a part-time role 10 hours per week with some flexible hours.

Position Vacant #2 General Hands:

With outside groups now wanting to hire the new OLHC hall there will be need for people to set up and pack down tables and chairs, operate the AV, and assist visiting groups in other ways. We're looking to employ people as casuals who can be available from time to time for short shifts with flexible hours. Physical strength will be needed for this role, which will usually be done in pairs.

For more details or to apply, please contact Fr Jim at Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au by April 16th.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



FIRST RECONCILIATION 2025

Congratulations to the following children who have completed their preparation sessions for First Reconciliation: Marley Akindoyin, Oliver Bennett, Arisa Castalone, Alicia Chan, Charlotte Choi, Adaline Cooksey, Emilia Corral Urzua, Liam D'Amore, Olivia Dargan, Charlotte Diep, Samantha D'Silva, Isabel D'Silva, Alexander Egan, Lyann Fernandes, Nathaniel Guild, Elizabeth Hannaford, Chevalier Hyun, Chavella Hyun, Charlotte Jones, Zayn Kat, Hayden Keenan, Natalie Kim, James Kozanic, Lucas Le, Yunseo Lee, Ethan Leung, Anton Manuel, Hugo McNicholas, Tiffany Blair Melgar, Christy Narag, Bethany O'Neill, Jonah Rhee, Benjamin Caleb Rondilla, Cid Ruiz, Joshua Saba, Xavier Saez, Christopher Samyia, Anya Singham, Vivienne Snow, Audrey Steele, Harry Stevens, Christian Strumendo, Jamie Strumendo, Ethan Strumendo, Grace Stutchbury, Mason Texier, Riley Tilao, Callum Truong, Skye Tsang, Giuliana Vella, Lucas Walsh, Zoe Wang, Seth Watson, Ari White, Christopher Wong and Imogen Woodham.

Kidz Word: Last session for Term 1 is on the 6th April. We will resume in Term 2, Sunday 4th May at the 9:30am Mass (St Gerard's) and the 10:15am Mass (OLHC).

Lynn Siau - Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Sacramental Programme & Parish Communications
Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au or phone 9876 2853



FIRST EUCHARIST 2025

Enrolment for First Eucharist will commence this coming week and close on Saturday 26th 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. 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.



Come and join us! Morning tea will be provided by our Hospitality Team at both churches. All are welcome!

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 15th April 2025**. *Kindly understand I am unable to accommodate late submissions.* Please send in a Word document. Photos or graphics are acceptable in PNG or JPEG format. Do note that PDFs will have to be reformatted and the clarity of your notice will be compromised. Remember to provide an email address, a contact name and number in your article. Thank you.

deadline

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 MINISTRY ENQUIRIES

Hi! I'm Holly the new Youth Minister for the Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford. In our Parish we have three wonderful Youth Groups for those aged 12 - 30 Years old...

- Cana (Students in year 7 - 9)**
- Antioch (Year 10 - 23 Years Old)**
- Emmaus (23 - 30 Years Old)**

Our Youth Groups participate in various weekly/fortnightly activities designed to grow our relationship with Jesus, and with each other.

If you or your child is interested in learning more about the amazing Youth Initiatives in our Parish I would love to hear from you. Please find my contact details below.

0404 710 588
holly.lawton@bbcatholic.org.au
 or contact me via the QR code



Emmaus Young Adults (23 – 30 Years Old) meet fortnightly on a **Thursday** from **6:30pm – 8:30pm** at the Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Epping. Please note that while we will have **no meeting on Holy Thursday 17th April**, we will otherwise be meeting regularly. For enquiries, please contact Holly Lawton, Youth Minister on 0404 710 588.



Cana Youth Group for students in **Yr 7 – Yr 9** will be back on from next term. Please keep an eye out for the next edition of the bulletin for the dates. Please note, there will be **no Cana on Good Friday 18th April**.

Antioch Youth Group (Yr 10's – 23 Years Old) continues to meet weekly on **Sundays** from **6:00pm – 8:00pm** in the Parish Meeting Room at St Gerards. We would love for you to join us for our upcoming **games night on Sunday 13th April**. Please note, there will be **no Antioch meeting on Easter Sunday 20th April or Mothers day Sunday 4th May**.

CLOTHING DRIVE



The **St Vincent de Paul Society** of Carlingford / Epping will conduct a clothing drive on **Saturday 3rd May 2025**. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the recycling of good used clothing. Your contribution will assist those people who the local Society visit weekly.

Please collect bags and print your name and address in the book on the table which will be outside the church for the Masses on the weekend of April 26 & 27. Goods will be picked up from your home from 8:30am on Saturday 3rd May.

If you can assist on May 3, by helping to pick up the clothes, please call Pat on 0417 219 234. Please diarise this request and **thank you** for your ongoing support of this important initiative.

Foundations of Community Organising Training: Last year several people from our parish have taken part in this course run by the Sydney Alliance of which we are a member. It's a way of learning skills for analysing society, building relationships across diverse groups and discovering how to use our voice to speak to elected leaders.



This time we're hosting it at **OLHC Parish Centre on Saturday May 24th and Saturday May 31st**. We have access to this course for free (usually \$250) through our membership of the Sydney Alliance and these are valuable skills for anyone who wants to see the Church make a difference in the world and to help bring about a just and fair society which is part of the Kingdom of God. Register at <https://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/foundations-training> and let Fr Jim know too.



Our Parish responded to the request last month from Jesuit Refugee Service, Parramatta, (JRS) for basic food items to resupply their 'foodbank' shelves. Their inventory of these everyday essentials was at a critically low level. JRS was concerned they would not be able to support the 120 families who rely on them each fortnight.

THANKS to your generous response and also other parish, schools and community groups, the cupboards are looking healthy for the present. The photo on the left shows your donations together with others.



CATECHIST NEWS

SRE Catechists Volunteers authorised by the local parish to teach SRE in public schools. They come from all walks of life - young parents, retirees, university students, professional and trades people.

Why I Became a Catechist: My name is Catherine Donohue, and I am currently in my third year of studying Psychology at Macquarie University. For the past four years, I have worked part-time as an OSHC educator. I am very passionate about working with children, which prompted me to become a Catechist.

I love that SRE classes are centred around giving children the tools to build a personal relationship with God by deepening their faith alongside their peers. I started volunteering at the beginning of Term 3 last year after a friend from my university's Catholic society told me about her experience as a Catechist at Our Lady Help of Christians in Epping.

Now, I look forward each week to my Friday SRE class with Years 3 and 4. Not only do I get to share my faith, but I also witness the children's growing faith and inquisitive nature - an unexpected blessing that allows me to learn from them as well.



~Catherine Donohue

Congratulations on your Baptism



Baby Alexander with his family



Baby Ellie Rey with her family



May this blessed sacrament mark the beginning of a fulfilling spiritual journey.



Photo shows (left to right) Rev Sunny Lee (Epping Uniting), Fr Jim, Rev Phil Lui (Anglican Parish of Epping), Rev 'Oto Faiva (West Epping Uniting) leading the Ecumenical Service last week at Epping Uniting Church. As brothers and sisters in Christ we prayed, sang and praised our One God together. This was followed by bowl of delicious soup in warm fellowship. We are planning to hold our next Ecumenical Service at OLHC in June (details to follow).



Date: Sunday. 27th April
Venue: OLHC Epping
Time: 3:00 - 4:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE



Adult Confirmation: If you're an adult who is baptized but missed your other sacraments, Bishop Anthony will be offering Confirmation for adults on June 8th 9.30am at OLOR Cathedral Waitara. Preparation begins after Easter. Contact Fr Jim.

THE WILD GOOSE SERIES RETURNS



Mark your calendar and plan to join us for the Wild Goose Series with Fr Dave Pivonka in preparation to celebrate Pentecost

When: Every Wednesday morning from 30th April - 11th June 2025 at 10.15am

Where: St Gerard's Meeting Room.

The Wild Goose Series: "Wild Goose" was a term that the ancient Celts had for the Holy Spirit. This year we are presenting the final 7 of the 14 videos in the series on Wednesday mornings as a way of preparing for and celebrating Pentecost. This series invites viewers into an encounter, or a renewed encounter, with the Holy Spirit. The Wild Goose series will help you experience a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit.

If you are looking for something to lift your spirits – then this series is for you!

To join us please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church or contact the Parish Office.

Gospel of John: Did you miss out on joining our Whatsapp group to read the Gospel of John? Are you wanting to start but feel that it's too late? It's never too late! The same daily reflections are posted on our Facebook group here:

www.facebook.com/groups/1148887152176778



Come & see!

OTHER NOTICES & EVENTS

Celebrations this Fortnight

Lent Week 5

7 April Mon: *St John Baptist de la Salle (commemoration)*

11 April Fri: *St Stanislaus (commemoration)*

Holy Week - 13 to 19 April

Slavery Free Easter Chocolate

"Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral - and not simply an economic - act." — Pope Francis



SCAN ME

5th Sunday of Lent – 6 Apr 2025

Ps 125 Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.

WEEKEND MASSES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

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

Carlingford Thursday 10-10:30am

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

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

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: BY APPOINTMENT

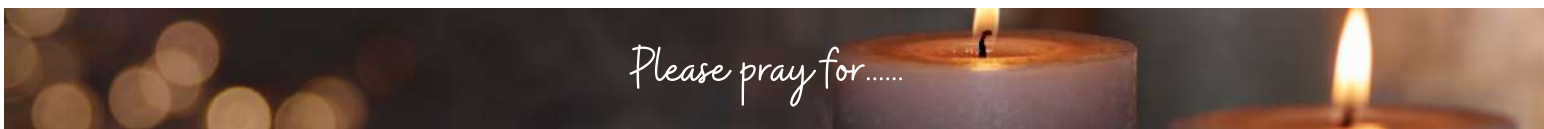
POSTAL ADDRESS FOR THE PARISH OFFICE: PO Box 369, Epping NSW 1710

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

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



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



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

- Sr Rosalie Carlon
- Guy Chan
- Lillian Chan
- Anita Hoffman

- Louis Yeung (Goretti's brother)
- Elaine Finlayson
- Marites Valdehueza (Fr Aldrin's mother)
- Graham Kelly
- Stephen Last



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 - Elizabeth Barton, Joan Magee, Sr Bernadette O'Sullivan RSJ, Josie Cross

Funeral for Josie Cross 10.15am Wed 9th April Macquarie Park Chapels.

Anniversaries & Remembrance - Cedric Fernandes, Patrick Murphy, Tan Chai Seng, Maureen Vierboom, George Michael Khattar, Carolina De Leon, Theresa Thung, Masila Xavier

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 13 Apr 2025

Psalm 22.7-8, 16-17, 18-19, 22-23 (R.1) Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.