

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'

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St Gerard Majella's

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Email

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Giving

Click here for:

[Weekend Mass Times](#)

[Weekday Mass Times](#)

[Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

[Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)



Readings

9 FEBRUARY 2025

Isaiah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

16 FEBRUARY 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-8
1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Luke 6:17, 20-26



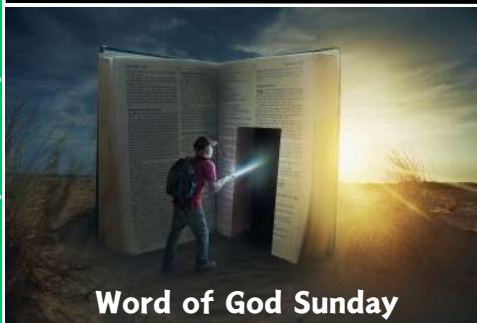
The Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford



9 FEBRUARY 2025 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16 FEBRUARY 2025 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C



Word of God Sunday

21 CHAPTERS OF JOHN IN 21 DAYS

CHALLENGE YOURSELF BY READING A CHAPTER A DAY, OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN.

A FEW MINUTES EACH DAY TO LISTEN OR READ USING YOUR SMARTPHONE OR BIBLE.



REFLECT ON THE READING



SHARE YOUR REFLECTION IN WHATSAPP



STARTS 23 MARCH 2025
ENDS 12 APRIL 2025

TEXT OR WHATSAPP
0422 509 848 TO JOIN



The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford

Stay Connected
with God's Word
in Multiple
Languages
through BibleOn



BibleOn is a comprehensive and free Catholic Bible app designed to enhance your spiritual journey. It offers access to the Holy Bible in both text and audio formats, supporting over 30 languages. The app includes features like:

- Multilingual Text and Audio: Read and listen to the Bible in various languages.
- Offline Access: Download the entire Bible for offline reading.
- Sync, Bookmarks, and Playlists: Keep your bookmarks and playlists synced across devices.

continued on next page...

Word of God Sunday: The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on February 9th in 2025. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination" of the Word of God.

'For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.' Heb 4:12

www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodssunday

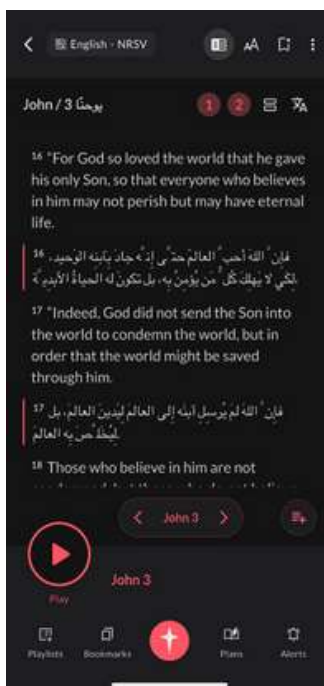
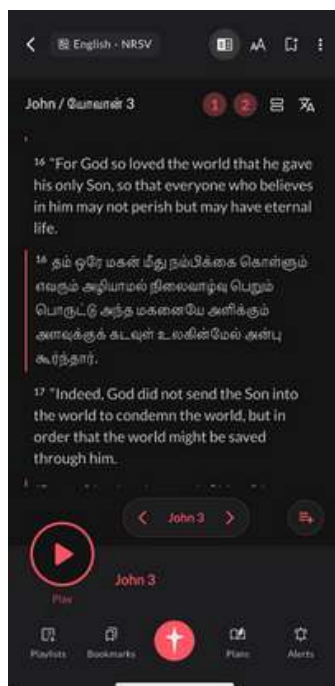
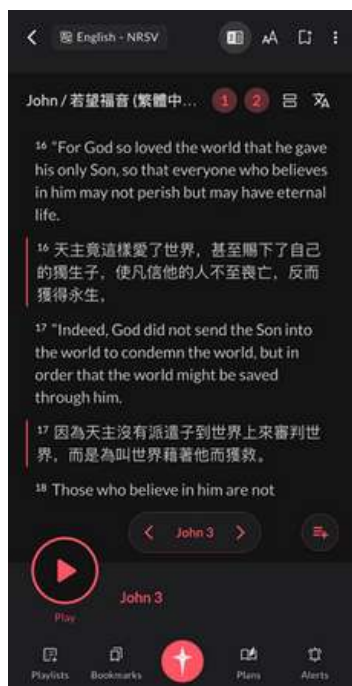
gives you access to resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

We will be **blessing each of our Ministers of the Word** who proclaim the Word of God at Masses this weekend.

We invite you to join us in reading the **Gospel of John** (see left) or join in a Lenten Group in the coming weeks.

Bibles are available for purchase this weekend: A simple adult bible for \$10, an adult study bible for \$15, and an illustrated St Paul's children's bible for \$25.

Some of the languages offered include: · English · Spanish · French · German · Italian · Chinese (Simplified and Traditional) · Arabic · Hindi · Malayalam · Tamil · Bengali · Konkani. There are many more languages available. You can check the app or their official website for the complete list of supported languages at <https://bibleon.app/> or via the QR code on the previous page. The app can be downloaded from the Apple app store or Google Play (QR codes below). Here are a few screenshots in Chinese, Tamil and Arabic:




PARISH NOTICES



Volunteers Mass and Dinner is Tuesday February 18th, 7pm for Mass at St Gerard's. Please take your invitation from the back of the church and **RSVP by February 11th to Marcella.Letteri@bbcatholic.org.au**. If your invitation isn't there, we apologise – please RSVP and come along anyway!


~Fr Jim



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is **March 5th**. Masses will be at

- **OLHC:** 7am and 6pm
- **St Gerard's:** 9.30am (including St Gerard's School) and 7pm.



Bring last year's palms for burning to make this year's ashes to either church **before March 3rd.**



Weekday Masses: We will not be making any permanent changes to the weekday Mass schedule until OLHC School's timetable and Fr Joey's availability are better known. We will however offer a **7am Mass on Wednesdays at OLHC each week during Lent, commencing March 5th.**



The St Vincent de Paul clothing bin at St Gerard's will shortly be removed due to the lack of capacity for this to be collected regularly. Donations of good clothing can still be made at St Vincent de Paul shops including the one at Oxford Street Epping. A clothing bin for another charity is in the Roselea carpark behind St Gerard's.

GROW IN FAITH



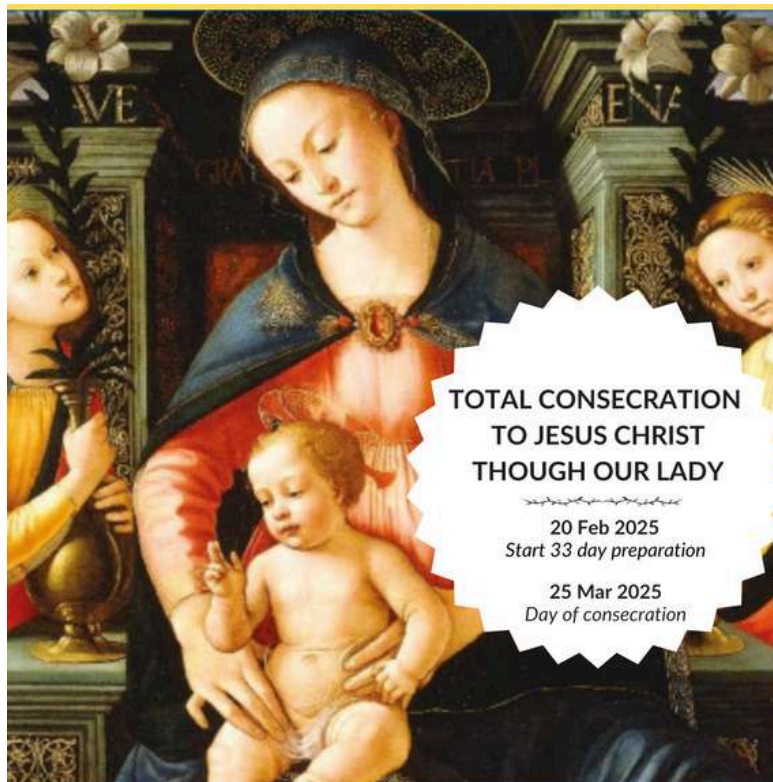
Lenten Programs: Every year parishioners gather in small groups to read and pray with the scriptures of the coming Sunday. This year we will be offering Wollongong Diocese's program called Metanoia for

small groups, and Broken Bay Diocese's program for individual use. Unfortunately some of the people who previously hosted Lenten Groups are not able to this year, so we are looking for additional hosts.

You do not need to be an expert in theology or scripture to do this, as the book and audio provided give all the content. All that is required is willingness to lead a group of 8 or so people for 90 minutes a week, either in your own house or in one of the parish's spaces.

If you'd like to lead a group **please contact Fr Jim this week** so that we can order your books and put out signup sheets for you next weekend.

Our Devotions Team brings us:



TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS CHRIST THROUGH OUR LADY

20 Feb 2025
Start 33 day preparation

25 Mar 2025
Day of consecration

Have you ever questioned the providence and love of God? Are you prepared to rely only on God for everything? Do you want to be in charge of your own security and well-being? Do you think that a little bargaining with evil, is perhaps necessary to live in this world? Have you ever pondered on purpose of your life?

The high standard of ordinary Christian living can often seem daunting, but it becomes so much easier when we realize that it simply means remaining with our Mother and allowing her to shape us into her Son. Who was ever lost that had recourse to the most Blessed Virgin?

More information and a sign-up form are available at the back of the church

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.



ON AUTOPILOT?

Feel like you're on autopilot as the world descends into chaos?



CONSTANT PRESSURE?

Under constant pressure and escaping to addictions that don't satisfy?



FEELING TIRED?

Tired of the "same old" and asking yourself if this is all life has to offer?



TRYING TO BE THE MAN?

Wondering what the hell it even means to "be a man" these days?



Join us for **Men Alive!** A space for men to connect, grow, and share in faith with bible study. **Fortnightly Thursdays, 7PM, at St Gerard's Parish Hall.** For more information please contact Abhishiek via men.alive@eppcarl.org.au or 0401 208 694. See you there!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



FIRST RECONCILIATION 2025

Enrolment for **First Reconciliation** is underway and will **close on Sunday 16th February**. **Parent information sessions** will be held on **Wednesday 19th February and Thursday 20th February at 7:30pm**. You will need to have enrolled to receive the meeting details. In our Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and who are in Year 4 or above are invited to enrol. First Reconciliation is generally prepared for in Term 1, before enrolment of First Eucharist.

Our Sacramental Programme is advertised through the parish website, bulletins, announcements at Mass, both parish school newsletters, catechists and word-of-mouth. If you know of anyone who may wish to enrol their children, please feel free to spread the word for us and have them drop me a line (contact details below).

Yr 6 Family Mass at St Gerard's 16th Feb

Meanwhile, we would like to invite **Yr 6** children to participate in the 9:30am Mass. Please visit this link to sign up **ASAP**: volunteersignup.org/KJKQA or sign up via the QR code on the right. Any questions, please contact Lynn.



Lynn Siau

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

Do you want to raise holy kids and need some encouragement?



The Catholic Parent is a six-episode video series featuring real Catholic families who share their daily struggles and victories as they try to raise holy kids in the modern world.

Please trust me when I tell you this is not what you might imagine it to be; it isn't an incense-filled, slo-mo video of a ritual with a narration that puts you to sleep. It is a REAL glimpse into what Catholic parenting looks like. It is noisy, messy, chaotic, funny and yes, it does have people talking about their experiences but I promise you that you would wish you were there having a conversation with them so you could bask in everything that you have in common with them! The series is available on Formed.org which you can access for free using our parish subscription.

Watch the trailer here: <https://watch.formed.org/the-catholic-parent> or jump right into the episodes for immediate inspiration and encouragement. God is so good! You can make a difference by passing on your faith, whether you are parents, grandparents or the favourite aunt/uncle. Readers of our eBulletin, you can simply click **here** or on the flat screen above.

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!

~Lynn

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 19th February 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.

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, our youth group for students in **years 7-9** had a wonderful time at our Laser Tag day trip! We started the day off with some awesome Karaoke showcasing some of our favourite Pop hits then moved on to three impressive rounds of laser tag. Round one saw us play in teams, building our teamwork, competitiveness and skills. Round two was Kids vs Adults and the kids won by a mile with impressive accuracy and great strategy. Round three was the toughest of them all with every person for themselves which saw us use our skills from the previous two rounds put to the ultimate test! We ended the day with pizza and a new set of skills and friendships to grow throughout Cana in 2025.

We hope you will join us at Cana **every second Friday** during school term **beginning Friday 7th February in the Hall at St Gerards from 7:30pm-9:00pm.**



Antioch Weekend 2025



We would love for you to join us for our Antioch Weekend for people in **year 10 – age 23** on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th February. The theme of the retreat is Gratitude, and it will be a weekend filled with faith, friends and fun! Registrations are closing very soon so please don't hesitate, we are so looking forward to meeting you! Registration can be completed by scanning the QR code or at the TryBooking link below:

trybooking.com/events/landing/1321692

Contact Antioch parent support if you have any questions: email Cres & Lui Yparraguirre on cresyparraguirre@outlook.com or Mobile: 0490 472 258.

Emmaus, our Youth Group for those **aged 23-30 years old** had our first meeting last week. It was a lovely evening to build fellowship with other young people in our parish and surrounding communities through sharing a meal and getting to know each other.

We will meet again on **Thursday 20th February** in the meeting room at St Gerards from **7:00pm-8:30pm** and we hope to see you there.



For all youth ministry enquiries, please contact our Youth Minister, Holly, on 0404 710 588 or send her an email at Holly.Lawton@bbcatholic.org.au You can also check out the parish website for more details:

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/epping-carlingford/groups-ministries/children-and-youth/youth-ministry>



PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE

r A y

It's hard to believe that what was started over thirty years ago, by Ian Kiernan, AO, an "average Australian" who had a simple idea to make a difference in his own backyard has now become the nation's largest community-based environmental event, held annually on the first Sunday in March.

In 2025, Parish Social Justice Committee will be facilitating a Parish event that will allow Parishioners to come together and contribute to cleaning up our local area. All you have to do is register your name and meet up at our location. We will also be having a sausage sizzle when we return, so please book via the following form for catering purposes using the link,

<http://tinyurl.com/3jc6rkd5>



- **When:** Sunday 2nd March 9am - 11am
- **Where:** Boronia Park, Epping (meet at the Train Play Equipment)



A big THANK YOU and congratulations to the parish for your response to the request for school supplies. Packing the new school backpacks was coordinated by **Mums4Refugees NSW** and the **Jesuit Refugee Service**, Parramatta. **130 bags** were stocked with the necessities so that students would be ready for their first day back (photos below). These bags were then passed on to the children of refugee and asylum seeker families who are clients of JRS. We even have a surplus of some items which will be given out later!



Our thanks also to Mario and Kevin for their support.



~Gratitude from the Parish Social Justice Team



OTHER NOTICES & EVENTS

Celebrations this Week

Ordinary Time Week 5

10 February Mon: St Scholastica

11 February Tue: *Our Lady of Lourdes*

14 February Fri: Sts Cyril and Methodius

Ordinary Time Week 6

17 February Mon: *The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order*

21 February Fri: *St Peter Damian*

22 February Sat: **The Chair of St Peter**



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

A ceasefire means more aid can assist people affected in Gaza. Your support is urgently needed.

DONATE NOW

www.caritas.org.au/gaza
1800 024 413



The annual World Day of Prayer will be celebrated this year at **St Alban's Anglican Church**, Pembroke St Epping on **Friday March 7th at 10am**. Come join us in praying with our ecumenical partners.

Ordinations: We have the good news of two upcoming ordinations in our diocese. The first is of **Mr Kevin McGregor to the Diaconate**. Kevin has been in formation for permanent diaconate for several years with Fr Jim, alongside Deacon Richard Houwing. His ordination will be **Tuesday March 4th 7.30pm** at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Waitara.



The second is of **Deacon Rosan Matthew to Priesthood**. His ordination will be **Wednesday March 19th 7.30pm** at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Although you may not yet know these men as Kevin is from Lower North Shore Parish and Rosan did his seminary formation in Wagga, it

would be great to support them with our prayers and our attendance at their ordinations. Ordinations are always joyful occasions, gathering the priests, deacons and people of the whole diocese around the bishop.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a program for young children in Montessori methodology (3-6yrs and 6-9 yrs) - will be commencing on **Monday Feb 3rd, at 2/423 Pennant Hills Rd (Broken Bay Diocesan Centre)**. Our weekly sessions run for 90 minutes each and is a powerful Montessori-based formation program where children, through the use of tactile materials and trained catechists, can grow in their relationship with God through a deep engagement in scripture and liturgy. It began in Rome in 1954 and has since spread throughout the world.

Our Atrium in Pennant Hills is authentically Catholic, and as well as helping the child to understand the beauty of the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and the power of scripture, we also include presentations on all the major feast days of the year. Enquiries and bookings: cgs.marymount@gmail.com You can also visit <https://cgsaust.org.au/> for more information and resources.

Broken Bay Pilgrimage Assisi | Rome | October 2025

Broken Bay pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome with Chaplain, **Fr Hien Vu on 1-10 October 2025**. Included in this pilgrimage will be Mass with **Bishop Anthony in Rome**, visits to the Holy Doors and participation in the Vatican celebrations for the **Jubilee of Consecrated Life 8-9 October**.

Enquiries mission@bbcatholic.org.au. Pilgrimage Information Night – 6:30pm Thursday 27 February. To register attendance, please click [Pilgrimage Information Night](#)



IS GOD CALLING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN VOCATIONS MINISTRY?

SERRA VOCATIONS MASS AND DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT SACRED HEART CHURCH

2 RICHARD PORTER WAY PYMBLE

COMMENCING WITH MASS AT 7.00 PM

Our Mass celebrant and after-dinner speaker will be **Bishop David Walker**. His topic: the Holy Father's 3rd Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" The Encyclical aims to promote a universal aspiration toward fraternity and social friendship. EVERYONE IS WELCOME, SO PLEASE COME AND SEE.

Please remember to pray everyday for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, the consecrated life, ecclesial women, all seminarians, novices, and for the residence of Joseph House Discernment Centre.

Please also pray for the perseverance of existing vocations.

For catering purposes kindly telephone Henry or Anna Leung on 0478 083 116 or email annaytleung@yahoo.com.au or telephone Terry Scanlan on 0438 887 295 or email terry_scanlan@bigpond.com if you are planning to attend.

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 9 Feb 2025

Ps 137:1-5, 7-8 Response: In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people.

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



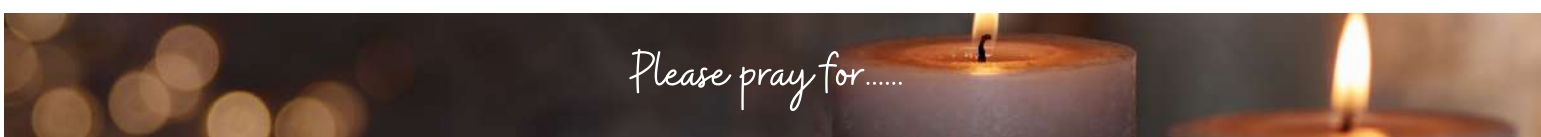

BE YOUR BEST SELF

here





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



Please pray for.....

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

- Ken Leslie
- Leonie Oliver
- Sr Rosalie Carlon
- Guy Chan
- Lillian Chan
- Roslyn Rodriguez
- Anita Hoffman
- Elizabeth Barton
- Louis Yeung (Goretti's brother)



Gratitude from Reg Mathias on behalf of Desiree: "I wish to thank the parishioners for their prayers which in my opinion has resulted in a dramatic change and cure in her medical condition from a suspected serious incurable diagnosis to being recovered to near normal and discharged from hospital after 23 days. She is now home and recovering. On her behalf, I thank parishioners for your prayers and get well wishes. Hopefully space and quiet time in the next few weeks will see her fully well in no time."

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

Recently deceased - Bryan Smith, John Holt (father of Lucia Smith), Marina Alves, Lubina Paes, Elin Joyce Childs, John Lyons (husband of Mary Lyons), Romea Dator (father of Rhea Dumo)

Anniversaries & Remembrance - Bridget Mahon, Khung Img Seah (Aunt of Lynn Siau)

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 16 Feb 2025

Ps 1:1-4 Response: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven.