

Diocese of Broken Bay

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Vincent Trung Nguyen
Vincent.Nguyen@bbcatholic.org.au



The Catholic Parish
of Epping & Carlingford



Our Lady Help of Christians'

31 Oxford Street, Epping

St Gerard Majella's

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

Phone

02 9876 2853

Website

bbcatholic.org.au/eppingcarlingford

Email

parish@eppcarl.org.au

Click here for:

[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



Readings

6 MARCH 2022
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

13 MARCH 2022
Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 9:28-36

YEAR C

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

From Fr Jim - homilies: Fr Vincent and I won't be giving homilies at Mass on March 13th to make time for us to do the National Church Life Survey. But that week's scriptures on the Transfiguration is a message I really love preaching on, so I'll record a homily and put it on my YouTube channel instead www.youtube.com/channel/UCLpbDNqP8u1Wx4Gm08jJyDA. If you do watch it, feel free to like, comment and subscribe, all of which help increase the video's visibility to others. ~ Fr Jim



Lent is the 40-day season of preparation for the Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday). The word "Lent" comes from the same root as the Anglo-Saxon word "lengthen". It was a word for springtime when the daytime lengthens rapidly. So, while we are experiencing a meteorological autumn, Lent is the Church's

springtime. We are invited to take up practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving during this season. You might like to:

- Spend time in quiet adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at OLHC on Mondays 6-7pm, or St Gerard's at the new time of Fridays from 6-7pm. Reconciliation is available during these times.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross, either on your own, or together with us at OLHC on Friday nights at 7pm.
- Join with our local Christian Churches each Tuesday night at 7.45pm for our ecumenical liturgies. The first will be at St Alban's Anglican on Tuesday March 8th.
- Support Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, with this year's theme being For All Future Generations. You can pick up a money box or a set of donation envelopes from the back of the church or go direct to lent.caritas.org.au

Lenten groups: This week 88 people in 11 small groups are gathering to begin this year's Lenten Program called Remember. Together these groups will read the scriptures which we will proclaim at the coming Sunday Mass, reflect on how they will apply these scriptures to our lives, and pray together.

Toilets at OLHC: New temporary toilets have been installed at OLHC in front of the old presbytery for our use. There will be some improvements in terms of access, lighting and landscaping in the coming weeks, but these are now operational, with separate male and female designated toilets. There is no designated disabled toilet as the contract required toilets equivalent to what we had previously, which also didn't include disabled access, however, we hope that their convenient location and the ramps to them will make them easier for people with limited mobility than before. The toilets will be unlocked for Masses, but may be locked at other times for security given their street frontage.

Do you require anointing or Communion at home?

CONGRATULATIONS

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

Pictured here to the right: Fr Jim and Fr Vincent visiting Gordon and Margaret Floyd who recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary.



The National Church Life Survey: Have you grown in your faith in the last year? Is the preaching at your church helpful to your life? Are you as involved in your church as you would like to be? Do you believe that Christians should be concerned about the environment? Does your parish have clear goals? These are the kinds of questions which the National Church Life Survey will ask us on **Sunday March 13th** when we, along with other churches across Australia take part in this survey. It provides valuable data for understanding how people who attend churches think and feel, and what they believe.

Your survey is **confidential**, and we really want to hear from everyone. This survey is usually taken in the middle of Mass, however we will shorten Mass with no homily or final hymn, and then invite you to complete the survey before you leave the church. This will allow you to take as much or as little time as you need. There will also be a simplified children's survey for children aged 8-14, as we want to hear from them too.

If you are looking for the option of completing the survey online instead, you can do so by going to www.ncls.org.au and using the church code TA229401 for St Gerard's and TA229402 for OLHC.

We will receive the results for our parish, along with a comparison to ourselves in 2016, and a comparison with the diocesan averages. This will help us in planning how best to serve you in the future. Thank you for taking the time to complete this.



The World Day of Prayer is an annual ecumenical gathering which takes place in churches around the world on Friday March 4th at 10am. This year's hosts are Epping Baptist Church, Cnr Carlingford Rd and Ray Rd. Contact Lorraine Lobsey 9872 4005 or robaine2@bigpond.com to find out more.

Ecumenical Prayer: Our parish has a wonderful tradition of praying with our local Christian churches with whom we have a covenant relationship. Each are on Tuesday nights at 7.45pm:

- March 8th at St Alban's Anglican 3 Pembroke St Epping - Preacher: Rev Greg Woolnough (Epping Uniting)
- March 15th at Our Lady Help of Christians Epping - Preacher: Bishop Ross Nicholson (St Alban's Epping)
- March 22nd at West Epping Uniting Church Cnr Carlingford Road and Orchard Street Epping - Preacher: Rev Paul Weaver (St Alban's Epping)
- March 29th at Epping Uniting Church Cnr Oxford Street and Chester Street Epping - Preacher: Pastor Lyn Graham (West Epping Uniting Church)

BEST WISHES!

Farewell to Jeremy and Sharon Bowen who are moving to the Blue Mountains after 20+ years in our parish. Join us in farewelling them with morning tea after 7.45am Mass on March 12th.

Wishing you all the best! We will miss you!

Youth-led Mass: We've been pleased to launch our new Sunday night 5pm Mass at St Gerard's. It's a parish Mass to which everyone is welcome, but focused on and with ministries led by our teenagers and twenty-somethings. We host a BBQ after Mass. Our existing youth groups of Cana, Antioch and Emmaus are taking the lead, but we also welcome everyone in that age bracket to come and get involved in the ministries of music, hospitality, proclaiming the Word, serving at the altar and sharing Communion. If you'd like to get involved contact youth minister Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au or Fr Jim on 9876 2853 Jim.Mckean@bbcatholic.org.au

Thank-you and welcome to Candy, Carol, Elena, Geetha, Jeanette, Mary, Narelle, Susan and Teresa to the Greeter ministry at OLHC.



Vinnies Flood Appeal: Vinnies changes lives everyday and are providing disaster relief and recovery efforts for our fellow Aussies affected by the flood. Please show your support and give - www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/Flood_appeal/

Parish Leadership Day

Last weekend members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee spent a morning with Fr Jim, Fr Vincent and parish staff to discern some priority areas for our parish this coming year. We re-affirmed that discipleship of Jesus is our focus, and that each member of the parish is invited to live out their discipleship in 5 ways:

- **Connect** to other members of the Body of Christ in fellowship
- **Grow** in faith by doing at least one faith development or spirituality program each year
- **Worship** God in personal prayer and shared liturgy and sacraments
- **Give** in accord with each person's means
- **Serve** in one ministry which makes use of each person's gifts and capacities.

Parish Finance Committee chair Mario Rodrigues outlined the parish financial position. An increase in people giving electronically has allowed the parish to ride out the lockdowns remarkably well. He outlined a plan to make use of money, when it is received from the Epping development, to catch up on a backlog of maintenance and improvements to our churches and buildings, and to invest to produce an income which will support pastoral ministry for the coming years.

Fr Jim proposed that when the income is available that we look to employ an additional staff member to lead a priority area of pastoral mission.

Pastoral Council chair Paddy Watts outlined the progress made in the 2020-2025 pastoral plan so far, including the launch of the new youth Mass, and noted that a gap exists, exacerbated by covid, in reaching out to young families. A new challenge is how to sustain community life at OLHC whilst the building works take place. The Pastoral Council will work to further discern how to respond to these and other needs.

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

Missionary Discipleship Coordinator:

Denis McNamara Ph: 0410 041 944

Email: Dennis.McNamara@bbcatholic.org.au

Bookkeeper:

Karen Price Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Karen.Price@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council:

If you have any questions, comments or feedback for the Parish Pastoral Council then please send an email to ppcsecretary@eppcarl.org.au



For the past 2 weeks, the children and their parents have been attending the preparation sessions online. Candidates are required to attend one session each with their parent over 4 weeks for preparation of this sacrament. The four sessions are on:

- God's Love
- Choices
- Forgiveness
- My First Reconciliation

Our third session this week on Forgiveness offers the children some simple steps they can take to make peace with their family and friends. Firstly, by being honest and owning up to the unloving words and actions that were said and done (Confession), then the importance of recognising the need to seek forgiveness (Act of Contrition) and lastly to do something to show that person and God they want to make peace (Penance).

We lightly touch on helping them understand why we are sometimes unable to say sorry immediately and that forgiveness can sometimes take time. We then link this to the stories we have read on The Prodigal Son, The Lost Sheep and also to this week's Gospel reading on Zacchaeus, the Tax Collector. All these readings are reminders to the children of God's everlasting love for us, always forgiving and through prayer we learn to love others so as to return God's love, for He created us all and loves us all equally.

The preparation sessions will conclude on the 16th March.

we always love hearing from you! If you would like to learn more about our children's ministries, please feel free to contact Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au or ring the parish office at 9876 2853.

interested in being I'M A CATECHIST

We are much in need of experienced and new catechists in both primary and secondary schools to join the ministry to continue with the mission of taking the Gospel to the children. If you are interested to become a catechist or to obtain more information regarding this ministry, please contact Fr Jim at Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au for Secondary Public Schools or Katherine Tam at katherine@eppcarl.org.au for Primary Public Schools or call the Parish Office during office hours at 9876 2853.

FROM LYNN'S DESK

SAVE THE DATE: 20TH MARCH

FAMILY/CHILDREN'S MASS

ST GERARD'S - 9:30AM

OLHC - 10:15AM



Family/Children's Masses are now on the third Sunday of every month during school term at both OLHC and St Gerard's. We are always delighted to allocate roles to the children! They can read or participate in processions. Roles allocated will depend on the number of children participating at that Mass. If you are keen on having your child/children provide these ministries, please contact:

Therese for OLHC - olhcchildrensmass@gmail.com

Lynn for St Gerard's - Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

Children's Liturgy AKA Kidz Word is now only available at St Gerard's every Sunday at the 9:30am Mass during school term.

As Epping undergoes redevelopment, we are regrettably unable to provide Kidz Word at OLHC due to the lack of a suitable room. Instead, we are currently exploring other ways at the 10:15am Mass we can engage the children. Please stay tuned as Fr Jim continues to meet with the team to discuss a range of ideas.

Primary Schools

- Epping Public School (Tuesday: 9:20am, 9:50am)
- Epping North Public School (Thursday: 2:10pm, 2:40pm)
- Epping West Public School (Tuesday: 11:40am, 12:10, 12:40pm)
- Epping Heights Public School (Friday: 9:10am)
- Murray Farm Public School (Tuesday: 9:00am, 9:40, 10:20am)
- Roselea Public School (Wednesday: 11:30am, 12:00, 12:30pm)

Secondary Schools

- Carlingford High School (Wednesday, Friday, am)
- Cheltenham Grils School (Thursday, am)
- James Ruse Agricultural High School (Wednesday, pm)

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Cana (Year 6-9) - Join us for Cana on Friday 4th March and 11th March 7:30-9pm at St Gerard's Parish Hall!
543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford - entrance via North Rocks Road.

Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Join Antioch for the Youth Mass on Sundays 5pm and free BBQ.

Meeting after 6th and 13th March 6-8pm at St Gerard's meeting room.

Contact the parent support if you have any questions: Kirk Koelmeyer (0420874824) or Louise Koelmeyer (0404496554).



Antioch Maccas Run



Click or tap on the social media icons to connect with us:



Emmaus Community Night



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds) - Our young adults group meets once a fortnight on Tuesdays 7-8:30pm.

Emmaus will be running a Lenten group during Lent and will meet weekly (instead of fortnightly) on Tuesdays from the 8th March- 12th April 7-8:30pm, free snacks provided.

For more information on any of our three youth groups including joining our youth Facebook groups for Antioch and Emmaus, please contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au



WN BULL
FUNERALS

Leaders in Personal Service

www.wnbull.com.au

wnbull@wnbull.com

9519 5344

An Australian owned company



Awesome service. Amazing results.

Betty Ockerlander

bettyockerlander@mcgrath.com.au

0408 505 080

McGrath

THIS FORTNIGHT'S FEATURE: THANK-YOU TO MAREE BALZULAT & OUR CATECHISTS

Maree's farewell: At the vigil Mass at OLHC last week, and again at the Monday Mass at St Gerard's we gave thanks for Maree Balzulat's 18 years of dedicated ministry as assistant parish secretary and pastoral worker. Fr Peter Dowd also came to honour Maree's service. Helen Barry gave a touching tribute on behalf of the parish, and Maree responded with a gracious reflection on her time in the parish office. She reflected on some highlights, including the outdoor Mass and picnic for the amalgamation of the parish in 2007, and the celebrations for the centenary of OLHC in 2016. She also said, "Times change, but people don't" – an oft repeated saying. In a similar sense, the Spirit of the Catholic Community continues to maintain a place of worship and an education facility in Epping.

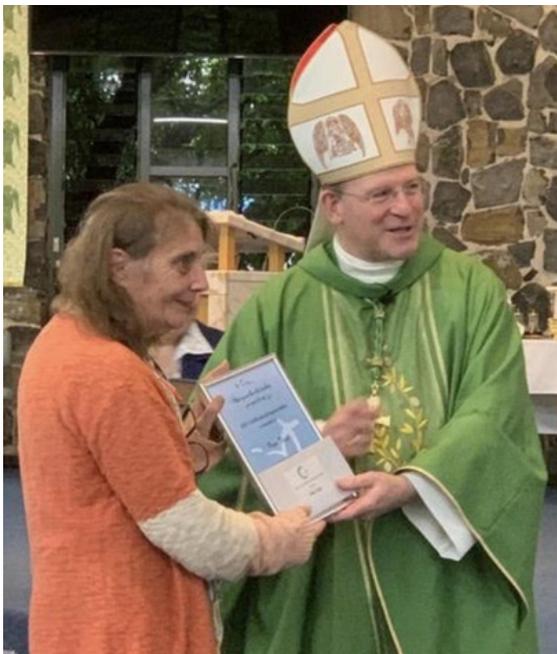
I would like to thank everyone for their friendship, help and kindness offered over the years. I wish everyone well."

~Maree Balzulat, OLHC Church, Feb 26th 2022

Of course, Maree is still a parishioner and will still no doubt be very involved in liturgies at OLHC, but we will certainly miss her in the parish office. Pictured here is Maree with Helen Barry and long time OLHC parishioner Cyril Tumminello, and Maree receiving a blessing from Fr Jim and Fr Peter.



Congratulations to our Catechists who received their Service Awards at the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) 2021 Annual Mass held on February 26, 2022 at Our Lady of Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Memorable photographs were taken (From Left) Pam Tapp receiving her 30 years Certificate from Bishop Anthony. Max Lucas (25 years), Cliff Brennan (15 years) and Mary O'Byrne (30 years) took a photo with the Bishop after the Mass.



OTHER GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

Celebrations this Week

Lent Week 1

7 Mar. Monday: Memoria Sts Perpetua and Felicity

8 Mar. Tuesday: Memoria St John of God

9 Mar. Wednesday: Memoria St Frances of Rome

Lent Week 2

17 Mar. Thursday: St Patrick (NZ: Feast)

18 Mar. Friday: Memoria St Cyril of Jerusalem

19 Mar. Saturday: St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reflection on next Sunday's Scriptures

A reminder that our weekly time of reflection on the coming Sunday's Scriptures will take place each **Friday**, at Carlingford and will commence immediately following the 9:30am Mass, in the Parish Meeting Room. All welcome!

Admitted to Hospital

A reminder that if you are admitted to hospital, please try to ensure that you write down your religion as Catholic on the admission form, so that you can receive Catholic services during your stay.

After Hours Sick Calls - 9876 2853

Outside office hours our office phones divert to Fr Jim and Fr Vincent. In the event that they are unavailable, please listen carefully to the instructions in the message recorded for you or ring the number given in the message.



Caritas Ukraine Appeal:

Caritas Ukraine and its local partner, Caritas Spes, are currently supporting internally displaced people with food, clothing and psychological support. You can help the Caritas Ukraine staff on the ground to provide families with emergency food, water, shelter and hygiene support.

Please visit the website or scan the QR code on the left to help: www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/



"PUT THE FAMILY
IN THE HANDS
OF THE FATHER."

Welcome to the Men of St Joseph

The group is dedicated to Catholic men, who together spend time to pray and to discuss how Catholic men live in today's world, discuss and support Catholic family issues and choices we make.

You are most welcome to join us on Every Thursday in the parish meeting room, Carlingford at 6:30pm

Dads' Club

The monthly gathering of the parish Dads' Club (for all dads in both the Epping and Carlingford communities of the parish) takes place the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm. For details contact John Williams 0416 064 460. Dads are welcome for a relaxing and enjoyable evening!

A group of people from local churches meets together 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 10th March

Contact Katrina Collins for zoom details ckjsge@gmail.com or 0400 488 459



Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come and join us on April 22-24, at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

POSITION
VACANT

NURSING APPOINTMENT

Arrupe House Pymble is a small community of retired Jesuits, priests and brothers. An experienced registered nurse is required to work with a small team of nurses. This position is on a permanent part-time or casual basis with AM duties. Please email your CV to Drupathi :

Email: arrupehouse@sjasl.org.au

Responsorial Psalm Response

1st Sunday of Lent
Ps 90:1-2, 10-15. R. v. 15

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Gospel Acclamation

1st Sunday of Lent
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word
that comes from the mouth of God.

ONLINE SEMINAR WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH, 7.30 - 8.30pm



LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

WITH DR SANDIE CORNISH FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS
OFFICE FOR JUSTICE ECOLOGY & PEACE

Dr Sandie Cornish partnered with the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in launching the Laudato Si' Action Platform. The Platform seeks to empower the universal Church to achieve total sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology.

HEARING BOTH, THE CRY OF THE EARTH AND THE CRY OF THE POOR LS 49

Zaki Haidari fled Afghanistan to escape being killed by the Taliban. He knows first hand the plight of refugees in Australia who remain on temporary protection visas. Zaki works with Jesuit Refugee Services. The first two goals of a *Laudato Si'* Action Plan are The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>



REGISTRATION

gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au

Zoom link by return email

Please pray for.....

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

Recently deceased: Jim Lynch, Edith Shannon, Jose Jnr Dante, Stephen Toth, Nancy Mary Keogh, Ruth Barker, Mary Anne, Anthony Hugh, Maureen & Sarah Mulligan, Josef Strumberger, Tony Scott, Juris Limyu Laranang, Fortunato Malfertria

Anniversaries: Wendy Slattery, Sarah & Phillip Curry, Edward Mulhare

Also for: Henry Leigh

Please pray for those who are sick: Sean Huhse, Joel Steinberg, Patricia Rumble, Dean Pan, John Davies, Nicole Greenfield, Michael Furlong, Saulius Dovydas Balsys, Mark Di Palma, Andrew Hannam, Fr Mick Court, Margaret Maher, Anna & Leo Bruzze, Gerhard, Stieger, Rebecca Lawler, Ben Thornton, Elaine Finlayson, Brian Walsh, Patricia O'Connor, Kathy Noonan, Dorothy Bonaccorso, Margaret Floyd, Barbara Madafiglio, Radhi Riley, Patrick Thornton, Jan Doherty, Ana Matijasic, Benjamin Verco, Peter Kelly, John Goodwin, George Bell, Michael & Susan Tuite, Noelene Viset, Eileen Brownlow, Leonie Hale, Elaine & Graham Yeates, Anne Kilby, Cohen Hadden, Yuqin Li, Paul Kelly, David Wakeling, Greg Walsh, John Gilberti, Catherine Walsh, Brendan Stone, Melanie Loudoun, Mary Wijewardana, Elaine Hunt, Maureen Carlon, Augustine Hong, Luba Charlton, George Khouri, Antony Hogan, Ingrid Connor, Steve Toth, Martin & Gay Flood, William Jones, Nicholas Rajanayagen, Maria Lee, Patricia Muschalik, Sr Abanasia Lee, Maria Belisario, Stella Edwards, Fara Vargas, Theo Stevens, Monica Weeden, Thomas Woodward, Wai Chun Wong, Heather Stoodley, Alex Benjamin Zaragoza, Janice Lemon, Mary Lou Petony, Donald Wong, Joyce Heidke, Dennis Porteous, Tony McEneaney, John Mullens

Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the family.

COMMUNICATIONS

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, 16 March 2022.

Articles can have pictures and texts. Please also provide an email address and a contact name and number. Thank you.

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

Responsorial Psalm Response

2nd Sunday of Lent
Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14. R. v. 1

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

2nd Sunday of Lent
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is
heard; this is my beloved Son, hear him.