# **Diocese of Broken Bay**

31 Oxford Street, Epping

**St Gerard Majella's** 

**Phone** 

Website

Email

**Click here for:** 

Weekend Mass Times

Weekday Mass Times

02 9876 2853

eppcarl.org.au

parish@eppcarl.org.au

<u>Single Donation</u>

Parish Priest: Fr Jim McKeon <u> Jim.McKeon@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

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

543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford

**Our Lady Help of Christians'** 8 OCTOBER 2023 TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

> There are lots happening in the parish in the upcoming weeks!

- Oct 8th we are praying for students who are about to commence their HSC exams.
- Commentary Mass 7pm at St Gerard's.
- · Oct 15th we invite families to bring their children for a Baptism Renewal Blessing at St Gerard's.
- Oct 16th is the Feast Day of St Gerard's! We'll celebrate at the 9.30am Mass on the day, and also at Masses on the weekend of Oct 15th.
- Oct 22nd we are inviting children who attend Catholic Scripture in our six local state schools to take part in a special SRE Mass at 9:30am.
- Oct 29th (9:30am & 10:15am) we're celebrating All Saints as an alternative to Halloween with special "dress as your favourite saint" events at both churches. And so much more!

Details about the above can be found within this bulletin.

### November celebrations

All Saints Day is Wednesday November 1st. We'll celebrate this with:

- a vigil Mass on Tuesday Oct 31st at 6pm at OLHC,
- morning Mass on Wednesday Nov 1st at 9:30am at St Gerard's.

All Souls Day on Thursday Nov 2nd begins our month of remembering those who have died. We will have Masses at St Gerard's at 9:30am and at OLHC at 7pm. You may like to bring a photo to place in front of the altar to represent the person you love. There will also be Mass at North Rocks Catholic Cemetery at 4pm followed by the blessing of graves.

On Sunday November 5th our parish will have a liturgy at Macquarie Park Cemetery at the Ascension Hill gazebo from 11.30am followed by a shared lunch together. This will be an opportunity to pray at the grave of people we love who have died, and to find support in one another.

Book of Remembrance: The book of remembrance will be placed on or near the altar for each Mass during November. It is at the back of the church for you to add the names of people you love who have died.

> 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 Nov 24th, 7:30pm at St Leonard's Church, Naremburn. We are considering taking a bus across to the ordination to save everyone having to drive. If you're interested in *a seat on the bus* for a small cost (\$20 for adults and \$10 for children) please put your name on the list at the back of the church before Oct 23rd.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** 



**8 OCTOBER 2023** Isaiah 5:1-7 Philippians 4:6-9 Matthew 21:33-43

**15 OCTOBER 2023** Isaiah 25:6-10 Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 Matthew 22:1-10

# 15 OCTOBER 2023 TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**The Catholic Parish** 

of Epping & Carlingford

- Oct 10th we invite you to join Fr Jim for a







#### **OLHC NEWS & UPDATES**

Weekday Mass at OLHC continues to be difficult with construction noise. Construction is now going past 5pm, making our Wednesday evening 5pm Mass quite noisy. There seems to be agreement that moving Mass later to 6pm might make it accessible for more people as well as avoiding the noise. We'll also take this opportunity to *move Mass and adoration to Tuesdays*, so that there is now a Mass on Tuesdays which we've not had all year. So *starting Tuesday October 17th we'll have Adoration and Reconciliation available from 5pm followed by Mass at 6pm every Tuesday night*, in place of Wednesday nights.

**Junior Altar Servers at OLHC:** OLHC has some dedicated young people who are junior altar servers. The problem is, they are growing up and some are now adult servers! 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 OLHC (a separate invitation for St Gerard's will come later). There will be two training sessions each lasting 45 min – 1 hour:



• Session 2 on Sat Nov 11th at 4pm or Sunday Nov 19th at 11:15am.

Training will be done by senior servers James Boswell, Maree Balzulat and Sonia Cuan and Fr Jim. Please contact **Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au** in the parish office or take a Permission & Information form from the back of the church.



**Flowers in November:** We grateful to Maria Martelli and her family who continue to donate the flowers which grace the altar each week at St Gerard's. During November we might remember in prayer Maria's husband Frank when we see the beautiful flowers. *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.

**Serena Kozanic** has resigned from her position of New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator for OLHC. Serena will continue to be a parishioner at OLHC and continue to contribute to the music ministry.

I don't intend to replace her as New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator. It has been a difficult role given the smaller numbers of baptisms at OLHC and lack of facilities to offer events such as playgroups. Belinda Shi will now coordinate and respond to all baptism enquiries.

I'm grateful to Serena for her service in pioneering a new role. Serena made part of her role to mentor young musicians at OLHC. We can see the fruit of this continuing as these young people continue to assist with music ministry at Mass.

~ Fr Jim

#### **OTHER PARISH NEWS & UPDATES**

**Retreat Day** for Altar Servers and Communion Ministers: An initiative of the Parish Pastoral Council this year was to provide ongoing formation for people doing liturgical ministries. After very enjoyable retreat days for our Music Ministers and Ministers of the Word, our next retreat and formation day will be for Senior Altar Servers and for Ministers of the Word on **Saturday November 18th at St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia.** Invitations are available in the sacristy of each church. Planning is underway for retreats next year for those who serve in ministries of hospitality and other ministries.



- 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.

**Cypress removal:** A little while back a qualified independent arborist inspected all the trees in our precinct and identified several trees that presented a risk. One of these was the large Cypressus Torulosa (Italian Cypress) and it needed to be removed as it has shifted in the ground in recent storms. This species do fail often in such circumstances and the arborist had doubts whether the tree's root system could continue to manage the load of the tree. We had the overall situation verified by another arborist. This tree was located adjacent the footpath to the school.

#### cont'd... "Cypress removal"

Cracks and lifting in the ground were already apparent. For the protection of parishioners and school children this tree was removed and will be replaced by a range of suitable shrubs and trees including Australian natives. Inspection of the various trunks upon demolition confirmed that rot had commenced.





Please contact Richard Houwing if you'd like further information. You can reach him at the parish office on 9876 2853 or via email: **<u>Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au</u>** 

**Commentary Mass** 

To conclude Altaration, please join us for a 'Commentary Mass' to help understand the WHATs and WHYs of the Holy Mass.

7pm | 10th October St Gerard Majella's Church 543, North Rocks Road, Carlingford

All are Welcome! Light Refreshments to follow after Mass.



Parish Team

Parish Secretary Marcella Letteri Ph: 9876 2853 Email: <u>Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

Parish Facilities & Operations Coordinator Richard Houwing Ph: 9876 2853 Email: <u>Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

Admin. Assistant Michael Davies Ph: 9876 2853 Email: <u>Michael.Davies@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

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 Belinda Shi Ph: 0414 753 362 Email: <u>Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au</u>



Our Tuesday Altaration sessions have now finished but our love of the Mass has grown exceedingly!

**Save the date: 10th October!** Time: 7pm. Venue: St Gerard's Church. Followed by light refreshment. Fr Jim will walk us through the deeper meaning behind words and actions that we have been a part of... perhaps sometimes on auto-pilot mode! Come join us. All are welcome! Feel free to invite family and friends to come and see.

### DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Our parish welcomes enquirers seeking to know more about Christianity, and in particular the Catholic faith by joining with them on a journey of self-discovery and the building-up of a relationship with Jesus. This process is called the **R**ite of **C**hristian Initiation of **A**dults. Over the last few weeks, there have been several people who have indicated an interest in knowing more about our Catholic faith, and we are hoping to re-commence our meetings.

If you are aware of anyone who is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church, please invite them to make contact with the Parish Office for further details. Also, if you are interested to know more about the process and getting involved in actively supporting our enquirers, please contact us: Phone 9876 2853 or email **parish@eppcarl.org.au** 

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



October is the month of the Rosary. During this time, there will be a booklet available for children to pick up at the back of both churches. This has various ageappropriate activities about

Our Lady, prayers and information. Feel free to take one!

Christmas Kidz Mass planning is underway! Would you like to give some feedback or help in the preparations for either church? Please contact <u>Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

# KIDZPLAY

Playgroup THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT TERM



PLAYGROUP MAY BE FINISHED FOR THIS TERM, BUT WE WILL RECOMMENCE ON

FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER

IN THE HALL AT 9:30AM.

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT: Belinda 0414 753 362 WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN TO A SPECIAL

Baptism Renewal

# OCTOBER 15, 2023 ST GERARD'S • 9:30 AM

Children are encouraged to bring along their baptism candle and receive a special blessing on the day.

Any questions please contact Belinda 0414 753 362

You can also contact Belinda via email: <u>Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

# Never too early to start planning!



# Celebrate All Saints dressed as your favourite Saint!

- Sunday 29th October
- St Gerard's 9:30am Mass
- OLHC 10:15am Mass

PRIZES TO BE WON! Adults most welcome to dress up!

Lynn Siau - <u>Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au</u> 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 <u>Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au</u> before **10am on** *Wednesday 18th October 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:







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)** is on a break for the school holidays and will resume on the **13th October**.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds) - Antioch will next meet on 15th October, 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 10th and 24th October, 7-8:30pm in the meeting room at St Gerard's.



**Ignite Conference:** A number of highschoolers and young adults attended the Ignite Conference at Waitara last week. The theme was 'Wonder' which is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wonder and awe). It was a wonderful conference with workshops, praise and worship music, Adoration, prayer teams, Reconciliation, Mass and a lot of fun and dancing!

Ignite Conference 2024 will be back in Sydney, in 12 months. We strongly encourage and invite all youth to save the date. As said on the last night of the conference, if people can buy Taylor Swift tickets almost a year in advance, then surely you can save the date for the Ignite Conference.

For more information on any of our 3 youth groups and our youth social media page, please contact the Youth Minister, Joanna Mak on 0404 710 588 or send her an email at **Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au** 

# World Youth Day Testimony Corner Alex de Lima Reflects

2 months ago, I was fortunate enough to attend World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon with over 150 other young people from the Broken Bay Diocese.

Our journey began with an eye-opening pilgrimage through Italy. We visited astounding churches, experienced historic and sacred sites, deepened our knowledge of the faith, and grew closer to each other. We then arrived in Portugal where we gathered with over a million Catholics from around the world. Our week in Lisbon was spent meeting other youths, gathering in large Catechesis sessions, celebrating Mass, praying together and habitually repeating Oi, Oi, Oi many, many times.

What amazed me the most was the fact that despite speaking different languages, coming from various backgrounds and simply never having seen each other before, no one was a stranger. We were all united through Christ. It was truly an unforgettable experience, one that transformed my perception of faith and my relationship with God.

Over the three weeks that I spent following in the footsteps of the Saints and praying with inconceivable masses of people, I became aware of the vastness of the Catholic faith. It is connected across 20 centuries, 7 continents and amongst billions of people. I realised that our faith is not reducible to the relationship between an individual and their God; rather it is a relationship that grows and extends, in the love people show to each other.

This idea was summarised by the American Cardinal Sean O'Malley as he beckoned us to 'Make a gift of ourselves for God and for others.' He reminded me that no one is simply a body, or a mind, or a personality type or even a human being. *Each of us is a gift*.

Together with the Pope's calling, 'Do not be afraid!', I was reminded of how I can share the Catholic faith and spread the good news. I hope to continue to do so here in my own parish as well as the wider community.

Finally, I want to extend a huge thank you to all parishioners from the Epping and Carlingford community for being so generous and supportive of the young people who attended World Youth Day 2023. ~ Alex de Lima

WYD 2023

## PRIMARY STATE SCHOOLS CHILDREN'S MASS



# INVITATION TO A COMBINED CHILDREN'S MASS ON OCTOBER 22ND, 2023

Fr Jim and the Primary School Catechists would like to invite the children and their families to a Combined Children's Mass at **St Gerard Majella's Church on October 22nd, 9:30am Mass followed by morning tea and Jumping Castle!** 

The primary school students will participate in the readings, Gospel/offertory procession or the choir. If you would like more information on this, please contact Katherine Tam at **<u>katherine@eppcarl.org.au</u>** 

# Looking forward to seeing

# you at the Mass!

# **OTHER NEWS & NOTICES**

# Join Fr. Aldrin on a one-day pilgrimage to the central coast!

You are invited to join Fr. Aldrin on a pilgrimage to the holy sites of importance in the Diocese of Broken Bay. Please see the notice at the back of the church for more information. Registration closes by October 12th, 2023. Limited seats only.

Date & Time Saturday, 28 Oct 2023 Departing at 8am Return by 5pm

Visiting The Shrine of Saint John Paul II, Gosford Shrine of St. Faustina, Somersby

Cost Adult - \$35 Family - \$90 (2 adults & 2 children)



To book online use the link

scan the OR code below.

https://www.trybooking.com/CLQCM or

How to register

Sign up forms are also available at the back of the church.

# The Holy Spirit

His Transforming Power Acts 2

#### CARLINGFORD CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

- When: Sundays 11am (after 9.30am Mass morning tea)
- Where: St Gerard's Church (Children's room at back of church)
- **Study Series:** 'How to Grow in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit' by Bruce Downes Ministries
- Contact: Margaret 0401133368 or send her an email <u>mtmkelly@optusnet.com.au</u>

# HSC STUDENT BLESSING

# The G Majors Men's A Capella Singers are back!





HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO SING? Now is your chance. Come along and join this enthusiastic group of male voices. We sing at both churches.... **NO AUDITION NECESSARY.** 

**Meeting time: 6.30pm on Sunday nights at St. Gerard's.** We have periods of rehearsal, but these fluctuate throughout the year.

All enquiries: Pat Fernandes 0407908640 or send Pat and email at cedpat@internode.on.net

# 8TH OCT, SUNDAY 5PM YOUTH MASS @ ST GERARD'S

RECEIVE A SPECIAL BLESSING, MEET OTHER YEAR 12 STUDENTS AND RECEIVE A YUMMY HSC PACK FROM OUR ANTIOCH YOUTH GROUP

PLEASE CONTACT THE YOUTH MINISTER, JOANNA MAK FOR ANY QUESTIONS E: JOANNA.MAK@BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU OR M: 0404 710 588

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

### **Celebrations this Week**

## **Ordinary Time Week 27**

9 October Mon: Sts Denis and companions, St John Leonardi11 October Wed: St John XXIII14 October Sat: St Callistus I

# **Ordinary Time Week 28**

16 October Mon: *St Hedwig, St Margaret Mary Alacoque*17 October Tue: St Ignatius of Antioch

# 18 October Wed: St Luke

19 October Thur: St John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, St Paul of the Cross

# DID YOU KNOW ?

Our Diocese of Broken Bay has a wonderful resource on their website that tells us the celebration of Feast Days and Saints for each month, as discovered by Garry Leary, Chair of our Parish Finance Committee:

October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary

October 9 – St John Henry Newman

October 11 - St John XXIII

October 15 – St Teresa of Avila

When you click or tap on the "+", it expands and gives you a background on the Saint or the Feast Day. You can access the website: <u>https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/evangelisati</u> <u>on/feast-days-saints</u> or via the QR code.



Occasionally when one wanders out of the parish office, one sees the smiling faces of our volunteers going about serving their ministries quietly behind the scenes...... thank you to our hardworking volunteers!







The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary!

We invite you to join the St Patrick's community in praying the rosary for the Pope's intention which is:

"To pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world."

#### We aim for 1,000 individuals to pray a Rosary for the entire month of October

Please log in your pledge by scanning the QR Code as a visible sign of the power of prayer and an encouragement to others to participate in this Marian crusade. Thank you.

#### I PLEDGE TO PRAY THE ROSARY IN OCTOBER FOR THE POPE'S INTENTION



for more information email: srfidelissm@stpatschurchhill.org 02 9254-9804



Mary Lyons & her husband, John, long-time parishioners of St Gerards, now live near one of their daughters in King Creek near Wauchope.

Mary is still on our mailing list and says she follows our parish news via the online bulletin!



#### Responsorial Psalm Response 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 8 Oct 2023 Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

#### Gospel Acclamation 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 8 Oct 2023 Alleluia, Alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

			WEEKEND	MASSES				
Epping	5:00pm Vigil, 8:30am (Family/Children), 10:15am and 6:00pm (Youth)							
Carlingford	6:00pm Vi	6:00pm Vigil, 7:45am, 9:30am (Family/Children) and 5:00pm (Youth)						
			WEEKDAY	MASSES				
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.		
EPPING	No Mass	*	5:00pm	*	*	9:15am		
CARLINGFORD	9:30am	No Mass	9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	No Mass		
EXPOSITION OF THE Carlingford Thursday 10		Epping We	dnesday 5:3	0-6:30pm ar	nd Saturday	9:45-10:15am,		
SACRAMENT OF RECO				Contraction of the second second			rch	
BAPTISMS AND WEDD	INGS: BY AF	POINTMEN	IT					
POSTAL ADDRESS FOR	THE PARISH	OFFICE: P	O Box 369,	Epping NSW	1710			
ST GERARD MAJELLA'S	S PRIMARY S	CHOOL: PH	<b>9871 163</b>	3 Email: s	gc@dbb.cat	holic.edu.au		
OUR LADY HELP OF CH	RISTIANS' P	RIMARY SC	HOOL: PH	<b>1:</b> 9868 3322	2 Email: ol	hc@dbb.catholic.	edu.au	

Healing Mass: 1st Tuesday of the Month, 10am at St Gerard's Meeting Room, Carlingford \*OLHC Wednesday changes as of Tuesday 17th October. Please see Pg 2 of bulletin for details.

# Please pray for .....

#### For those who are sick and suffering:

- Cohen Hadden (family of Pat & Margaret McArdle)
- Graham Yeates

• Paul Grassi

- Dennis Porteous (our retired Parish Secretary)
- Eric Yeung (brother of Goretti Yeung)
- Ethan Seng Mestanza (grandson of Mario and Graciela Mestanza
- Peter McArdle (brother of Pat McArdle)Colette Murray

Beryl and John Day

• Leonie Oliver (Aged Care)

Kevin Saul (Marie Saul's nephew)

Maureen Carlon (Marie Saul's sister)

• Mary Chernov (sister of Trish Harrison)

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: **<u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/2660800900909668</u> 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 - Margaret Floyd, John Bond, Elaine Hunt, Tony D'Almeida, Christine Leung, John O'Rourke, David Traves, Rosario Sorbello, Dominican Trinh

Anniversaries - Geoffrey Coonan, Antonio Trimachi, Patricia James, Manuel Restar, Ivan & Edith Almeida, Mr Hilton Paes

Also for - Kass Flaherty, Mary Wang, Francis Chen, Jacob Zhang

Responsorial Psalm Response 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 15 Oct 2023 Ps 22 Gospel Acclamation 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 15 Oct 2023 Alleluia, Alleluia!

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.



