

St Alban's Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday services this month



7 December – DV Sunday / Second Sunday of Advent

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

14 December – Third Sunday of Advent /

Sunday School Pageant and Book Presentation (at 10am)

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Sung Eucharist

Reflection: The Reverend Phil Lui

21 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Michael Robinson

7.45pm Service of Lessons and Carols

The Reverend Phil Lui

Battery candles will be available before the service @ \$3 each.

Supper to follow – a plate of food would be greatly appreciated

24 December – Christmas Eve

6pm Children's Service

9.30pm Festival Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui (at 9.30pm)

25 December – Christmas Day

8.30am Festival Choral Eucharist

Preacher: Pastor Kian Holik

28 December – First Sunday after Christmas

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Sung Eucharist

President and Preacher: The Reverend Michael Robinson

Sunday School is held at 10am every Sunday in The Loft

JOY TO THE WORLD!
THE LORD IS COME



What's on at St Alban's during December

Wednesday 3 December

Everyday English Classes at 10am to 12noon. This is the end of year celebration and Christmas party.

A short service in the Church will commence at 10am which will include two Christmas carols and a short talk about Christmas. Afterwards will be a party and entertainment in the hall including food the students will bring to share.

Parishioners are invited to join in.

Thursday 4 December

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

12noon RLT Christmas gathering at Vanilla Cream Café, Annangrove.

7.15pm Bible Study at North Epping. Enquiries to Ted on 0431 663 853

Thursday 11 December

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

7.15pm Bible Study at North Epping. Enquiries to Ted on 0431 663 853

Monday 15 December

Final Parish Council gathering for the year

Thursday 18 December

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

7.15pm Bible Study at North Epping. Enquiries to Ted on 0431 663 853

Saturday 20 December

9.30am Garden Maintenance. Extra hands, of all ages, are always helpful.

Enquiries: Gill McLennan 0411 957 270.

Preparation of the Church for Christmas. From 9am there will be a general clean up of the church, mostly dusting. If you have a spare hour this would be greatly appreciated.

Sunday 28 December

A leftovers Christmas lunch will be held following the 10am service. Bring any leftover food you would like to share.

Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection

for December 2025 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.



Flowers for Christmas

If anyone has a Christmas Bush and would like to offer some to the church to use in the Christmas flower arrangements, could you please contact Jan Boyley on 0449 274 876.

Monetary donations would also be greatly appreciated towards the purchase of flowers to beautify the church for Christmas. This can be handed in at the office, by direct debit marked Christmas Flowers or placed in an envelope in the collection box. Thank you from the flower guild.

The Parish Magazine

The current magazine, November 2025 to January 2026, is available at the church and on the parish website (<https://www.eppinganglicans.org.au/>). The Parish Magazine, which is published every three months) 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? **The deadline for contributions is 9 January 2026.** 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.

Changes to Nomination Process for Office Holders 2026

The process and requirements for the nomination and filling of Warden and Parish Councillor roles is changing in 2026. Safe Ministry ('SM') is the Sydney Diocese requirements to protect vulnerable people. The ordinance that governs the management of parishes has changed and applies to all parishes, not just Epping.

Background - As you will be aware from the media, there is unfortunately an ongoing number of reports of inappropriate behaviour towards vulnerable people including children, the elderly, those with disabilities, and women across society, both historical and current. The Diocese, in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, instituted policies and guidelines to protect all people within the Church, in particular children and vulnerable adults. SM requirements are in addition to any statutory requirements such as mandatory state legislated Working With Children Checks.

Parish Response - The Parish adheres to SM requirements. We have our own processes; a SM Representative, Sarah Weaver; you will see the regular notices reminding people of how to report issues. Within the Parish every ministry/leadership role, both ordained and lay, needs to be assessed and the person needs to complete and meet varied requirements. Those working with children have the most significant requirements.

This year the Diocese required all Wardens and Parish Councillors to undertake and complete SM training by year end to ensure that all leaders understand the risks and requirements to ensure that we provide a safe environment.

Changes for Annual General Meeting in March 2026 - The changes to the ordinance means that at the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") in March 2026, most office holders will need to have completed SM 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.

The Annual General Meeting for the Parish is **Sunday 22 March 2026** after the 10am Service.

What Does This Mean For People Considering Nomination? For people who are already undertaking some form of leadership or ministry, you may have already completed the required training. If in doubt, check with Sarah Weaver. If SM training has not been undertaken then you will need to complete the training before you can accept a nomination for a role. The training is not onerous. There is several hours of online units to complete, which you can do at home at your own pace, followed by a webinar.

You are encouraged to consider **NOW** ways that you can serve the Parish. Too often we leave this thinking and discussion until the new year, in the weeks leading up to the AGM, but we need to be doing this earlier and perhaps even undertaking the training, even if you may decide not to nominate. We want a Parish Council that is representative of the whole Parish, in age, diversity, skills, experiences, etc. We need to have new people coming onto Parish Council in these important roles to bring fresh ideas as well as allowing others to take a step back.

We need to ensure that we are meeting our statutory obligations, but more importantly that our Parish is a safe place for all people, especially the young and vulnerable, reflecting the love of Christ to all. May I ask you to be giving this prayerful consideration for yourself and others whom you feel would make a contribution to the leadership of the parish. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Fr Phil, Sarah Weaver or one of the Wardens.

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 - Pray for our Rector Phil in his leadership; pray for our Wardens and the Parish Council, may we all be good stewards of God's bounty as we seek to grow the parish, and do God's will.

Pray for Pastor Kian and the members of the Indonesian Congregation (EPIC). Pray for our Music Director and Organists, and our Choir. Give thanks for all those in the parish who will contribute to the beauty of our worship over this Advent and Christmas.

Pray for all of us in our ministries, and that we may each contribute our skills, talents, time and finances as we are able, for the good of the parish and the furtherance of God's kingdom in our parish and the community around us. Pray for our Children's Ministry Worker Doris, and for Amy and all our Sunday School leaders and our children as they prepare to celebrate their joy in Christ's birth with us.

Pray for those from our Parish who are in need - Pray that they may know the comfort of God's healing grace: those who are ill, undergoing surgery, or in pain, and those who are confused or fearful. Give thanks for all who care for them.

Pray for those suffering domestic violence - Pray for those experiencing violence in their homes, relationships or workplaces; pray for protection and for courage, hope and practical assistance to break free from their abuse. Help us all to create safe environments and to be positive examples in our communities of the values of kindness, empathy, love, respect, equity and dignity.

St George's Paddington - Give thanks for the appointment to Bishop Stuart Robinson to be the next Rector, and praying for Paul Weaver in his ministry, and for the people of the parish, during the period leading up to Stuart's commencement of ministry at the end of January 2026.

Pray for peace in our world - Pray for all those who are suffering as a result of war, violence and conflict. Pray for strength for all medical personnel and humanitarian workers trying to ease the suffering of others in difficult conditions. Pray that the leaders of nations will work for peace and justice for all people and an end to the violence.

Anniversary of Death for November

Hester Taylor; Rose Pitts; Doreen Blevin 1/12; Josephine Moron 2/12; Ron Nyholm 4/12; Bill Sheather 4/12; Alison Wells 5/12; Carol Richardson 6/12; Elwyn

Russel-Jones 6/12; James Peebles 6/12; Norman Haywood 7/12; Margaret Ewart 8/12; Dorothy Rushforth 9/12; Clifford Harvie 11/12; Norman Peverell 13/12; Irene Rogers 14/12; Lillian Schaefer 14/12; Cath Taylor 14/12; Ian Graham 15/12; Joy Downes 15/12; Audrey Turner 15/12; Jean Hemsall 15/12; Philip Dowe 16/12; John Hemsall 17/12; Phyllis Rook 17/12; Nell Glanville 18/12; Michael Stannard 18/12; Russell Waters 20/12; Jean Drew 21/12; Sylvia Wickremesinghe 22/12; Betty Hunt 22/12; William Simpson 23/12; Jim Harrison 24/12; William Hardman 24/12; Beulah Gray 24/12; Kim Boyley 25/12; Virginia Bridgford 25/12; Eileen Ashton 26/12; Olga Shaw 30/12; Marion Brown 31/12

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

Each year, from 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, World Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism campaign calls for action against one of the world's most persistent violations of human rights – violence against women.

Following a motion passed at the recent Synod of the Diocese of Sydney, re the ongoing concern of domestic abuse, DV Sunday is an initiative of the Archbishop, supported by Synod, calling every church in our Diocese to dedicate time during services to address the reality of domestic abuse. In our Parish we will do this on Sunday 7 December, 2025. The Diocese has prepared resources for use in our services on that day.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign runs annually across the world at this time of the year. The campaign was established by the United Nations, it has been a campaign adopted by Mothers Union. In our Parish, in previous years, we have followed the 16 Days of Activism in our Bulletin, with notices in the porch, and in our prayers. The MU material has a bible reading for each day, and a prayer suggestion (<https://www.muaustralia.org.au/>). In our Services on DV Sunday members of our MU will lead our intercessions.

Mission of the Month donations received this year

\$400.00 = Anglicare Chaplaincy (January)
\$620.00 = BCA (February + ongoing donations)
\$572.15 = BCA March and September box opening
\$995.00 = ABM (March and April + ongoing donations)
\$749.20 = CCA (May)
\$300.00 = Anglican Aid (June)
\$685.00 = House of Welcome (July)
\$725.00 = CBM (August)
\$350.00 = Act for Peace (September)
\$325.00 = Banksia Women and Rough Edges (October)
\$525.00 = Toys n Tucker (November)

These amounts have been donated through the Parish accounts and do not include donations made by parishioners directly.

Mission of the Month



Sharing God's love through the Christmas Bowl

For 76 years, Australians have given to the Christmas Bowl as an act of faith, generosity, and hope. Born in the aftermath of World War II, it began as a simple idea: churches across the country joining together at Christmas to share what they could so that others, far away, could have food, shelter, and safety.

Decades later, the Bowl still carries the prayers, gifts, and compassion of Christians across generations. It is a tradition that has quietly reshaped lives in places most of us will never see. Year after year, ordinary believers step forward in love, often unseen. Their gifts have supported refugees, rebuilt homes after disaster, and reminded people in crisis that they are not forgotten.

For further details, please refer to the display on the Narthex board or visit the Act for Peace website www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

There are a few ways to donate to the Christmas Bowl. Either use the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your weekly offertory (please write 'Christmas Bowl' next to the stamped date) or use a plain envelope marked 'Christmas Bowl'. Alternatively, transfer funds electronically to the St Alban's account - please use the tag 'Christmas Bowl', or donate funds at a unique donation webpage set up for the Epping Anglican Parish mycb.link/45776

Christmas Markets

Epping Uniting Church
(*cnr Oxford and Chester Streets*)
Saturday 6 December 8am to 1pm

Handmade gifts, morning tea, food, live music

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Epping Uniting Church
Thursday 18 December
11am

An opportunity to receive God's comfort, peace, and healing during a holiday season that may not feel festive.

Everyone is welcome.

**Zoom details for Sunday 10am Service
and Thursday 9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing**

<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

Music Director

Chris Czerwinski 0452 557 695 - krzysztof_czerwinski@yahoo.com

Student Minister and Children's Ministry Worker

Doris Awad - doris@eppinganglicans.org.au

Indonesian Church (EPIC) Pastor

Kian Holik - kian@eppinganglicans.org.au

Caretaker

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

Parish Office

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

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