

Epping Anglicans

Parish of Saint Alban's, Epping
with Saint Aidan's, West Epping

Our Vision: To be a city on a hill - a worshipping community,
loving Jesus and the people around us.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 12 January 2025

8.00am Eucharist

Reader: Elizabeth Jenkins

Postlude: "Dorian" Toccata in D minor, BWV 538 by J S Bach

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Also available by zoom

Reader: Meredith Lawn

Postlude: "Dorian" Toccata in D minor, BWV 538 by J S Bach

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

10.00am Children's Holiday Programme in The Loft (above the Main Hall)

Join the 10am Service by Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?
pwd=VGpWNXRMcFILYXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?pwd=VGpWNXRMcFILYXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09)

Passcode 389867 if required.

If you are dialling in, the number is: 8015 6011

Meeting ID: 825 1618 2389 followed by # (and another # - there isn't a participants number).

Please keep your computer or phone on "mute" during the service.

To mute/unmute your phone, press *6. Please stay on line for a time of fellowship.

Morning tea

Let us continue our fellowship commenced during our service by joining together over morning tea in the Main Hall after each of the 8am and 10am Services. Everyone is very welcome.

*In Covenant with the communities of
the Roman Catholic Parish of Epping & Carlingford, Epping Uniting Church
and West Epping Uniting Church*

The Rector's Letter

Happy New Year Church family!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to take some holidays over the last couple of weeks and for everyone who took on an extra load or learnt how to turn on the AV equipment in my absence.

Many of you will ask how my holiday went and in case I don't get around to answering your questions, we drove over 4000km and there were moments enjoyable enough to evoke thoughts reconsidering the pace of Sydney life and also restful enough to fill me with the energy and thankfulness to be excited to come back home to the life and work God has called us to at Epping.

I'm feeling very optimistic for our church in this new year and I am incredibly thankful to God for being able to be on God's mission with my wonderful church family at St Alban's.

Your brother in Christ,
Phil

Ecumenical Organisation Group

A small group of parishioners from the local Epping Churches has been meeting informally for the last six months under the name of the Ecumenical Organisation Group.

Our aim is to promote ecumenical understanding between our churches through activities like those that marked the Season of Creation in 2024. We are looking for interested parishioners to join the group.

For more information please speak to Christine Murray (0418 241 372) or Peggy Sanders (0413 481 854).

Sunday School

Sunday School is in recess until 2 February 2025, but in the meantime, a children's holiday programme will be on in the Loft (above the Parish Hall) during the 10am service.

Special Assistant Minister Campaign for 2025

We have reached the target of \$60,000 (total is currently \$68,370) to allow us to employ an Assistant Minister.

Well done everyone and thank you for your generosity. Let us give thanks to God and pray that God will bring us the right person for this ministry in our parish.

Reading the Bible

As we start a new year, if you would like to read the bible over the course of a year, Phil has a reading plan that can assist you. You can join in and read together with Phil and Becky.

The link is: <https://bible.com/p/70931408/02d708916850c304db6958482e80de36>

St Alban's is open during the week
for prayer and reflection, when the office is open.

Church:

Anglicans Together; Sharing Ministries Abroad; Evangelism and New Churches
Epping Uniting Church; The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford
Fr Paul and the people of the Parish of St George's Paddington
Anglicare Chaplaincy (Mission of the Month)

In our World and Community:

Pray for all those affected by bushfires, or flooding in areas of Australia. Pray for those affected and those assisting them in the rebuilding process. Pray for solace and healing for people who are traumatised by disasters. Give thanks for all those who serve the community in the emergency services, and disaster relief volunteer organisations.

Pray for those continuing to suffer because of war, violence and injustice, and pray that people in need will receive the basic necessities of food, water, medical care, shelter and comfort. Pray that leaders will turn from war to peace, governing with justice and compassion.

Pray for Anglicare chaplains and the chaplaincy services in hospitals, prisons, mental health centres, and aged care services. Pray that chaplains will have sufficient resources to serve people in their time of need, and be able to make a difference in the lives of those they serve.

Pray for those from our parish community who are unwell and those suffering in mind, body or spirit. Pray for those caring for family members who are in need, and those close to death. Give them comfort in knowing God's grace, and may all who care for them show patience, kindness and compassion.

Pray that God will be working in the mind of the person of his choosing to be the Assistant Minister in the parish.

At the start of the new calendar year, pray that we will each commit ourselves again to the ministry opportunities of this parish, to serving our fellow members of our community of faith, and to being open to God's leading of our life.

Prayer for the Week:

O God, you gave us your beloved Son and the fire of your Spirit. May we grow in grace and strength as we seek to live out our lives as your adopted daughters and sons. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary of Death:

John Telfer 13/1; Brenda McLeod 13/1; Sheila Colling 13/1; Brian McLeod 14/1;
Robin McLeod 14/1; Betty Farrar 14/1; Patricia Evans 16/1;
Doreen Edwards 16/1; Albert Jayaratnam 16/1; Jacob Chelladurai 17/1;
Gordon Young 18/1

Communion – Bread and Wine.

We receive bread in the form of a wafer, and gluten-free wafers are available. Wine, or non-alcoholic grape juice, is offered in a small individual disposable cup. If you prefer, you may receive wine from the chalice. Please indicate to the clergy as they approach you at the Altar Rail.

Mission of the Month Anglicare Chaplaincy

Alongside its wide-ranging work with people in need, Anglicare provides chaplains and chaplaincy services throughout Sydney and the Illawarra - in hospitals, prisons, mental health centres, aged care services, and in the community, ministering to people in need of personal and spiritual support. Some funding support is given by the government for these ministries, but this falls far short of covering the actual cost.

Our Mission of the Month encourages you to support these ministries with your gifts and your prayer, and perhaps to consider the opportunity of serving as a volunteer, working in this ministry of listening and loving support.

Some of us have benefited from the ministry of Chaplains at Anglicare Retirement Villages, as well as at hospitals. For further information about Anglicare Chaplaincy, please refer to the display on the narthex board or visit website <https://www.anglicare.org.au/community/chaplaincy/>

There are a few ways you can financially support the Anglicare Chaplaincy ministry.

- Donate funds directly at <https://www.anglicare.org.au/donate> - use the pull-down menu under *Area of Support* and click on either *Chaplaincy – Hospital and Emergency* or *Chaplaincy – Prison and Community*.
- Transfer funds electronically to the St Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'Anglicare Chaplaincy'.
- Place your gift in the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your offertory envelope, or in a plain envelope marked Anglicare Chaplaincy, and deposit the envelope in the collection box at Saint Alban's.
- Drop off your monetary donation to the Church office or leave it in the Church office letterbox; or mail a cheque to the church office at PO Box 79 Epping 1710 – please make the cheque payable to the St Alban's account and attach a separate note that the funds are intended for the Anglicare Chaplaincy ministry.



Pew
Reflections
BGM

Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-22

Isaiah's words are a wonderful encouragement in a time of distress and a reminder that God's people have nothing to fear since God has redeemed them. They can pass through fire and water without harm. The psalmist also talks of the powers of destruction, and yet the people will be saved and blessed. Images which are present as we read of the baptism of Jesus who entered the waters of baptism that we too may know him as God's beloved Son.

- We pray for all preparing for baptism; and for those of us already baptised, we give thanks for those who led us to putting on Christ in the waters of baptism.
- Give thanks for the Church of Ceylon, which covers most of Sri Lanka, remembering their ministry in a multi-religious context.

Text: Brother Christopher John SSF © Anglican Board of Mission, 2024

Prayer for Peace and Hope in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Myanmar

As war, violence and unrest continue in many areas of the world including the Middle East, Ukraine and Myanmar as a parish we remain committed to pray for all those caught up in the misery and dislocation caused, suffering the loss of loved ones, homes and livelihoods. We pray for the soldiers and citizens drawn into wars not of their making; and we pray for the children traumatised and suffering from disease and hunger. We pray for leaders who will seek the cessation of war, the restoration of peace and the rebuilding of community.

Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God, our days are in your hands; we lift up all those who are victims of violence and injustice, that you might surround and uphold the men, women and children caught up in war, violence and unrest. Empower your Church and all humanitarian workers to bring hope and healing to the wounded, relief to the suffering, and comfort to those who mourn. We pray that you would soften the hearts of all those leaders involved in these conflicts, that they would be led to work for justice and lasting peace for their people, these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anglican Board of Mission Anglicans in Development (ABM AID) Emergency Appeals

The Anglican Board of Mission reports that the **Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal** continues - an update from 31 December 2024 indicates that 'high rainfall, aftershocks and the threat of cyclones continue to challenge recovery efforts in Vanuatu. The UN reports that 2,435 people remain displaced from their homes. Key immediate needs include healthcare support, emergency shelter, access to food and water, protection, psychological support and the restoration of communication networks.' Funds raised through the ABM AID appeal will be used by the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) to meet the needs of the people. As at 23 December 2024 ABM AID has already sent AUD \$15,000 from their rapid response funds to support ACOM Vanuatu's relief efforts.

<https://www.abmission.org/appeals/emergency-appeals/vanuatu-earthquake-appeal-2024/>

Update on the **Al Ahli Hospital Emergency Appeal** - from the ABM AID website "There are no winners in war...AID has launched an emergency appeal for the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza and for those who have been displaced, injured, or lost their livelihoods during the conflict. We are also raising funds from the Diocese of Jerusalem's response in the West Bank, where conflict has spread.

UPDATE: 18 December 2024: Anglican Hospitals and Clinics are working around the clock to serve those in need in Gaza and the West Bank. With other hospitals in northern Gaza besieged or forced to close in October 2024, ABM AID partner Al Ahli Hospital found itself inundated, not only with patients evacuated from other hospitals but also with medical staff fleeing those hospitals and offering their services at Al Ahli. Al Ahli was conducting emergency operations 24 hours per day, operating on 30-35 people per day."

<https://www.abmission.org/appeals/emergency-appeals/al-ahli-hospital-emergency-appeal/>

Men's BBQ: Thursday 16 January 2025
6.30pm in The Seminar Room (behind the Parish Office)

The Men's BBQ is happening every third Thursday of the Month. BYO meat for the barby, drinks, some salad or sides, to share.

Enjoy fine dining, good company and an uplifting time.



Garden Working Bee
Saturday 25 January 2025

Every 4th Saturday of each month from 9.30am to 12noon.

Extra hands would be so helpful.

Enquiries: Gill McLennon 0411 957 270.

Save the date

Ecumenical Hymnfest 2025

Sunday 9 February - 2pm at St Alban's
'Ten Glorious Hymns played by Ten Organists'.

A special morning tea will be held after the 10am service.

Why not invite your friends.

Yes! ABM still wants your used stamps!

Recycle your used stamps - individual stamps from envelopes and postcard are very welcome, as are albums and whole collections from stamp collectors, some of these collections prove to be very valuable when sold – a generous gift to the Anglican Board of Mission! If you wish to donate stamp albums please contact Peggy as it's important to leave all the stamps in the album (they fetch much more). Likewise, stamps in perforated sheets are best left in that format. When taking stamps from envelopes, parcels and postcards **try to leave about 1cm of envelope or postcard on each side of used stamps.**

There is an orange box for used stamps in the church porch.

ABM thanks all those who leave used stamps for collection as the money raised goes towards the work of ABM in mission.

So does BCA! Stamps left in the orange used stamps box in the porch are divided between ABM and BCA.

Peggy Sanders (0413 481 854)



Bulletin notices:

Please send items to be considered for next Sunday's bulletin by
TUESDAY at 2.30pm to the office.

Office arrangements

The Parish Office will be open this Tuesday and Thursday.



At the back of St Alban's are enlarged service sheets and bulletins.
If you would like a copy, please ask the duty parishioners.

**If you are a NEWCOMER, to St Alban's,
we would like to make contact with you.**

To do this please scan the QR code and we will be in touch.

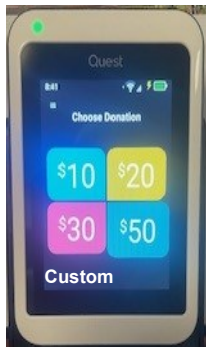


Safe Ministry

The Parish of St Alban's with St Aidan's Epping NSW is committed to the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare and safety of all people, particularly within its own community.

If you have any questions or concerns you can contact the Rector, The Reverend Phil Lui on 02 9876 3362 or email phil@eppinganglicans.org.au

You can also contact the Diocesan Safe Ministry Team on 02 9265 1604 email info@safeministry.org.au or to report abuse 1800 774 945 email abuserreport@safeministry.org.au



EFTPOS Terminal

St Alban's has now made it even easier to make a donation by installing a 'Tap and Go' machine which is placed at the back of the church. Simply select an amount for your once-off donation and tap your debit or credit card. There are four set amounts - \$10, \$20, \$30, \$50 or a custom amount where you can choose your own number (up to \$99). If you would like to donate more than \$99, please tap twice.

Pick which amount you would prefer then tap your card.

Please consider paying your offertory directly into the church account.

The details are:- St Alban's Account, BSB No: 032 081, A/c: 000024

Please indicate which service you attend. If you wish some of your giving to go to the Mission of the Month or any other specific cause, please indicate it on your direct transfer.

During the blessing of the gifts of the people, we are including the offertory made to the Parish by direct transfer; handed in to the office, and the offertory made using the EFTPOS Terminal at the back of the church. Otherwise, the offertory box is located in the aisle at each service and brought forward for the blessing of the gifts. We also have an EFTPOS terminal at church for a once-off donation.

Next Sunday Services

Third Sunday after Epiphany and Aboriginal Sunday

19 January 2025

8am Eucharist with Hymns

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

10am Sung Eucharist

(also available by Zoom)

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

WEEKLY SERVICES PLANNED DURING JANUARY 2025

8.00am Eucharist

10.00am Eucharist - *including by Zoom*

There are no weekday Services during January

Sunday School resumes on Sunday 2 February 2025.

Eucharist with Prayers for Healing resumes on Thursday 6 February 2025.

Parish Directory

Parish Office

Address - 3 Pembroke Street Epping 2121 (PO Box 79 Epping 1710)

Phone - 9876 3362

Rector	The Reverend Philip Lui 0433 456 987 phil@eppinganglicans.org.au
Parish Administrator	Mrs Denise Pigot 98763362 office@eppinganglicans.org.au
Children & Youth Ministry Worker	Kari Hewitt 0402 119 004 youth@elevateepping.life
Music Director	Chris Czerwinski 0452 557 695 krzysztof_czerwinski@yahoo.com
Student Minister	Doris Awad doris.awad@christianunion.org.au

Website - www.eppinganglicans.org.au