

# 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.

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER FAREWELL FOR BP ROSS AND JENNY NICHOLSON 5 May 2024

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### **9.30am Choral Eucharist**

**Also available by zoom**

Readers: Ken Bock, Anne Lawson and Jenny Nicholson  
*President and Preacher Bishop Ross Nicholson*

### **9.30am Sunday School in The Loft**

(above the Main Hall)

*Amy Taylor, Children's Ministry Worker*

### **Join the 9.30am Service by Zoom:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?pwd=VGpWNXRMcFilyXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09)

[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.

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

## Ross' Letter

This will be my last Bulletin letter, ending my seven years as Rector of St Alban's. That seven years has gone incredibly fast. It has been a time of ups and downs for all of us. Right in the middle we had the crazy world of Covid with all that dislocation and uncertainty brought with it.

Normally in a last sermon the preacher will pick their favourite passage or reflect on a favourite topic. I decided that I would not do that but rather let the Lectionary writers set the readings for this final sermon. I had looked at the passages a couple of months ago just to see if that would be a wise course of action. But what more wonderful words could we reflect upon than these from the gospel of John:

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love." John 15:9

Or these from his first letter:

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child." 1 John 5:1

In these passages we see John address the topic of biblical love. Our modern world has a very different idea of what love is, that conforms to the individualistic, consumer culture of our society. But the Bible picture of love is of self-sacrifice modelled on the example of Jesus:

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."  
John 15:13

This love goes even further by calling on the follower of Jesus to emulate that love:

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."  
John 5:12

That Jesus commands us to love is also at odds with our culture, that considers any form of command an unwarranted compulsion that limits our freedom. This is another difference between the emotionally driven love of our world and the volitional character of biblical love. This command of God is not burdensome because in this love we see a faith that has conquered the world.

If we as a church truly love one another in this way, we will take our community by surprise and be able to point them to the One who makes such a life possible.

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# *FAREWELL TODAY*

9:30am Farewell Eucharist for Bishop Ross and Jenny Nicholson

(one service only in the parish)

All welcome.

The Eucharist will be followed by a Luncheon in St Alban's Epping Parish Hall for those who have indicated that they are attending.

Soft drink & juice will be supplied. BYO wine.

There is no charge for the lunch, however donations towards catering costs will be gratefully received. Donate directly to the St Alban's account, indicating **lunch**; in an envelope marked **lunch** into the Offertory Box; or by cash or eftpos in the hall.

**Church:**

Northbridge - St Mark; Lavender Bay - Christ Church;  
North Sydney - St Thomas; Anglican Youth Works  
LifeWay Lutheran Church Epping; Parish of St John the Baptist, Epping, UK  
Christian Community Aid (Mission of the Month)

**In our World and Community:**

Pray that world leaders may strive for peace instead of war, oppression, conflict and revenge. Pray that there will no further extension of the current conflicts. Pray for all the innocent affected by conflict and war, particularly the young and the old. Pray that God's justice and peace may reign. Pray for support and safety for those providing humanitarian aid in areas of conflict – may they be enabled to continue to provide food, water, and medicines; comforting the bereaved; and calming the anxious.

Pray for those in our parish community, and our families and friends, who are ill and in need, those undergoing surgery, and those in hospital or in care. Pray for those who are confused, anxious and fearful. Pray that all in need may know God's healing and calming spirit, and may feel sustained and supported. Pray for medical staff, nursing home staff, families and friends, those who provide care, those who sit with the dying, and those who comfort the grieving.

Pray for Christian Community Aid, and other organisations serving the needy of our community. Pray for those who are finding it difficult to feed their families and pray that we may be a compassionate community providing assistance as we are able.

Pray for teachers, students and school administrators as they return to the places of learning. Pray for our school communities, all who teach and all who learn, that they may be places where all children and staff are treated with respect, and feel well supported and encouraged to perform to the best of their ability.

Pray for our parish, for God's guidance in all we do in his name, and that we may each listen and respond to his call, committing ourselves to the ministry of the parish:

- Pray for Ross and Jenny as they leave the parish, and move into the next stage of their lives, and their next ministry role. Pray for God's blessing on them both.
- Pray for Phil in his increased role in the parish as Acting Rector.
- Pray for Amy, our Children's Worker, her assistants, and our children in the Sunday School.
- Pray for the parish nominators, Ruth, Meryl, Peggy, Glyn and James; and for Bp Chris and the diocesan members of the Nomination Board as they seek to discern God's will for our parish. Pray that we may find a faithful pastor, and an encourager to equip us for our ministry.

**Anniversary of Death:**

James McLardie 5/5; Susan Friend 5/5; Peter Gibson 5/5; Tom Arthur 7/5

*We remain committed as a parish to pray for the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel and Palestine, and all those caught up in the misery and dislocation of war, violence and oppression including those soldiers and citizens who have been drawn into a war not of their making.*

## **Prayer for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine**

God of peace and justice, we pray for all the people caught up and drawn into wars and conflicts that are not of their making. The people of Ukraine, of Israel, and of Palestine – all who are suffering grief, violence, injustice and dislocation.

We pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. Almighty and Everlasting God we pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Soften the hearts of all those involved in these conflicts, that they would be led to work for justice and lasting peace. Empower your Church to bring healing to the wounded, relief to the suffering, and comfort to those who mourn. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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## **A Concert of Piano Solos and Duets**

Paul Weaver (Pianist) and Christopher Wagstaff (Duo-Pianist)  
Music by Mozart, Bach, Debussy, Schumann, Bizet and others  
to remind us of the WORLD OF CHILDREN

*Music composed by the young, for the young, about being young  
- a concert for the young at heart, and those who remember their childhood days.*

St Alban's Anglican Church Hall, Pembroke Street, Epping  
Sunday 26 May at 2.00pm - No booking required

Donations are invited to the "Rough Edges" ministry of St John's Church Darlinghurst.  
Donations can be made on the day, or through the Rough Edges website.



*The Concert will also be presented at Alan Walker Village,  
Carlingford,  
on Sunday 2 June at 2.00pm.*

*Donations are invited to Christian Community Aid, Eastwood.*

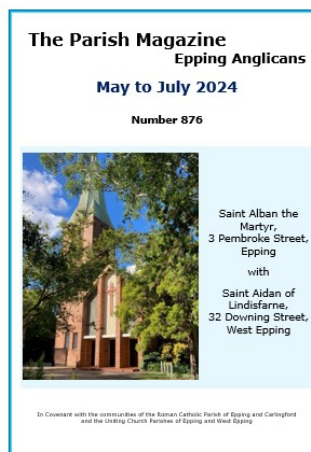
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## **The Parish Magazine**

The May-June-July edition of *The Parish Magazine* will be available in church **next Sunday, 12 May.**

This is a week later than usual in order to include a report and photos of the Farewell Eucharist and Lunch.

Make sure you collect your copy next week.



# Harvest Festival

## in support of Christian Community Aid (Mission of the Month)

Please support the work of Christian Community Aid as our Mission of the Month, culminating in Harvest Festival to be held at Saint Alban's on **Sunday 26 May**.



CCA is a non-denominational not-for-profit community service organisation that has been delivering services in the Epping and Eastwood area for over 58 years. Its focus is to be “problem solvers and game changers combating against poverty, violence, discrimination, and inequality. United we work for the health, wellbeing, education, safety, and financial stability of every person in our community.”

For more information about CCA, please refer to the display on the Narthex board, or visit website [www.ccas.org.au](http://www.ccas.org.au)

There remains high demand on the **CCA Community Hub's Pantry** by families in need. Donations of **non-perishable food** are welcome for the Parish's celebration of Harvest Festival on Sunday 26 May. Tinned and packaged food (no glass bottles or jars please) may be left at the office or in the church narthex **until Thursday 23 May**. Following the Festival all the donated food will be transported from the church display to Christian Community Aid.



So that CCA can make bulk purchases and buy perishable food as required, **cash donations** are also welcome. Use the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your weekly offertory (please write 'CCA' next to the stamped date) or a plain envelope marked 'CCA'. Alternatively transfer funds electronically to the St Alban's account (please use tag 'CCA'), or donate funds directly at <https://ccas.org.au/make-a-donation/>

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## The Ecumenical Pentecost Service

*for the Covenant communities of*

The Roman Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford;  
the Epping Uniting Church the West Epping Uniting Church  
and the Anglican Parish of Epping

will be held on

**Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 5pm**

to be followed by dinner

Preacher: The Reverend 'Oto V Faiva

West Epping Uniting Church, Cnr Carlingford Road and Orchard Street Epping

All welcome

There is no charge for dinner, although a financial contribution will be welcomed.



**BRUNCH (free)**  
Saturday 25 May 2024  
St Alban's Main Hall at 10am

Speaker: Suzanne Coleman, who works with Umthomobo Wempilo (Well of life in Zulu). Wempilo is seeking to make the Gospel known to sex workers and other vulnerable women. This is an Anglican Aid project.

This is an outreach to all women, organized by St Alban's Mothers Union.

Come and join us and bring a friend.

If you are attending, please put your name on the list on the church noticeboard.

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**Day of Pentecost at Saint Alban's**  
**Sunday 19 May**

We will be seeking volunteers for reading in any language other than English.

At both services on the Day of Pentecost during the reading from Acts 2 when the disciples were 'filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages...' it has been our practice at Saint Alban's to have members of the congregation join in part of the reading in languages other than English. All join in at the same time from their seats – and the effect is a wonderful sound of a mixture of languages.

We will provide the details of the reading (Acts 2: 5-13) and a link where you will be able to access an online a version of the reading in a chosen language. From next Sunday there will be a sign up sheet on the noticeboard. If you would like to discuss this please be in touch with Peggy Sanders 0413 481 854.

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Pew  
Reflections  
BGM

Acts 10.44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5.1-12; John 15.9-17



The believers accompanying Peter were astonished that the Holy Spirit was being poured out even on to the Gentiles who heard the word. This must have been truly shocking to them. When and how have we seen God throwing open the doors to the Church even wider in our own experience? How have we responded? In awe and wonder, or angry that God has done something new that we do not understand?

- Pray for all whom the Church excludes, and pray that God will open the doors of our hearts and minds to be as welcoming as Christ would have us.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, remembering especially Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City.

Text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission 2024.

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**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.

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# WHAT'S ON...

## Monday 6 May

JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

Office closed

## Tuesday 7 May

9.00am Staff meeting

## Wednesday 8 May

Julian of Norwich, holy woman and mystic

7.15am Prayer meeting via zoom (*link on front page of bulletin*)

7.30pm Choir practice

## Thursday 9 May

ASCENSION DAY

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

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

## Friday 10 May

*Phil's day off*

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### Bulletin notices

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

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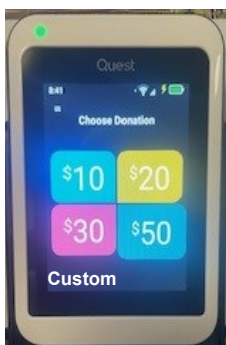
### Postage Stamps

Thank you to all those who have been bringing in used postage stamps – they are much appreciated by ABM and BCA as they are a source of funds for mission.

Please remove them from envelopes and parcels, but do try to leave at least 1cm around each side of the stamp(s), and try to avoid trimming too close to the edge of the stamp. There are members of the parish who are willing to do the trimming and sorting if they are left in the orange box in the porch. Both Australian and International stamps are very welcome.

If you have Stamp Albums you would like to donate please talk to Peggy Sanders ([psanders@ozemail.com.au](mailto:psanders@ozemail.com.au)) as being kept in the album they are far more valuable to ABM and BCA than out of the album, and are a generous gift. Likewise, if you have stamps in perforated sheets, it's best to leave them in that format.

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### 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.

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**Next Sunday Services**  
**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**  
12 May 2024

**8am Eucharist with Hymns**  
Preacher: Bishop Chris Edwards

**10am Sung Eucharist**  
*(also available by Zoom)*  
Preacher: Bishop Chris Edwards

**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

<b>Rector</b>	Bishop Ross Nicholson 0407 916 603 rossnicholson@eppinganglicans.org.au
<b>Assistant Minister</b>	The Reverend Philip Lui 0433 456 987 phil@eppinganglicans.org.au
<b>Honorary Senior Associate</b>	The Reverend Paul Weaver 0408 285 776 paul@eppinganglicans.org.au
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Mrs Denise Pigot 98763362 office@eppinganglicans.org.au
<b>Children's Ministry Worker</b>	Amy Taylor 0402 063 133 youthstalbans@gmail.com
<b>Music Director</b>	Chris Czerwinski 0452 557 695 krzysztof_czerwinski@yahoo.com

**Website** - [www.eppinganglicans.org.au](http://www.eppinganglicans.org.au)