

St Alban's Monthly Newsletter

MARCH 2026



Services this month

1 March – Second Sunday in Lent

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Paul Weaver

8 March – Third Sunday in Lent

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Sung Eucharist

Preacher: Archdeacon Brett Hall

15 March – Fourth Sunday in Lent / Mothering Sunday

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: Dr Ruth Shafford

22 March – Fifth Sunday in Lent

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Sung Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

10am service will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish

29 March – Palm Sunday / Blessing of the Palms

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Paul Weaver

We will commence the Blessing of the Palms and Procession at 9.30am at Our Lady Help of Christians (OLHC), Oxford Street, Epping. Please assemble at OLHC at 9.20am. We will process with members of West Epping Uniting Church, and members of the Epping Catholic Church. We will return for the commencement of our 10am Service.

30 March – Monday in Holy Week

7.45pm Eucharist with Reflection

31 March – Tuesday in Holy Week

7.45pm Eucharist with Reflection

Sunday School is held at 10am in The Loft (above the Main Hall)

Youth Bible Study at 10am

What's on at St Alban's during March

Sundays in Lent – During Lent on Sunday afternoons (1, 8, 15, 22 and 29) at 1pm in the Seminar Room, we will look at the final four chapters of John's gospel, where we orientate ourselves to see Jesus achieve his victory over death by being the suffering servant, who is lifted up on the cross and draws all people to himself. Led by Bill Walton.

Wednesday 4, 11, 18 and 25 March

Everyday English Classes at 10am

Thursday 5, 12, 19 and 26 March

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Thursday 5, 12, 19 26 March and 3 April

A Lenten Study will be held after the Healing Service from **11.45 to 1pm**. This will be led by the Rev'd Barbara Howard.

Thursday 5 March

12.00pm RLT Women's Discussion Group will be held at Margaret's home. New members are very welcome. Enquiries to Christine on 0418 241 372.

Tuesday 10 March

St Alban's Mothers Union Meeting at 1.30pm in the Seminar Room. All are welcome to attend, you don't have to be a mother. Men are also very welcome to join.

Sunday 15 March

Mothering Sunday

Historically, Mothering Sunday was the day when domestic servants were given a day off to visit their "mother church" (the church where they were baptised) and their own mothers. The Mothers' Union, with its focus on supporting marriage and family life, became a key supporter in promoting Mothering Sunday, ensuring it honored both the "Mother Church" (a tradition dating back to the Middle Ages) and "mothers of earthly homes".

The Mothers' Union (MU) is closely associated with Mothering Sunday because the organisation has played a significant role in reviving and maintaining this tradition as a Christian celebration of family and motherhood in the UK and throughout the Commonwealth.

In our Parish members of Saint Alban's MU will provide the Intercessions at 8am and 10am; they will also provide Simnel Cake which they have made, to be shared with the congregations at the end of the services. The name simnel is derived from an old French word. It was a rich fruit cake made with finest of flour and covered with a layer of almond paste and decorated with 11 small balls of almond paste to signify all of the apostles except Judas.

Thursday 19 March

6.30pm **Men's BBQ Group** will be held in The Old Sunday School Room (behind the Parish Office). All men are very welcome.

Sunday 22 March – Annual General Meeting

Following the 10am service

Changes to the ordinance means that at the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”), most office holders will need to have completed Safe Ministry training **before** they can be nominated for election. This is mandatory, the only exception is for appointments made by the Rector (which are made after the elections, and sometimes after the AGM). These people will have a short period in which to complete requirements. More information is on the noticeboard.

Nomination forms for Wardens, Parish Councillors, Synod Reps and Parish Nominators are available at the back of the church and are required by 15 March 2026.

AGM Reports: Parish organisations are invited to submit brief reports for publication. Please send to the office by Tuesday 10 March.

Saturday 28 March

9.30am Garden Maintenance. Extra hands, of all ages, are always helpful. Enquiries: Gill McLennan 0411 957 270.

Making of Palm Crosses in The Seminar Room from 9.30am will be a working bee to make Palm Crosses for the following day, Palm Sunday.

We would be very grateful to those who can assist. No experience necessary – tuition given. A small pair of scissors would be helpful equipment. Enquiries: Margaret Cummins 9680-4865.

Sourcing of Palms - we are looking for a source of palm branches - Please let Margaret know if you have access to palms.

Dates for 6pm Taizé Services during 2026 are: April 12, June 14, August 9, October 11 and November 8
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Lenten Devotion and Bible Reading Plan for 2026 - The Rector has prepared a plan for 40 days of reading through the Gospel of John. Please pick up your copy from the church porch.

Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection for March 2026 is now available. *Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection* is produced within the parish with a thought and prayer for each day of the month, as well as weekly prayers.

The April Newsletter

Our Newsletters give more information on what is happening at St Alban's. If you know of a parish event coming up during April, would you please let the Parish Office know. The deadline for the April Newsletter is Tuesday 25 March.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Monday 30, Tuesday 31 March, Wednesday 1 April

7.45pm Holy Week Eucharist with Reflection

Aimee Wong (Monday), Gloria Walton (Tuesday) and Doris Awad (Wednesday)

Thursday 2 April Maundy Thursday

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

7.45pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist with Serving One Another
Preceded by Passover Meal

Friday 3 April Good Friday

9.30am Service of Readings and Hymns with Communion

Followed by Hot Cross Buns and refreshments

Saturday 4 April Holy Saturday

9am Morning Prayer

Followed by the Easter clean-up and morning tea

Sunday 5 April Easter Day

5.30am The Vigil of Easter, Renewal of Baptism and Eucharist

Followed by the Easter party

8.30am Festival Choral Eucharist and Renewal of Baptism

Preacher: Assistant Minister Bill Walton

We are planning to have all these services available on Zoom
for those who cannot attend.

Passover Meal

Maundy Thursday 2 April

6pm in The Old Sunday School Room

This year at St Alban's we are going to celebrate a Passover Meal before our Maundy Thursday service to help orientate our minds and hearts to Jesus' Passion during Holy Week.

Celebrating a Passover Meal helps Christians better understand the biblical story of redemption that ultimately finds its fulfillment in Jesus. The themes of deliverance, sacrifice, and covenant point directly to Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God and deepen appreciation for the meaning of The Last Supper.

Observing these symbols can strengthen faith by connecting The Lord's Supper to God's larger saving purposes throughout Scripture.

\$10 per head.

Please RSVP to office@eppinganglicans.org.au / 9876 3362

For Your Prayers

Parishes in our Mission Area - Beecroft, St John the Evangelist; Eastwood, St Philip; Gladesville, Christ Church; Macquarie, St George and St Dunstan; North Epping, All Saints; Ryde, St Anne; Soul Revival; West Ryde, St Columb; North Ryde, St John; Bridge, Trinity Chapel

Ecumenical Churches in our Area - Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford; Uniting Church Parishes of Epping and West Epping; Epping Presbyterian Church; Epping Baptist Church; and Epping Congregational Church.

Pray for our Parish, our Ministry Team and our Congregations - Pray for our Rector Phil in his leadership and vision for our parish, and pray our ministry team – Bill and Gloria; Doris; and Aimee and David – as they serve in our parish, and as they nurture our youth and our children in their understanding and faith; pray for Pastor Kian and Liza; and for Fr Simon and Lillian as they lead and develop their congregations. Pray for our Students Ministers as they participate during this month in their Moore College Mission activities, connecting with other parishes as part of their program.

Give thanks for the service of our Wardens, Parish Council and Synod Representatives over the past year, and pray for those who will be nominated for these and other roles in the parish at the Annual General Meeting. Pray for all who serve the parish, and pray that we may each contribute our skills, talents, time and finances as we are able.

Pray that we may keep a holy and reflective Lent, reading and meditating on God's word, and increasing our acts of generosity and service.

In the Indonesian congregation pray that the students can study well and be salt and light at university, and that young workers can testify to Jesus in their workplace; and pray for students as they prepare to return to Indonesia, so they can continue to walk in the Lord and bless this nation. In our Chinese congregation pray for Fr Simon and Lillian as they gather and grow the Mandarin speaking members for Sunday services, and as they develop weekday activities for Cantonese speaking members of the congregation.

St George's Paddington: Please pray for the new Rector of St George's, Bishop Stuart Robinson, and the congregation, as they get to know one another and to seek God's leading for the parish together in its life and witness to the people of Paddington and beyond.

Mission of the Month: This Lent, may the ABM AID Lent Appeal be generously supported bringing the lifegiving gift of clean water to vulnerable people.

Anniversary of Death – Frances Page 1/3; Allan Griffith 2/3; Arthur Osborne 3/3; Ethel Goff 3/3; Lillian Gibson 3/3; Mavis Bradey 6/3; Marjorie Wilkinson 7/3; John McNicol 8/3; Hatsue Nagao 8/3; Gertrude Howe 10/3; Marjorie Nicholas 10/3; Gertrude Nyholm 13/3; Robert Carson 13/3; Eleanor Hogan 14/3; Clarice Armstead 15/3; Marshall D'Souza 15/3; Walter Munn 15/3; Cliff Snyman 15/3; Mabel Chapman 17/3; Dudley Hughes 17/3; Max Boyley 19/3; Merrilee Arthur 21/3; Stanley Evans 22/3; Bruce Martin 23/3; John Bellamy 26/3; James Poole 27/3; Denis Barrett 27/3; Bill Carr-Boyd 28/3; Catherine Rutherford 28/3; Philip Beer 30/3; Jill Lonsdale 30/3

Mission of the Month

ABM AID Lent appeal 2026 - Give Water, Give Life

Lent is a time of the desert, of wandering in a spiritual wilderness. It is also a time in which we come to recognize the importance of water and its place as the source and sustainer of life.

Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are basic human rights. They should be available to everyone, everywhere – but they aren't. ABM AID works with local partners to provide communities in Kenya, Vanuatu, Myanmar and other places around the world with clean water.

This Lent, your generosity can bring the lifegiving gift of clean water to vulnerable people. With your support, we work with trusted Anglican partners to bring clean water, safe toilets and essential hygiene facilities to people who need them.

For further details, please refer to the Missions display on the narthex board, or visit website www.abmission.org/appeals/appeals-major/lent2026/

There are a few ways to financially support ABM and AID and their partners during Lent this year. Place your gift in the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your weekly offertory envelope, or in a plain envelope marked 'ABM Lent'. Alternatively, transfer funds electronically to the St Alban's account - please use the tag 'ABM Lent', or donate funds directly at www.abmission.org/appeals/appeals-major/lent2026/



Chrism Eucharist (Chrism Mass) is an annual Holy Week liturgy where a Bishop blesses the three holy oils which may be used in sacraments - Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing the Sick - and involves the renewal of clerical vows.

This year the Service will be held on Wednesday 1 April 2026, 11am at Saint James King Street with Bishop Michael Stead presiding. Members of the parish are welcome.

Obituary for Dr Neil Cameron in the February/March edition of the Diocesan Southern Cross, page 29.

Lenten Quiet Day of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd, to be held at St John's Birchgrove on Saturday 7 March. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

More details are on the porch noticeboard.

Used Stamps: We have received the following from the Anglican Board of Mission:

Dear Friends in Mission, Thank you for your recent donation of stamps which are a valuable source of income for the work of ABM. The money generated from your donation of stamps supports the work of ABM throughout the Anglican Communion and often funds much needed projects which we find difficult to resource from our regular donations.

Thank you to all who donate used stamps, stamp albums (please keep the stamps in the album - these can bring additional funds), and special release stamps - these can be left in the orange box in the church porch, or leave in the Office.

Peggy Sanders 0413 481 854

The Parish Magazine

The latest magazine, February to April 2026, is now available. This is published every three months. The Parish Magazine records recent events in the parish, gives details of parish activities and publishes articles of general interest and articles which set out opinions on a range of matters the subject of discussion within the Anglican Church community.

Would you like to contribute to the next edition of The Parish Magazine? Please contact the editor Julie Evans via email julie.evans@ihug.com.au or via the Parish Office. Photographs of Parish events are also welcome.

Volunteers Needed: Share Your Gifts and Serve!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved, meet others, and contribute to our parish community? We believe everyone has unique gifts and talents, and we have many opportunities for you to put them to use for God's glory.

We are currently seeking volunteers for the following ministries:

- **Welcoming Team:** Greet fellow parishioners and visitors, helping everyone feel welcome and at home.
- **Hospitality Team:** Assist with breakfast or morning tea on a Sunday.
- **Tech/Media Team:** Assist with zoom and presentation slides during services.
- **Maintenance Team (including Garden Maintenance):** Help keep our church a safe and welcoming physical environment.
- **Flower Guild:** Help beautify the church with others capable people.

How to Get Involved

If you're interested in any of these roles or want to learn about other opportunities, we'd love to connect with you.

Please contact the Parish Office (details on back page).

Your time and talent are a blessing to our church.

Zoom details for Sunday 10am Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?pwd=VGpWNXRMcFILYXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09>

Passcode 389867 if required. Dialling in: 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.

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 give 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.

PARISH STAFF

Rector: The Reverend Philip Lui 0413 396 435 - phil@eppinganglicans.org.au

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

Assistant Minister (part-time): Bill Walton

Music Director: Chris Czerwinski 0452 557 695
krzysztof_czerwinski@yahoo.com

Student Ministers: Doris Awad - doris@eppinganglicans.org.au
and Gloria Walton

Student Ministers and Children's Ministry Workers: Aimee and David Wong

Indonesian Congregation (EPIC) Pastor: Kian Holik
kian@eppinganglicans.org.au

Caretaker: Kari Hewitt 0402 119 004 – kari@eppinganglicans.org.au

Parish Office

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