

Epping Anglicans

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

Our Vision: To be a Worshipping, Recognisably Anglican, Multi-racial, All-age, Gathered, Christian Community - 'a city on a hill'

2nd Sunday of Advent 9 December 2018

The hymns, collect and readings can be found in this bulletin on pages 2-5

...at St Alban's

7.00am Eucharist

Reader: Ruth Shatford

Preacher: *Bishop Ross Nicholson*

8.00am Eucharist

Reader: John Rawling

Hymns: 616 TIS, 297, 375 - these hymns are printed in the bulletin

Preacher: *Bishop Ross Nicholson*

10.00am Sung Eucharist & Sunday School/Breakfast Club Presentation

Reader: Sue Armitage

Hymns: 5, 616 TIS, 297, 375 - these hymns are printed in the bulletin

6.00pm Prayer with Songs from Taizé

The Reverend Paul Weaver

... at St Aidan's

8.30am Eucharist

Reader: Kim Boyd

Hymns: 264, 616, 526, 242- the hymns are printed in the bulletin

Preacher: *The Reverend Paul Weaver*

Welcome to St Alban's and St Aidan's

We warmly welcome you today as we join together to worship our Risen Lord.

If you are a new parishioner please collect a Welcome Folder and leave the information card with one of the Welcome Group or Parish Staff.

Please stay and join us after our morning services at St Alban's and St Aidan's for tea and coffee, or breakfast after the 8.00am service at St Alban's.



5 NEH (St Alban's); **264 TIS** (tune St Aidan's)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!' | 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven; |
| 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies. | 4 So when next he comes in glory,
And earth's final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear. |
| 5 Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run. Amen. | |

From the Latin Tr E
Caswall 1814-78.
Public domain.

After the entrance, the following words are said when the Sanctuary Party gathers around the Advent Wreath.

The Lord be with you
Lord Jesus, you are the light in our darkness.
Bring hope into the lives of all people.
Bless us as we gather in your name.

and also with you.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, Lord Jesus.

The first two Advent Candles are lit.

Loving God, as we continue our Advent preparation and reflection, we thank you for the hope you bring us in Christ's coming. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by your Spirit, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

Let us continue to look to Christ, confident in his promises, and open to his call to trust and follow him.

We will be open to God's Spirit, and accept the challenge to live lives that reflect his love.

Let us show humility and compassion in our lives, reflecting the love of Christ.

We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will be open to the guidance of his Spirit and the power of his love. We will go forth from this place in hope.

We continue on the front page of the printed service. If using A Prayer Book for Australia, we continue on page 120 at #5, The Two Great Commandments, and we respond with the *Trisagion* on page 121 #10. The liturgy continues as usual with the Collect and the readings. The Confession and Absolution are said at #22 on page 126. Brief additions for the season are added to the Great Thanksgiving, and some other adjustments are made to the liturgy: these can be found on pages 147-8.

During this season of preparation, we invite you (if practical) to kneel during the great Thanksgiving and to receive the Sacrament. Then at Christmas, we will stand to receive the sacrament as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child.

Today's Readings

Sentence

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.78–79

Prayer of the Day

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin: keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Malachi 3.1-4

A reading from the Book of Malachi

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel:
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets, you promised of old:
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
To show mercy to our forebears:
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship you without fear:
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
To give God's people knowledge of salvation:
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel**Luke 3.1-6****Alleluia, alleluia**

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths:
 All people shall see the salvation of God.

alleluia!

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (3.1-6)
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" '

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

SPECIAL SERVICES TILL CHRISTMAS

Sunday 9 December

10.00am - Sunday School Presentation at St Alban's

Sunday 16 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

7.45pm - Nine Lessons and Carols of Christmas at St Alban's
(Refreshments follow in the Parish Hall)

Monday 24 December - Christmas Eve

6.00pm - A Family Christmas Celebration at St Alban's
(with Christingles for the children)

11.00pm - Choral Festival Eucharist of the Nativity: St Alban's

Tuesday 25 December - Christmas Day

(One service only at St Alban's)

8.00am - Choral Festival Eucharist at Saint Alban's

8.30am - Festival Eucharist: Saint Aidan's

Help with Decorating St Alban's Christmas Tree

Help is needed with the setting up of the crib and decorating the Christmas tree after the 10am Service TODAY.

Please join in this fun time.



Letterbox drop

Flyers for the Family Fun Day, plus Christmas Services, are ready to be delivered to homes in the parish area (before next Saturday).

If you can help (even with your street), a map of the parish boundary, plus flyers, are at the back of the church. Please outline where you can deliver.

Christmas Family Fun Day NEXT SATURDAY 15 - December

9am to 12noon

St Alban's is having another Fun Day! If you'd like to help out at the Christmas Family Fun Day please put your name on the sheet on the Noticeboard.

We will need helpers to supervise the jumping castle, cook at the BBQ, serve drinks, face paint, assist with craft, hand out Christmas brochures and miscellaneous tasks.

Please come along and join in with the activities.



Sunday School Helpers

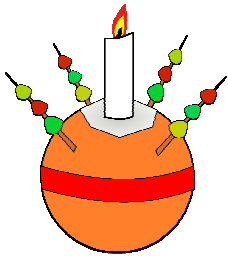
We would like to thank all those who have done such a great job in leading the Sunday School during the year, and all who have helped to make this year's Sunday School (and Breakfast Club) play such a great success.

Christingle Service

Would you like to be involved in the Christingle service? We are looking for musicians!

If you can play an instrument, we'd love you to be part of the Christingle Service *at 6pm on Christmas eve.*

Please email Bishop Ross at rossnicholson@eppinganglicans.org.au (or the parish office) and let him know the instrument you play.



Can you assist in making Christingles

for the 6pm Christmas Eve family service?

We will meet in the main hall following the 10am Christmas Eve service.

Preparation of the church for Christmas

Do you have a spare hour or two on Saturday 22 December to help with a general clean of St Alban's? This would mostly be dusting. Any help would be much appreciated.

The clean-up will start at 9am.

Flowers for Christmas

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers for Christmas, would you kindly place an envelope in the offertories marked accordingly.



Thank you ...

to everyone who has supported the **Toys 'n' Tucker** appeal. We have had a great response!

Anglicare will be picking up the goods THIS Tuesday morning so if you still have something you would like to donate, the deadline is tomorrow.

The Reverend Dr Ben Edwards will be inducted at St Paul's Manuka
(Corner Captain Cook Crescent and Canberra Avenue, Manuka)
on Saturday 15 December 2018 at 2pm.

Church:

Killara - St Martin; Lindfield - St Alban's; East Lindfield - St Peter's; Pymble - St Swithun; LifeWay Lutheran Church Epping; Parish of St John the Baptist, Epping, UK; The Christmas Bowl (*Mission of the Month*)

In our World and our Parish:

Pray for the Rev'd Dr Ben Edwards as he takes up his new ministry at St Paul's Manuka on Saturday. Pray also for Kate, Tim and Claire as they move to a new home and church.

Pray for our political leaders and members of Parliament, that they will show respect to each other and to all people, and act with compassion and integrity.

Give thanks for our children and young people, and those who have led them. Pray for God's provision of leadership for the year ahead.

Pray for students and teachers as they come toward the end of the school year. Ask God to guide those making decisions about studies next year, and those facing new challenges and opportunities in work and study.

Pray for those who have recently been experiencing flood, fire and drought. Pray also for those who serve in our Bush Fire Services and other disaster relief organisations.

Anniversary of Death:

Dorothy Rushforth 9/12; Clifford Harvie 11/12; Norman Peverell 13/12; Irene Rogers 14/12; Lillian Schaefer 14/12; Ian Graham 15/12; Jean Hemsall 15/12; Joy Downes 15/12; Audrey Turner 15/12

Mission of the Month
The Christmas Bowl 2018

The Christmas Bowl began in 1949, when the Rev. Frank Byatt in Victoria placed an empty bowl on the table during Christmas dinner and asked his guests to contribute the cost of their meal, in order to support refugees escaping the devastation of World War II.

Today, the Christmas Bowl continues to be an ecumenical church appeal, with 18 church denominations around the country now involved. The invitation is to Australian Christians to stand by men, women and children living through conflict and displacement. Currently there are more than 60 million displaced people in the world who need our assistance.

The Christmas Bowl appeal is our way of forging a loving connection between our Christian community here in Australia and people around the world who are experiencing dreadful hardship and suffering. For further details, please refer to the display on the Narthex board or visit the Act for Peace website www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

To contribute to The Christmas Bowl, please place your gift in the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your offertory envelope (please write 'Christmas Bowl' next to the stamped date), or in an envelope marked 'Christmas Bowl'. For those who electronically transfer their offertory, please consider making a separate EFT for mission giving.



Christmas Lunch

Jenny Nicholson would love to invite all the women of St Alban's and St Aidan's to a Christmas lunch!

This Wednesday 12 December 2018
The Rectory at St Albans
From 12 noon till 3pm

RSVP to Jenny on 0437697746 or email at jentybell@gmail.com

If you are willing to bring a plate of something savoury or sweet toward the lunch. It will be a great opportunity for all the women of St Alban's and St Aidan's to get together!

St Aidan's Food Collection for CCA Eastwood

Please remember next Sunday (16/12) will be the 3rd Sunday of the month, collection day for non-perishable food for distribution by Christian Community Aid Eastwood.

Kitchen Assistance Needed!

We all value the chance to have a cuppa and a chat after services and it's good to invite visitors to join us SO.....

KITCHEN HELP is needed:

*Supper after Carol Service next Sunday evening (**16 December**)

*Morning Tea after 10am service 30 December and during January.

Please add your name to the list at the back of the church or speak to Sarah Weaver (0140315956)



Pew
Reflections
REFLECTIONS
BGM

Malachi 3.1-4; *For the Psalm*: Song of Zechariah (*Benedictus es*, Luke 1.68-79); Philippians 1.1-11; Luke 3.1-6

As we watch and wait with eager anticipation, we must also prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. As we venture into the spiritual wilderness of our lives, we need to remind ourselves that our hearts cannot receive the Lord unless we, like John the Baptist prepare his way. This is a time for inner cleansing so that we might make room to receive Him and experience the joy of his coming.

- Pray that we might simplify our lives, curtail our appetites for things material, and open our hearts and minds to new ways of living in harmony with God's creation.
- Pray for the Church of South India, giving thanks for the work they do to further God's mission in the world.

Text: The Rev Laurette Glasgow, Special Advisor for Government Relations for the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Ottawa. © Anglican Board of Mission, 2018

Carols in the Park

TODAY

Carols from 7.15pm

Fireworks from 9pm

Boronia Park Epping

Arranged by local Epping Churches



Puddings

The puddings have already raised over \$9,000. If you would like to purchase a pudding (including gluten free), please see Ruth Shatford or ask at the office - there are not many left!



All proceeds will be supporting The Footpath Library; Indigenous Literacy Foundation and SAWA (Support Association for the Women of Afghanistan).

Cost is still only \$35 each for 900gms of delicious pudding (8 generous serves).

Name Tags

If you have a name tag, would you kindly wear it to church, as it is helpful for other parishioners to know your name. If you don't have a name tag, please let the office know so that one can be ordered for you.

Commemorative Book for Sale

Profiles of 21 World War 1 Servicemen whose names are inscribed on the World War 1 Honour Board. On sale after the 8am service as well as before and after the 10am service, or see Denise in Church Office. Cost: \$20

A booklet '*Guidelines for Funeral Service*'
has been produced as a caring initiative
by our Pastoral Care Committee.
If you would like one,
copies are available at the back of each church.



MORE INFORMATION on the Parish can be found on our website, www.eppinganglicans.org.au, including links to our Parish Magazine and Thought for Prayer.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Monday 11 December

Parish Office Closed

Tuesday 12 December

9-11am Staff meeting

7.45pm Study in the Rectory

Wednesday 13 December

7.00am Eucharist

12noon Women's Christmas Lunch at
the Rectory

7.45pm Choir practice

Thursday 14 December

Lucy, martyr and virgin

10.30am Healing Eucharist

Friday 15 December

John of the Cross, mystic and teacher

Rector's day-off

Saturday 16 December

9-12pm FAMILY FUN DAY!

Next Sunday's Services

3rd Sunday
of Advent

16 December 2018

At ST ALBAN'S

7.00am Eucharist

Preacher: Bishop Ross Nicholson

8.00am Eucharist

Preacher: Bishop Ross Nicholson

10.00am Choral Eucharist

President: The Reverend Paul Weaver

Preacher: Bishop Ross Nicholson

7.45pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Bishop Ross Nicholson

at St Aidan's

8.30am Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Paul Weaver

St Alban's is open every day for reflection and prayer.

Anglicare Counselling

There is a counsellor working here at St Alban's. Jane works with people who are living with relationship difficulties, family conflict, anxiety, depression and many other issues. For more information, or an appointment, phone 9798 1400.

Please send items to be considered for the bulletin next week by
Wednesday at 2.30pm.

Please consider paying your offertory directly into the church account.

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

St Aidan's Ac: BSB No: 032 081 A/c: 810086

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, we acknowledge the offertory made to the Parish by direct transfer.

The Season of Advent

Advent is a time of reflection and preparation as we look forward to celebrating the Coming of the Christ Child at Bethlehem, and to his Coming in glory at that great climax of history. The liturgical form we use takes on a serious note, symbolized by the use of violet as our liturgical colour.

During this season we use the Advent Wreath in our liturgy. The circular shape of the wreath and the evergreens used to construct it represent the eternal nature of the one true God. The candles represent the light of Christ. The candles in the wreath are lit successively, until all are ablaze on the Sunday before Christmas. The central Christmas Candle is then lit at the Christmas Day services, signifying the coming of Christ, the Light of the world.

Parish Directory

Parish Office (at St Alban's) is open Tuesday to Friday 9am to 1pm
during school term

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

Phone - 9876 3362

St Aidan's Church - 30 Downing Street, West Epping

Rector Bishop Ross Nicholson
0407 916 603
rossnicholson@eppinganglicans.org.au

Associate Priest The Reverend Paul Weaver
0408 285 776
paul@eppinganglicans.org.au

Parish Administrator Mrs Denise Pigot
98763362
office@eppinganglicans.org.au

Organist Dr Neil Cameron

Youth Leader Christopher Lawn

Honorary Clergy The Reverend Jane Chapman
The Reverend Val Tibbey

Website - www.eppinganglicans.org.au



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