

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21 December 2025

Sunday Services

8.00am Eucharist

Reader: Elizabeth Jenkins

Preacher: *The Reverend Michael Robinson*

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Also available by zoom (*details on back page*)

Reader: Amy Taylor

President: *The Reverend Michael Robinson*

10.00am Children's Holiday Program in The Loft

(above the Main Hall)

7.45pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Also available by zoom

Officiant: The Reverend Phil Lui

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 Congregation (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)
9876 3362 - www.eppinganglicans.org.au

Today - Thank you to the Reverend Michael Robinson who is preaching at both services this morning. We are thankful for his ministry to us.

What's coming up at St Alban's...

TONIGHT Nine Lessons and Carols at 7.45pm

followed by a light supper in the Parish Hall.

Wednesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

6pm Family Christmas Service

9.30pm Festival Choral Eucharist - also available by zoom

Thursday 25 December - Christmas Day

8.30am Festival Choral Eucharist - also available by zoom

Sunday 28 December

Come share your Christmas leftovers for lunch after the 10am service.

6pm Christmas Eve Family Service - We would like to hear from our children who play a musical instrument, or who can bang anything in time. Please email the Rector and tell him the instrument you play (phil@eppinganglicans.org.au)

Thank you to Amy, Becky and Doris, the parents and especially the children for the Christmas Pageant last Sunday at 10am. We appreciated your contribution to our worship.

Helpers Morning Tea - If you volunteer in any capacity at St Alban's, we would like to invite you to a special morning tea to thank you for the work you do. This will be held next year in early January. More details to come.

Baptism - A baptism will be taking place on 11 January 2026. If you are interested in joining a baptism preparation course or would like your child baptised, please talk with Phil Lui.

Archbishop of Sydney: Archbishop Kanishka Raffel has posted a statement in response to the Bondi terrorist attack on the Sydney Anglicans website:

<https://sydneyanglicans.net/mediareleases/statement-on-the-bondi-terrorist-attack>

The Archbishop can also be heard in a video on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sydneyanglicans/>

Thoughts for Prayer and Reflection: The January 2026 *Thoughts for Prayer and Reflection* is available in the porch and soon on the website.

The **December Newsletter** covering the whole month, with more details, is available in the church porch. Please ask the duty parishioner for a copy. Please send contributions for the January newsletter by 30 December 2025.

Morning tea: Please stay for morning tea in the Main Hall after each of the 8am and 10am Services. EPIC Indonesian Congregation will join us after the 10am service. Everyone is very welcome.

Advent and the Advent Wreath

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.

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. This Sunday we light the fourth candle which represents peace and is called the "Angels' Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace - peace with God and peace to our world. 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.

Church: Macquarie Park, The Bridge Church; Soul Revival Church, Kirrawee; LifeWay Lutheran Church. Christmas Bowl - Mission of the Month

For the Parish: As we pray for our **parish and our church family** we give thanks for the leadership of the Rector, the diligence of the Church Wardens and the Parish Treasurer, the support of the Parish Council, and the devotion of our Parish Administrator, and the volunteers who assist her in the Office. In our worship and ministry we give thanks for the Sacristans, the Deacons, the Readers and Intercessors and all who serve in the Sanctuary; the Music Director, the Organists and the Choir; the Duty Parishioners; the Pastoral Care Committee; the Flower Guild; the Brass Cleaners; the offertory counters; the gardening team; and the hospitality team. We give thanks for all who have nurtured our children in the Sunday School; those who have met for Men's BBQ; the Bible Study Group; and the leaders of the English Conversation Classes. Pray for the Assistant Minister and Student Ministers who will be with us in 2026; and pray for EPIC - Pastor Kian and the Indonesian Congregation that they will feel truly part of the parish in 2026. Pray that we will each consider prayerfully our contribution to the parish in the year ahead -how we will use our time, our talents and our financial resources to the glory of God in this parish.

In our world and our Country pray for peace and harmony - may we find the love of God and the message of Christ reflected in our communities; may we see each other as neighbours not enemies. Pray for God's grace to surround and uphold the grieving; the refugees; the marginalised; those without hope, and those who work to alleviate the suffering of others. May we seize the opportunities to spread the message of hope, joy, and love. Pray for our beautiful land, all the people who dwell in it, that we may cherish the diversity of people here representing the races of the world. .

In our community and Families pray that families may enjoy time together over Christmas, and pray for those who for various reasons will be separated from family at this time. Pray for those who are sick in mind, body or spirit and give strength to those who care for them. May our families, friends and strangers see Christ reflected in us this Christmas.

For Christmastide: God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Anniversary of Death: 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

Office arrangements

Phil will be on leave from Sunday 28 December 2025 until Sunday 4 January 2026. He will then be attending CMS conference until Friday 9 January but can be contacted while at the conference by email.

The Parish Office will be open this Tuesday 23 December and then intermittently until Tuesday 6 January 2026.

Flowers for Christmas

We would very much appreciate donations toward buying the flowers to beautify our church this Christmas. Donations can be handed in at the office, placed in an envelope marked "Christmas flowers" and put in the collection or paid into St Alban's account by direct debit and marked as above. We would also love some Christmas bush if you have it growing. Thank you from the Flower Guild.

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. Over the years, 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, the December newsletter, 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

Total Givings for 2025 as of September

Giving and donations: \$137,664 / Budget: \$155,070 / We are currently behind by: \$17,406

Require \$5.8k uplift in givings per month to make up the full year budget

As at the end of September 2025 we have experienced an increase in giving which is promising and we are very thankful for. The shortfall mentioned above is a carry over of the gap in giving in the early part of 2025 which we have not been able to bridge.

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.

Zoom details for Services available by Zoom:

<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.
