

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1 December 2024

8.00am Eucharist

Reader: Ron Arnold

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

10.00am Service of Advent Hymns, Prayers and Readings (Morning Prayer)

Also available by zoom

Readers: Margaret Cummins, Anne Lawson, Sue Armitage, Gillian Taylor & Sarah Weaver

Reflection: The Reverend Phil Lui

10.00am Sunday School in The Loft

(above the Main Hall)

Amy Taylor, Children's Ministry Worker

Join the 10am Service by Zoom:

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

[pwd=VGpWNXRMcFJLYXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?pwd=VGpWNXRMcFJLYXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09)

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*

From the Parish Council

In the first stage of analysing the results and feedback from the Parish Survey conducted in August and September this year, from the broad ranging useful feedback the parish council has identified the 5 priorities of our church that should shape our immediate planning for 2025 and 2026. These are:

1. Engagement with Youth
2. Engagement to young families
3. To reinforce a welcoming culture that integrates new people into the family of God at St Alban's
4. To rebuild more mid-week church life
5. To be a community that reaches out to the multicultural community around us.

We will keep reflecting on our congregational ideas and thoughts on the parish, but we felt it appropriate to keep the parish informed about what we as a church are thinking about collectively. The parish council will determine the current status of these five areas, in particular, develop future plans and consider the resources needed; and we will keep communicating with the parish.

6pm Christmas Eve Family Service

We are now preparing for this service. We would like to hearing from our children who play a musical instrument, or who can bang anything in time. Kindly email the Rector and tell him the instrument you play.



Student Minister

Recently you may have met Doris Awad who has joined our parish as a student minister. It is common practice that students of Moore College attend two different churches over the duration of their studies. What student ministers do varies from church to church and individuals. Doris will be will part of our Sunday morning services, helping our church build a mid-week fellowship group and manage the rectory.

Please make Doris welcome and if you have further questions, please take this as an opportunity to get to know Doris.

MU St Alban's (Mothers Union) is supporting the Anglican MU Australia and the global "16 Days of Activism Campaign". The campaign calls for action against one of the world's most persistent violations of human rights - Violence against Women.

Prayers for each day are on the porch noticeboard.

Christmas Stall

A Christmas stall will be held on **Sunday 15 December** after both the 8am and 10am services.



Donations for the stall (*edible Christmas goodies*) will be greatly received. Please leave these in the church porch or the parish office.

Enquiries to Elizabeth Jenkins: elizabethjenkins86@yahoo.com.au

The Season of Advent

Advent is the beginning of the Christian year. It is a time of preparation and waiting for the coming (*Adventus*) of Christ. The colour of Advent is purple, the colour of royalty to welcome the coming of Christ the King. The purple of Advent is also the colour of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week.



This points to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The nativity, the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion. Jesus came into the world as the "Word made flesh" and lived among us to reveal God and his grace. He did this through his life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection.

We celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent and look forward to the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent celebrates far more than just a 2,000-year-old event—amazing as that was; it celebrates the revelation of God in Christ reconciling all creation to God's self. The Readings for Advent reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, our accountability for faithfulness at his coming, the judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

Advent symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and congregation, as we affirm that Christ has come, is present in the world today, and will come again in power.

Changes in the Service

During Advent reflecting the penitential nature of the season there are changes in the liturgy: the Gloria is omitted, and the Confession and Absolution are in a different place. We kneel (or sit) for The Great Thanksgiving, and we are invited to kneel (where this is possible) to receive communion, so that at Christmas we can stand to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child.

Advent Wreath

Each Sunday in Advent is marked by lighting a new candle on the circular Advent Wreath of five candles. The three purple candles are coloured for the season. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday in Advent, Gaudete Sunday ("Rejoice Sunday"), reminding us of the joy of the coming of Christ. The white candle symbolises the presence of Christ and is joyfully lit on Christmas Day.

- The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.
- The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called the "Bethlehem Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.
- The **third candle** symbolises **joy** and is called the "Shepherds' Candle." To the shepherds' great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too.
- The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angels' Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace - he came to bring people close to God and to each other again.
- The **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called the "Christ Candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit late on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day.

Upcoming Services

Sunday 8 December

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday School Christmas Pageant at 10am

8am: Sung Eucharist, Preacher the Rector

10am: Preacher will be The Reverend Graham Thomas, Chaplain at Arden School.

Sunday 15 December

Third Sunday of Advent

8am and 10am Eucharists

Sunday 22 December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am and 10am Eucharists

Preacher: The Reverend Bruce Hunter

7.45pm Service of Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 24 December

Christmas Eve

6pm Family Christmas Service

9.30pm Festival Choral Eucharist

Wednesday 25 December

Christmas Day

8.30am Festival Choral Eucharist

JOY
to the world

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
ALL SAINTS
AND
LifeWay
OUTREACH CHURCH

JOY UNWRAPPED
Friday 13 December,
from 6.30pm
at Epping Oval, Norfolk Rd

Carol singing begins at 7.15pm
& finishes with fireworks ~ 9pm

Food, drinks & glowsticks available for sale

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT
northepingcarols.com

Volunteers are needed to make these carols a success. Please click this [link](https://allsaintsepping.org/connect) (allsaintsepping.org/connect) to view and consider what role you could do.

Anglicare Toys 'n' Tucker Christmas Appeal 2024

Anglicare will be picking up the goods on 4 December so if you still have something you would like to donate, the deadline to the church is **TODAY** 1 December, or to the office Tuesday morning 3 December.

Mission of the Month *Sharing God's love through the Christmas Bowl*

As the Christmas Bowl celebrates its 75th year, the CEO, Act for Peace, Elijah Buol OAM has written to the Parish: *'As you know, the Christmas Bowl is more than just a charitable appeal; it embodies the **spirit of solidarity and compassion** that defines our faith. We are called to do good and seek justice, and for 75 years churches across Australia have followed this call and have given hope to refugees and displaced people around the world. I am honoured that your church is part of this incredible legacy. Thank you.'*

The Christmas Bowl is the longest-running ecumenical appeal in Australia. Started in 1949 by Rev. Frank Byatt of Victoria to help refugees from World War 2, it is a way of forging a loving connection between Christian communities here in Australia and people around the world who are experiencing dreadful hardship and suffering.

As more and more human tragedies emerge in the world, life-saving aid is being stretched thin, leaving many refugees without hope for the future. In the face of such suffering, the legacy of Rev. Byatt has never been more important. **Your gift** through the Christmas Bowl will support local partners to meet urgent needs and help create a world where uprooted people have a **safe place to belong**.

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:

- Donate funds at a unique donation webpage set up for our Epping Anglican Parish mycb.link/45776
- Transfer funds electronically to the Saint Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'Christmas Bowl'.
- Place your gift in the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your offertory envelope (please write 'Christmas Bowl' next to the stamped date), or in a plain envelope marked 'Christmas Bowl', and deposit the envelope in the collection box as you arrive for a service at Saint Alban's.
- Drop off your monetary donation at the Parish office Tuesday or Thursday morning; or leave it in the Church office letterbox anytime; or mail a cheque to the Parish 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 Christmas Bowl.



Church:

Avalon/Palm Beach; Balgowlah - All Saints;
Beacon Hill - Church of the Holy Trinity
West Epping Uniting Church; Epping Baptist Church
Fr Paul and the people of the Parish of St George's Paddington
The Christmas Bowl (Mission of the Month)

In our World and Community:

Pray that those in need will receive food, water, medical care and comfort in those areas where there is continuing suffering as a result of war and violence. Pray for a cessation of hostilities, and for compassionate leaders. Where a cease-fire has been negotiated pray for goodwill on each side.

Pray for generosity to provide support and good cheer for those in our community struggling with the cost of living, especially at this time of the year. May we share God's love through our Mission of the Month, the Christmas Bowl.

Pray for those who have experienced harm and abuse. May the church and its leaders act appropriately and with compassion for the victims of abuse. Pray that the church will be the place of safety and refuge that it should be.

Pray for a safer, violence-free Australia for all women and children. Pray for families where there is abuse, violence, fear and danger. Pray that we will each be part of raising awareness, and help us to speak against gender-based violence.

Pray for healing and comfort for those in our parish community who are sick, frail or confused; and pray for God's peace for those whose earthly life is drawing to its close. Pray for families and those who provide care that they will receive God's grace and patience.

Pray for our Rector, our Parish Administrator, our Wardens and our Parish Council in the leadership of the parish. Pray that we will find the person of God's choosing to be the Assistant Minister in the parish. Pray too for our Student Ministers that they will find here a receptive, loving grateful community.

Pray for Amy, Kari, Becky and the parents and children as they prepare for our Sunday School Pageant. Pray for Chris and Chris, Isabel, Enoch and our Choir as they prepare the music for our services between now and the end of the year.

Prayer for the Week:

Stir up, we pray you, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary of Death:

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

Home Communion

If you are homebound or in hospital and would like to receive Holy Communion, please let the Rector know (his details are on the back page).

WHAT'S ON...

Monday 2 December

Frances Perry, founder of the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne

Office closed

7.45pm Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 3 December

Francis Xavier, priest and missionary

9.00am Staff meeting

Wednesday 4 December

Nicholas Ferrar, deacon and man of prayer

7.30pm Choir practice

Thursday 5 December

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom (*link on front page*)

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Friday 6 December

Nicholas of Myra, bishop and philanthropist

Phil's day off

Bulletin notices: Please send items to be considered for next Sunday's bulletin by **WEDNESDAY at 2.30pm** to the office.

**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.

Next Sunday Services

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8 December 2024

8am Eucharist with Hymns

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

10am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School Christmas Pageant and Book Presentation *(also available by Zoom)*

Preacher: The Reverend Graham Thomas, Chaplain at Arden School
and Mr Justin Beckett the Principal of Arden, will speak briefly.

Sanctuary Linen: There is a small group who launder the small linen items used during Holy Communion. If you would like to join the linen laundering roster for 2025 it would be very much appreciated. The more of us on the roster the better - instruction is provided. Please contact Peggy Sanders 0413 481 854 pmasanders@gmail.com

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.

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's Ministry Worker

Amy Taylor 0402 063 133
youthstalbans@gmail.com

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