

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.

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 19 November 2023

8.00am Eucharist

Reader: Jane Bryant

President: The Reverend Paul Weaver

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

10.00am Choral Eucharist

Also available by zoom

Reader: Gillian Taylor

President: The Reverend Paul Weaver

Preacher: 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=VGpWNXRMcFELYXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?pwd=VGpWNXRMcFELYXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09)

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 online for a time of fellowship.

Morning Tea - Please stay for morning tea and fellowship in the Main Hall after each of the 8am and 10am services. Everyone welcome.

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

Phil's Letter

In today's sermon we will be looking at our epistle reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and perhaps we don't need a sermon for the Apostle Paul begins this section with "Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you." (v1)

However, what are the times and the seasons that Paul is writing about? Are we in Sydney, in the same time and the same season as the Thessalonian believers? Furthermore, as we look at the details of the passage, what does Paul mean by his exhortation to "...keep awake and be sober" (v6).

It might be of interest to those reading the bulletin ahead of Sunday, to read Acts 17 in preparation for the sermon. We can learn more about the historical backdrop of Paul and the Thessalonian believers, as it records the reception of Paul and Silas preaching the Gospel for the first time in the region. We are told that some Jews, a large number of God-fearing Greeks and some prominent women, are persuaded by the Gospel, however other Jews who were jealous, formed a mob and started a riot in the city, which results in the believers sneaking Paul and Silas out of the city in the cover of night.

I look forward to looking at this passage with you and fellowshipping with you this morning.

Parish Nominators and Parish General Meeting

Our parish has five parish-elected nominators who form part of the Nomination Board for the process of finding a new Rector for the parish. A vacancy has occurred in the team of parish nominators as Graeme Durie has resigned believing that he cannot give the proper attention to the search that is necessary at this time. Graeme has been a parish-elected nominator over a numbers of years and was a very committed member of the team in 2015-2016, and we express our appreciation for all that he has brought to this process.

Nominations are now being called for the (one) position of parish nominator.

Nomination forms are available at the back of the church or from the Office and should be received in the Office by Tuesday 21 November 2023. Nominations **must** indicate the consent of the person being nominated. The person making the nomination must be present at the general meeting.

If you would like to know what is involved in the process to find a new Rector for a parish please talk with the current parish-elected nominators: Glyn Evans, Peggy Sanders, Meryl Smith and Ruth Shatford.

A General Meeting of the Parish - Sunday 3 December 2023 11.45am

A General Meeting of the Parish will be held promptly at 11.45am on Sunday 3 December 2023 in the church.

The General Meeting will include the following:

- 1 the electing one parish nominator; and
 - 2 a report from the Wardens on the financial position of the parish, and the budget.
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Subcontinental Sunday

This will be held NEXT SUNDAY 26 November commencing at 12noon.

Come along, bring a plate to share and join in with other parishioners.

Church:

Shore School; Willoughby - St Stephen; Willoughby Park -
St John & St James; CMS (Chinese Anglican Church) in Northern Region
The Cathedral Parish of St Alban's Griffith
The Bishop of Bathurst and his Diocese
Anglicare Toys 'n' Tucker (*Mission of the Month*)

In our World and Community:

Pray for all who serve in the defence and police forces in our country. Pray for our firefighters, our paramedics and all in the emergency services. Pray that they will be given courage and comfort in danger, strength and stamina and the ability to serve with compassion.

Pray for all who have been hurt and abused in body, mind and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Pray that by the Holy Spirit they may be comforted, their wounds healed and their brokenness transformed to wholeness. Pray that with God's help we may have open ears, eyes and hearts and the courage and strength to stand against all forms of violence, abuse and disrespect inflicted upon God's precious people.

Pray for those in our parish community, our families or friends who are ill, frail or struggling in mind or body, and those who are dying. Pray for their families and those who care for them. Pray that we will be compassionate and understanding of the needs of others reflecting God's love.

Pray for our parish, for good stewardship of our resources and for the financial resources needed to advance ministry and the extension of God's kingdom. Pray that we as members of this parish may each seek God's guidance as to how we might best contribute our financial resources, our talents, our skills, our time and our energy to the furtherance of his kingdom here.

Pray for Bishop Ross and Jenny that this will be a time of relaxation and refreshment for them while on leave from the parish. Pray for Reverend Phil and Fr Paul, Amy Taylor, Chris Czerwinski and Denise Pigot; the Wardens, the Parish Council and all who strive to serve God in this parish.

Pray for our parish nominators - Glyn, Peggy, Ruth and Meryl - for God's guidance and for wisdom, discernment and patience in their task. Pray too that another member of the parish will feel so called to undertake this role and agree that their name be put forward for the parish general meeting.

Prayer for this week:

O Merciful God as you bless me with your love let me love my neighbour as you love me; may I listen and show patience, tolerance, kindness, caring and love to all, even when I find this difficult. Amen.

Anniversary of Death:

Albert Abel 19/11; Margaret Lundie 21/11; Robert Wells 22/11; Mary Boulton 23/11; Reena Mathew 23/11; George Beattie 24/11

Sunday School
is on TODAY
at 10am in The Loft

Mission of the Month

Anglicare Toys 'n' Tucker Christmas Appeal 2023



Toys 'n' Tucker is an annual initiative by Anglicare through which supporters such as our Parish can share the joy of Christmas and demonstrate God's love by providing food and gifts for those who would otherwise go without.

Parishioners are invited to contribute new gifts and non-perishable food to this year's **Christmas hamper** program. Anglicare wants to reach out to more families this year especially during these uncertain times. They aim to distribute 5,000 Christmas food hampers and 4,000 toy hampers to families in need this Christmas.

Suggestions for your **donations** include:

Food: Standard sizes are preferred to help fit everything in neatly. Christmas pudding, Tinned ham or chunky soup (450g), Tinned salmon or tuna (415g), Tea (100pk), Coffee (100g), Packet of biscuits (no chocolate biscuits), Dried pasta (500g), Pasta sauce, Long-life milk, Long-life custard, Tinned fruit and vegetables (425g), Jam (500g)

Gift ideas: **Pre-school** - Age-appropriate games, Educational toys, Picture books
Children - Good-quality toys, Outdoor games, Sporting equipment
Teenagers - Gift cards/vouchers, Sporting equipment, Toiletry packs

Please remember that all donations to Toys 'n' Tucker are , to be **new and unused**. (Used clothing in good condition can be placed for recycling in the Anglicare collection bin at the church gate.)

Please assist by **avoiding**

- glass jars, or anything fragile that may break in transit
 - chocolate, as it is likely to melt
- wrapping gifts – unfortunately anything wrapped must be unwrapped prior to distribution.

Please leave your donations:

in the Toys 'n' Tucker crates in the narthex, as you arrive for services at Saint Alban's (the last day to leave donations in the church is **Sunday 3 December**)

at the Parish office Tuesday and Thursday mornings (the last day to leave donations at the office is **Thursday 30 November**).

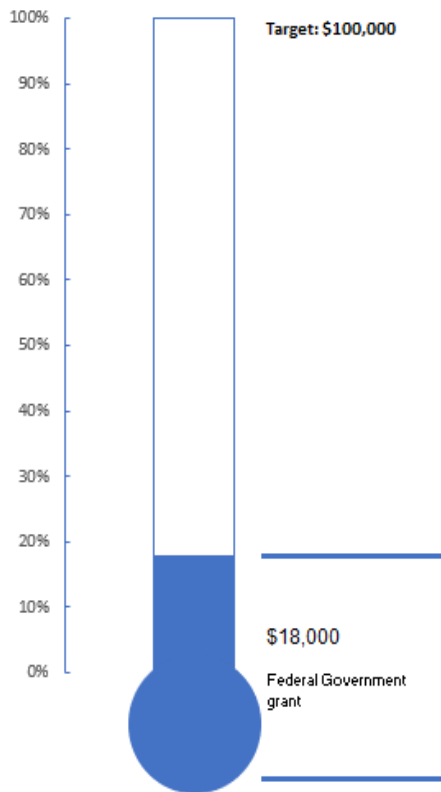
Cash donations to Toys 'n' Tucker are also very welcome. There are a few ways for you to do this:

- * Donate funds directly at <https://toysntucker.org.au/product/choose-amount/>
- * Transfer funds electronically to the Saint Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'Toys n Tucker'.
- * Place your gift in the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your offertory envelope (please write 'Toys n Tucker' next to the stamped date), or in a plain envelope marked 'Toys n Tucker' and deposit the envelope in the collection box as you arrive for a service at Saint Alban's.
- * Drop off your monetary donation to the Church office on Tuesday or Thursday mornings or leave it in the Church office letterbox any time; or mail a cheque to the Church 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 Toys n Tucker.

If you would like to know more, please visit www.toysntucker.org.au

Through Toys 'n' Tucker you can share the joy of Christmas with people in need!

Kitchen Renovation Fundraising



Renovations on the kitchen have started. With the government grant, we purchased a new industrial style dishwasher, oven and cooktop.

This week the old floor tiles were removed and the floor sanded and polished.

To go any further with the renovations we need your assistance. The goal is to reach \$100,000 for a totally new kitchen. Can you help?

If so, kindly make your donations to St Alban's bank account (details on the back page), to the office or through the Sunday offertories (in a suitably marked envelope).

Let's work together and make this happen!!!

Advent Hymns, Prayers and Lessons

On Sunday 3 December 2023 at 6pm we will have our Service of Advent Hymns, Prayers and Lessons.



Advent Ecumenical Service

Tuesday 5 December at 7.45pm at Saint Alban's.
Preacher: The Reverend Greg Woolnough,
Epping Uniting Church.
Following the service we will host our ecumenical friends for supper.
Contributions will be welcome.

Confirmation Classes

In preparation for confirmation on 4 February 2024, we are running a series of four confirmation classes (3 & 10 December and 14 & 28 January) at 3pm. To reflect the solemnity of the public promises made before God and His church and to strengthen the candidates to walk faithfully the renewed life in Jesus Christ, it has been decided that all four classes will be mandatory.

If you know anyone who would like to be confirmed please let Phil know. Please also pray for our confirmation candidates, that this time of preparation would be a time of testing and edification.

Caretaker and St Alban's Grounds

Whilst we look for a new caretaker, it would be great to have **volunteers to help in the garden**. If you can help rake, sweep, mow, general tidy up, kindly let Phil or the office know. Thank you to those who have already helped.

Caretaker/Groundsperson and Sunday School Teacher at St Alban's

A vacancy exists for a person, or for a couple, to fulfil the role of Caretaker/Groundsperson and Sunday School Teacher at Saint Alban's Epping. A two bedroom flat (electricity and water) is provided in exchange for approximately 15-20 hours work per week.

For more information or a copy of the duty statement, contact the Parish Office on 9876 3362 or office@eppinganglicans.org.au.

Christmas Stall



A Christmas stall will be held **NEXT SUNDAY 26 November**.

Proceeds will go to the renovation of the main hall kitchen. Items to be sold include craft, Christmas cards, baked goods, jam, etc.

Donations for the stall will be greatly received. Please leave these in the church foyer or the parish office.

St Alban's Fair Saturday 16 December

The fair will be for the local community with the proceeds going to the church.

We'll have a cake stall, collective stall, a jumping castle, face painting, giant games and a sausage sizzle.

We will be looking for volunteers to manage the stalls and people to bake for the cake stall. The collective stall will sell products made by St Alban's. So, if you're a card maker, sewer, artist, jam maker, etc. please consider donating a few of your items.



Photo Book

If you would like to order "The Art of St Alban's" photo book (created for the Centenary celebrations) before Christmas, please let the office know as soon as possible.

The cost is \$35 each.

Garden Working Bee

The next date will be **Saturday 25 November**.
Every 4th Saturday of each month from 9.30am to 12noon.
Enquiries: Gill McLennon 0411 957 270



Name Tags ...

With new members of the congregation, **it would be helpful to wear your name badge**. If you don't have one, there are two styles to choose from. A magnetic badge at a cost of \$10 (those with pacemakers should talk to their doctor beforehand) and a clip style for \$8.



If you would like to purchase one, please contact Denise in the church office.

Parishioners may remember David and Jan Ratcliff and their son Ian who worshipped at St Albans' a few years ago and were active in many roles. Ian with his wife Theano and two children are planning to work in Kenya from next February serving with SIM Australia. They will work with Banda Health, a Christian NGO supporting 80 clinics in low resource settings.

If you would like to support Ian and Theano by receiving Ian's newsletter or prayer points please contact Jane Bryant 9894 0430.

WHAT'S ON...

Monday 20 November

Office closed

Tuesday 21 November

9.00 am Staff meeting

Wednesday 22 November

Phil's day off

7.15am Prayer meeting via zoom (*link below*)

10.00am ESL classes

7.30pm Choir practice

Thursday 23 November

Clement of Rome, bishop and martyr

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom (*link below*)

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Friday 24 November

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389> - **Passcode 389867**

Office arrangements

Ross is currently on long service leave for four weeks and returns 11 December.

Denise will be on leave from 30/11. If you would like to add a notice to the bulletins on 3, 10 and 17 December, kindly let her know next week.

Dance concert -

the main hall currently looks a little sparkly, and has a little less room for Sunday's morning tea, as the yearly dance concert is taking place this weekend.

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 the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel, and the people 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.

Next Sunday Services at St Alban's

CHRIST THE KING

26 November 2023

8am Eucharist with Hymns

President: The Reverend Phil Lui

Preacher: Bishop Chris Edwards

10am Sung Eucharist *(also streamed)*

President: The Reverend Phil Lui

Preacher: Bishop Chris Edwards



At the back of St Alban's
are enlarged service sheets and bulletins.
If you would like a copy, please ask the duty parishioners.

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, we are including the offertory made to the Parish by direct transfer. Otherwise, the offertory box is located in the aisle at each service and brought forward for the blessing of the gifts.

Parish Directory

Parish Office (at St Alban's)

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

Phone - 9876 3362

Rector

Bishop Ross Nicholson
on long service leave until 11 December 2023

Assistant Minister

The Reverend Philip Lui 0433 456 987
phil@eppinganglicans.org.au

Honorary Senior Associate

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

Parish Administrator

Mrs Denise Pigot 98763362
office@eppinganglicans.org.au

Children's Ministry Worker

Amy Taylor
youthstalbans@gmail.com

Music Director

Chris Czerwinski 0452 557 695
krzysztof_czerwinski@yahoo.com

Website - www.eppinganglicans.org.au