Diocese of Broken Bay

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Aldrin Valdehueza <u>Aldrin.Valdehueza@bbcatholic.org.au</u>



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



Emai

<u>eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au</u>



Single Donation

Click here for:

Weekend Mass Times

Weekday Mass Times

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sacrament of Reconciliation



Readings

24 NOVEMBER 2024 Daniel 7:13-14 Revelation 1:5-8 John 18:33-37

1 DECEMBER 2024 Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36



YEAR B

24 NOVEMBER 2024 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 1 DECEMBER 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Best Wishes

Farewell for Joanna Mak: We will be farewelling Joanna at the *5pm Mass at St Gerard's on Sunday Dec 8th*, her last Sunday before she takes a well-earned holiday. Please come and join us in praying for her and thanking her for her incredible work as our Youth Ministries Coordinator these past six years. Hopefully by then we will also be able to announce her successor – please pray for success in finding the person whom God has in mind for us.

Farewell for Simone Noel: We will be farewelling Simone Noel at the **10.15am** *Mass on Sunday Dec 22nd at OLHC*. Simone has been our OLHC pastoral worker this year and has touched many lives. Come and join us in farewelling her before she moves to Mudgee.

to Shayne D'Cunha! Shane is a 6th year seminarian for Broken Bay Diocese who will be staying with Fr Jim and Fr Aldrin and active in our parish from Nov 21st through to Christmas Day. This one month pastoral placement is an opportunity for him to get to know our parish, so if your group or ministry is having an end of year event, invite him to come and join you. Contact him on Shayne.dcunha@bbcatholic.org.au or via the parish office 9876 2853.

Thank you to Fr Michael Sullivan OSA, an Augustinian priest who filled in for Fr Aldrin last week at OLHC and this week at St Gerard's.

Pastoral Council: Thank you to the Parish Pastoral Council who have assisted Fr Jim and Fr Aldrin in discernment of our parish's mission this year. Thank you particularly to **Paul Fitzgerald** who has been chair, and **Minh La** who has been secretary. Thank you to **Regina Soeryanto** and **John Kyle-Robinson** who are concluding their two year appointment on the PPC. This makes room for two more people to join the PPC, ideally one person from OLHC and one from St Gerard's. We'll be looking for nominations next month.

Finance Committee: Thank you to the Parish Finance Committee who have assisted Fr Jim and Deacon Richard in the governance of the parish, particularly in the extraordinary circumstances of the OLHC redevelopment. Thank you to *Garry Leary* who has been chair for the past two years. Thank you to *Joan Sally* who is concluding her three year appointment on the PFC. This leaves a vacancy for one more person. We'll call for nominations next month.

OLHC Delay: Due to continued delays in connection of services we do not expect to have access to our new buildings and carpark before Christmas, and then beyond this due to the holidays. Due to the uncertainty of the handover

... cont'd from OLHC Delay

date Catholic Schools Broken Bay have made the decision that OLHC School will continue at St Agatha's Pennant Hills for the start of the 2025 school year. School parents have been directly contacted regarding this. We remain grateful for the patience and forebearance of our parishioners during this protracted delay.



~Fr Jim

NORTH SHORE PASTORAL DISCERNMENT



Thank you to *Gail Gill* and *Tony Davies* who facilitated six conversation groups of parishioners over these past few weeks. They have collated the fruit of these conversations which will now be submitted to Bishop Anthony as part of his discernment of the needs of the North Shore Deanery of our diocese. The fruit of these conversations will also be brought to our Parish Pastoral Council for consideration in our own parish.

Thank you also, to everyone who was able to participate in one of these six groups. For those who were not able to take part, the submissions from the Epping and Carlingford communities are available to view on our parish website here: https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/news-events/headlines or via QR code on the right.



You are most welcome at the **CONVERSATION FORUM**, on **7 December**commencing with light refreshments at **11:30am to 2:30pm**Please register here https://forms.office.com/r/LfPT3XEHrc
All parishioners are welcome even if they were not able to take part in the discernment **St Agatha's Parish Hall**,

20 Boundary Rd (entry also off Trebor Rd) PENNANT HILLS

This important gathering will provide an opportunity for everyone to hear a summary of the voices gathered during the local Consultation Forums and to engage further in meaningful dialogue.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

When do you put up your Christmas tree? The Christmas season seems to inch earlier and earlier in each year, fuelled by voracious marketing which seeks to makes us spend more. There's already decorations and songs in the shopping malls, and Christmas food in the supermarkets. More and more "Christmas" parties seem to take place in

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."

LUKE 1:46

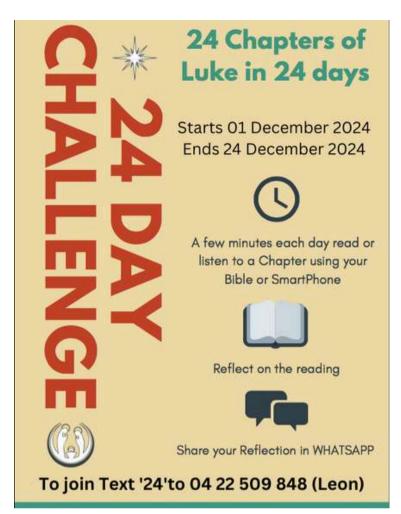
November. But for us as Catholics, the Christmas season begins in Advent, and concludes not on Boxing Day, but on the feast of Epiphany, two Sundays after Christmas. So let's hold back the tide a little, and save our Christmas trees and decorations for the First Sunday of Advent which falls on the convenient date of December 1st this year. That way our Christmas decorating, cooking, and present-buying can be linked to our liturgical season, and to Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate.

Buy less for Christmas! How often do we buy too much stuff at Christmas, often out of a sense of duty or obligation? Do you find the shopping a chore, and receive things you really didn't want or need? Can you have a conversation in your family or with your friends about not exchanging presents this year? My experience of doing this with my family and of only giving presents to the children takes so much of the pressure off Christmas Day. We also buy so many things out of kindness for acquaintances, colleagues etc which sets up the expectation and burden for reciprocity. We buy plastic goods which are bad for the planet and indulgent food which is bad for our health. We buy things which nobody really wants or needs. People are always so generous to their priests, but there's nothing I want or need other than for everyone to come and celebrate Mass joyfully together. I remember a school teacher friend once showing me the pile of boxes of chocolates and tins of nuts given to him by his students, and him saying "take whatever you want, I don't want any of it". I wonder if he's not the only one. Could we have a simpler Christmas, kinder to our waistlines, our wallets and our planet?

~Fr Jim

Better Gifts: But if you do want to give a gift, try <u>www.thatcatholicshop.com</u> with religious gifts where the proceeds go to support Aid to the Church in Need, or <u>www.globalgifts.org.au</u> where the proceeds go to Caritas Australia, the Catholic

Church's overseas aid and development agency which allows you to buy a chicken for \$10, a term at school for \$20, a handwash station for \$50 or a goat for \$65. Brochures are in the church.



Keep Christ in Christmas: Beginning December 1st, read one chapter of the Book of Luke in the Bible each evening. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate! You can participate via Whatsapp (details above) or via our Facebook group called "Grow Faith" in here:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/11488871521 76778



Formed.org is a resource our parish offers to you for FREE. To sign up for FORMED: http://www.formed.org/signup Click 'sign up as a parishioner' and enter the parish code: 2121. Enter your email - and you're in. Enjoy!



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**

Lvnn Siau Ph: 9876 2853

Email: Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Joanna Mak Ph: 0404 710 588

Email: Joanna.Mak@bbcatholic.org.au

New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator - St Gerard's

Belinda Shi Ph: 0414 753 362

Email: Belinda.Shi@bbcatholic.org.au

Pastoral Worker - OLHC

Simone Noel Ph: 0414 753 799

Email: Simone.Noel@bbcatholic.org.au

Please note parish email address for general

enquiries: eppcarl@bbcatholic.org.au Please note parish@eppcarl.org.au will be 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.



Deepen your roots in Christ this Advent.

Embark on a powerful journey with Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree. In just 7 minutes a day, explore Scripture, uncover the stories of Christ's ancestors, and experience meaningful Advent reflections that connect faith to your daily life.

Plus! Bring this rich Catholic tradition into your home with FREE Jesse Tree ornament coloring sheets.

Available only on FORMED.org

SCAN QR CODE



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Preparations for 2024 Christmas Eve Family Masses at both churches: All children are invited to take part in the Christmas Eve Masses (5pm at OLHC or 6pm at St Gerard's on Sunday 24th December). 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... gorgeous!
- · Leading the Prayers
- Preparation of the Gifts and Gospel processions

There are separate signup links below for each church. You pick the Mass you wish to attend, use the correct link to sign up **by 16th December** and our Children's Ministries Coordinator, Lynn Siau, will contact you closer to the date.

Our Lady Help of Christians

To sign your child up for **OLHC** 5pm Mass, please use this link: https://volunteersignup.org/MFD3Y or via the QR code on the right.



Practice dates and times:

OLHC Epping - Saturday, 21st December

- 10 to 11am Gospel mime learning and procession
- 11 to 11:30am Readers and Offertory procession

St Gerard's

To sign your child up for **St Gerard's** 6pm Mass, please use this link: https://volunteersignup.org/KTYMM or via the QR code on the right.



Practice dates and times:

St Gerard's Carlingford - Monday, 23rd December

- 10:30 to 11:30am Gospel mime learning and procession
- 11:30am 12pm Readers and Offertory procession



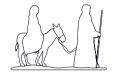


It was an absolute delight to see all our little ones arrive at mass with their candles at the Baptism Renewal mass held on the 10th November at St Gerard's.



As many of these children received the sacrament of baptism as babies, this event as a lovely reminder to them that they too received a pouring of holy water and was received into God's family. With your help and those of our vibrant parish, may their faith and love of God and community continue to flourish and grow.

- Belinda Shi





Our Christmas Eve Family Masses are wonderful and are a long standing tradition with many families. So make sure you contact Lynn (details below) if you need assistance signing up. We are all looking forward to this and sharing in Jesus' birthday cake after Mass!

Lynn Siau

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

Lynn.Siau@bbcatholic.org.au or phone Parish Office 9876 2853

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 Wednesday 4th December 2024. Kindly understand I am unable to accommodate late submissions. Please send in a Word document. Photos or graphics are acceptable in PNG or JPEG format. Please note that PDFs will have to be reformatted and the clarity of your notice will be compromised. Do provide an email address, a contact name and number in your article. Thank you.

Other ways to connect:





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): Cana remaining Term 4 dates are 29th November (waterfight) and 13th December (Christmas party), 7:30-9pm in the parish hall.

Entrance to the premises is via 543 North Rocks Road, Carlingford.



Antioch (Year 10/16 year olds-23 year olds): Antioch will meet on the 24th November, 6-8pm at St Gerard's meeting room. All welcome! Christmas party is on the 1st Dec with pizza and secret santa! Contact parent support if you have any questions: Cres & Lui Yparraguirre cresyparraguirre@outlook.com Mobile: 0449228514.



Emmaus young adults (23-30 year olds): Emmaus are meeting on the **26th November**, **7-8:30pm** at St Gerard's meeting room for our last talk of the year. The topic is Science and Religion: A Sceptics guide to Salvation. The Christmas party will be on the **10th December**.



Looking for a retreat to start 2025? Immaculata Mission School is running their annual retreat in Armidale for young people/young adults from 1-10th January. Subsidies available. Contact Joanna Mak for more details or check the link http://immaculata.org.au/ims/

Joanna's Work Hours: Mondays 6-9pm, Tuesdays 6-9pm, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Fridays 5-9pm and Sundays 4-9pm.

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

CATECHIST NEWS



Congratulations to *Trish Lucas* (35 Years), *Cyril Tumminello* (30 Years) and *Patrick McArdle* (15 Years) in receiving their CCD Service Awards from the Very Rev Dr David Ransom PP VG at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Photos on the left.

Catechists receiving CCD Service Awards of 5 to 10 years and Training Awards have their certificates presented to them during the Masses on November 16-17, 2024 at both Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Epping and St Gerard's Church, Carlingford. Photos below.

Thank-you to the following retiring Catechists in providing their time and effort taking the WORD to our children at the Public Schools:

- Patrick McArdle (15 years)
- Margaret McArdle (14 years)
- Maria Singer (10 years)
- Christine Kwok (9 years)
- Helen Barry (7 years)
- Elizabeth Mary Hillier (5 years)
- Mercedes Soria (4 years)
- Neil Donovan (1 year).



~Katherine Tam

GIVING AT CHRISTMAS



Support for Women and Children: In the coming weeks you'll see the "Angel Tree" at OLHC and the "Giving Tree" at St Gerard's, 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. Return by 15th Dec.
- The Giving 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 \$600 to the shelter to assist with a Christmas party for these families.



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 we're seeking your engagement with:

- https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/resources/social-justice-statements/ and
- https://www.dbbsafeguarding.com.au/resources/adults-at-risk-general-resources/
- Coming on Nov 30th & Dec 1st will be the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal where cash or credit card donations, or Christmas hampers will provide support families in crisis.





2024 CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

- 1. Envelopes are available on the seats and at the entrance to the Church.
- 2. You are invited to make your donation with the assistance of one of the members of SVDP at the entrance to the Church after Mass. They will also be able to accept your credit card donations utilising an EFTPOS Terminal. A receipt can be provided to you straight away.
- 3. Alternatively donations can be made by completing the 'Vinnies Envelope' and placing it in the 'Second Collection Box'. We will mail the receipt to you.
- 4. Please also note that at St Gerard's Carlingford you may make your donation at the Piety Store.

Thank you for your generosity. Your support will provide the relief they need to survive.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Epping Site Car Parking Update: With the opening of our new Epping site in 2025, we will have around 93 parking spaces available. Parking is in high demand in Epping due to its density and proximity to major public transit hubs. Our goals are to ensure fair access to parking for the Parish and School community and to generate necessary funds for maintaining the precinct and Church.

We are pleased to offer free parking for Mass, religious functions, and activities. A free 45-minute period will be available before and after Mass. Other activities will have similar free periods, which will vary depending on the event and will be advertised accordingly. Charges will apply if visitors stay beyond the allowed free time.



For general parking, the first 30 minutes are free. After that, a \$5 fee applies for the next half-hour, with an additional \$5 per hour, up to a maximum daily rate of \$40. Please refer to the table pm the next page for details.

Our parking system will use License Plate Recognition technology, enabling free parking for ministry leaders and volunteers during special times as needed. As Epping continues to develop, we may need to change our policy over time

to adjust to the circumstances. While we've carefully considered this plan, we welcome your feedback. Feel free to email or call me with any suggestions. Ph 9876 2853 or email **Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au**

Rates:

Religious Services, functions and nominated activities.

Free

Time	Rates
0-30 minutes	Free
30 minutes -1 hour	\$ 5
Each additional hour	\$ 5
Daily maximum and overnight rate	\$ 40

Hours: Closed from 12 midnight to 5:30 am. There will be an additional \$50 charge for opening Out of Hours.

~Deacon Richard Houwing

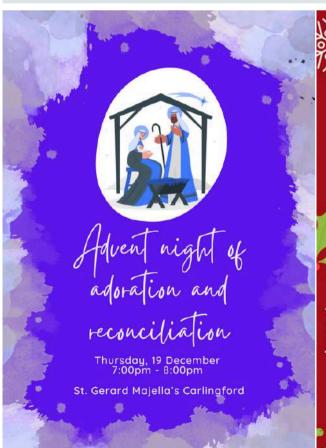


Christmas Postcard Delivery: Invite your neighbours for Christmas! In the first week of December we will have Christmas invitation postcards for you to deliver in your street. Check off a street or two from the list and deliver them near you.



Healing Mass at St Gerard's: Join us for the Healing Mass on *Tuesday 3rd December*. We gather in the meeting room for Mass at *10am*. We do hope you will join us for *morning tea*. There will be a touch of *Christmas in the air*. If you would like to attend and are in need of transport, that can also be arranged. Please contact Carole Wilson at 9869 1036.

PRE-CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR 50+++: I know you may be busy, and I know I am running a little late. Please, join us for lunch on *Monday 9th December*, from 12.00 MD - 3.00 PM at "The Ranch" Hotel, 108 Herring Road, North Ryde (just down the road)! RSVP Monday 2nd I will need to make the booking. Carole Wilson 9869 1036. E. carolewilson2816@gmail.com Let's





celebrate our community.

Newcomers to our group are more than welcome.

YOUNG OR OLD.



Nametag Sunday is coming up: Both St Gerard's and OLHC at all weekend Masses on

Saturday/Sunday
30 Nov/1 Dec

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - 24 Nov 2024

Ps 92:1-2, 5 Response: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

WEE			

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	i
EPPING	Ti-	6:00pm			18	8:00am	
CARLINGFORD	9:30am		9:30am	9:30am	9:30am	2	

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 - sqc@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):

- Ken Leslie
- Baby Sophia (Marie Saul's great-granddaughter)
- · Jema Oshana

- Lillian Chan
- Margaret Hall
- Roslyn Rodriguez
- Anita Hofman



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 - Kathleen Petch, John Donnellan, Sister Louise SSJ Lochinvar (Pauline McDonell) - Aunt of Jeanette Brady, Alan Flanagan (91-year-old brother of Betty Connors), David Pickering

Anniversaries & Remembrance - Margaret McShane, Cedric Fernandes, Peter Lin, Rosa Huang, Peter Huang, Mary Zen, Anthony, Maryanne, Maureen & Hugh Mulligan, Patrick & Teresa Fraser, Joe & Peggy Sally, the Laporte, Dias and Bayross families, CS Goretti

1st Sunday of Advent - 1 Dec 2024

Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 Response: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.