

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 IN LENT *and Mothering Sunday*

30 March 2025

8.00am Eucharist

Reader: Margaret Foster

President: The Rector

Preacher: The Reverend Paul Sampson, NSW Regional Officer for BCA

10.00am Choral Eucharist

Also available by zoom

Reader: Jane Bryant

President: The Rector

Preacher: The Reverend Paul Sampson, NSW Regional Officer for BCA

AGM to follow service

10.00am Spark Sunday School in The Loft

(above the Main Hall)

Join the 10am Service by Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?
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*

Today:

Thank you to the Reverend Paul Sampson who is presiding and preaching at both services this morning. We are thankful for his ministry to us.

Mothering Sunday and the Simnel Cake

Today we are celebrating Mothering Sunday.

During the 1600's, England celebrated a day called "Mothering Sunday" on the 4th Sunday in Lent.

Mothering Sunday was a time put aside for relaxation and enjoyment during the long Lenten fast. Young servant girls who worked away from home were given time off by their masters to visit their mothers. They would bake a simnel cake to present as a gift. This was often the only day in the whole year that they got to visit their families, and when the whole family would be reunited.

Another explanation stated that it was also important that they visit their Mother church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their Mother church or the main church or Cathedral in their area. Mothering Sunday was also referred to as Refreshment Sunday due to the relaxing of the rules of Lent on that day.

The name simnel is derived from an old French word. It was a rich fruit cake made with finest of flour and covered with a layer of almond paste and decorated with 11 small balls of almond paste to signify all of the apostles except Judas.

St Alban's MU makes Simnel Cakes each year to be blessed and given out to the congregations on Mothering Sunday at the end of each service.

Lunch to follow today's AGM

Please join us for a potluck lunch after the Annual General Meeting in the church hall.

Fellowship

Each Sunday in our services at the Lord's Table we celebrate fellowship with God and fellowship with each other. We have the opportunity after our services to continue that fellowship over breakfast or morning tea in the parish hall. If you are not in the habit of joining your fellow parishioners in the hall after services, please think about doing this and enjoying some additional time as part of the church family.

After the 8am service breakfast is served, even if you don't attend the 8am service come early (around 9am – 9.15am) and have some breakfast and fellowship before the 10am service. Please invite another member of the congregation to join you in the hall for breakfast/morning tea.

Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection:

The April 2025 *Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection* is available in the porch and on the website.

Holy Week and Easter Services

13 April Palm Sunday

8am Palm Sunday Eucharist

9.10am Blessing of the Palms, Ecumenical Procession
commencing from Our Lady Help of Christians

We will conclude our walk and return for the 10am Palm Sunday Eucharist

Monday 14, Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 April

7.45pm Holy Week Eucharist with Reflection

Thursday 17 April Maundy Thursday

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

7.45pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist with Serving One Another

Friday 18 April Good Friday

9.30am Service of Readings and Hymns with Eucharist

Followed by Hot Cross Buns and refreshments

Saturday 19 April Holy Saturday

9am Morning Prayer

Followed by the Easter clean-up and morning tea

Sunday 20 April Easter Day

5.30am Easter Day The Service of Light and Eucharist

Followed by the Easter party

8.30am Easter Day Festival Choral Eucharist

We are planning to have all these services available on Zoom
for those who cannot attend.

Making of Palm Crosses

Date for your diary

On Friday evening 11 April 2025 from 7pm in The Seminar Room there will be a working bee to make Palm Crosses.

We would be most grateful to those who can assist. No experience necessary – tuition given. Enquiries: Margaret Cummins 9680-4865

Easter Clean-up

On **Saturday 19 April** (Easter Eve), we will once again gather to clean up the church, and get it looking its best for our Easter Day celebrations.

We will commence with a short service of Morning Prayer at 9am.

There are different jobs needing to be done (a list will be available), so there will be ways for all of us to assist. Morning tea will be provided.

You are hereby notified that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for the Parish

will be held

TODAY - Sunday 30 March at 11.30am

in the Church

Business of the Annual General Meeting of Parishioners

All business of an annual general meeting of parishioners is to be transacted by resolution of a majority of persons present at and entitled to take part in the annual general meeting.

The business of the annual general meeting of parishioners of a church is –

- (a) to receive the declarations of those persons then present, and
- (b) to determine whether a quorum is present, (*seven persons*) and
- (c) to elect a minute secretary, and
- (d) to receive apologies, and
- (e) to give directions as to the confirmation of the minutes of the meeting at or after its conclusion, and
- (f) to receive reports about ministry within the parish from –
 - (i) the minister, and
 - (ii) with the minister's consent, a superintendent, teacher, leader or other officer appointed under rule, and
- (g) to receive and pass or otherwise determine on the financial statements of the wardens and to receive any report from the wardens about the exercise of their other functions, and
- (h) to receive and pass or otherwise determine on any separate financial statements of any organisation of the church or parish, and
- (i) to receive notification of the name of the person appointed by the minister as a warden, and
- (j) to elect 2 qualified persons to be wardens, and
- (k) to elect a qualified person or persons to the office of auditor of the financial statements and accounts of the wardens, and
- (l) to determine whether or not qualified persons should be elected as members of the parish council and if in the affirmative –
 - (i) to resolve that there be 3, 6 or 9 elected persons, and
 - (ii) to elect qualified persons to be those members, and
- (m) to elect 5 parish nominators, and
- (n) every 3 years, to elect 2 representatives to diocesan Synod (in 2026) except where a casual vacancy has occurred as it has this year. *
- (o) make such recommendations as it may wish on any matter connected with the business of the church or parish, including any matter which it is appropriate for the wardens or parish council to deal with, and
- (p) exercise any other function which may be authorised by any ordinance.

Who can participate in the Annual General Meeting?

Any one who can agree to the following:

I am a member of the Anglican Church of Australia. I have been baptised. I am not less than 18 years of age. I have usually during 3 months within the past 12 months participated in services of public worship within the parish. I do not claim to be a parishioner of any other church or parish of the Anglican Church of Australia.

I have not voted at a general meeting of parishioners of any other parish of the Anglican Church of Australia within the past 3 months and I do not intend to vote at a general meeting of parishioners of any other parish of the Anglican Church of Australia within the next 3 months.

Who can be elected as a Warden?

A parishioner of a church of the parish who is not less than 18 years of age and who is a communicant member of the Anglican Church of Australia is qualified to be elected or appointed as a warden of that church, except as provided by this rule.

The spouse of a person in Holy Orders licensed to the parish is not qualified to be elected or appointed as a warden.

At any one time, a husband and wife may not both be wardens of a church.

A person who is engaged as an employee and who is paid from the funds of the church or parish may not be appointed or elected as a warden.

Who can be elected to the Parish Council?

A person not less than 18 years of age who is a communicant member of the Anglican Church of Australia is qualified to be elected or appointed as a member of a parish council of a parish if the person is a parishioner of a church in that parish.

A person who is – (a) bankrupt, or (b) incapable of acting because of mental illness or other reasons, or (c) a prohibited person within the meaning of the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998), may not be elected or appointed as a warden or member of a parish council or a committee.

The Rector's Appointments

The minister may, at an annual general meeting of parishioners or within 28 days after the meeting, appoint one qualified person to be a member of the parish council for each 3 persons determined by the annual general meeting of parishioners to be elected as members of the parish council.

Who can be elected as a Parish Nominator?

- (1) The parish may elect 5 lay persons of not less than 21 years of age who are parishioners of the parish and communicant members of this Church.
 - (2) A person is not eligible for election if -
 - (a) the person is employed within the parish to perform substantially full-time work which is or includes pastoral work, or
 - (b) the person is a prohibited person within the meaning of the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998, or
 - (c) the person is the spouse of a person who is a member of the Nomination Board.
- We will elect one Synod Representative

Financial and parish reports are available at the back of the church today.

Church:

Kirribilli - St John the Baptist; Mowbray - Holy Trinity; Lane Cove - St Andrew;
Longueville - St Aidan
The Epping Blue Church
(Korean congregation who meet at St Aidan's)
Fr Paul and the people of the Parish of St George's Paddington
Anglican Board of Mission (Mission of the Month)

In our World and Community:

Pray for all in areas of conflict - the innocent men women and children suffering the destruction, violence, and injustice. Pray that the people will receive aid and medical supplies. Pray that leaders will work for the common good and justice rather than for their own power; and that there will be peace so that people can rebuild their lives.

Pray for our parish, and for our Annual General Meeting. Pray for those who today will be appointed or elected to positions as Wardens and members of the Parish Council, Parish Nominators, or Synod Representative as they have agreed to serve our parish in these roles over the next 12 months. Prayerfully consider how we might best support those who are serving our faith community, and how we might be of service to others.

Pray for God's guidance for our Rector in his leadership; and pray for our search for an Assistant Minister. Pray for our Student Ministers, Kari and Doris, in their work within the parish, and in their studies. Pray for Carol in the ministry apprenticeship at Macquarie University. Pray for Chris and our choir and our organists as they continue to enhance and enrich our worship. Pray for Denise in all she does for the smooth running of the parish.

Pray that we will be open to God and allow for his word and wisdom to be revealed to us, so that we can see the paths ahead for our parish community, accept his challenges, and in all we do seek to further his kingdom.

Pray for patience, grace and healing for those from our parish community who are undergoing surgery, rehabilitation or who are ill, and all who are suffering in mind, body or spirit. Give them comfort in knowing God's grace and the compassion and kindness of all who care for them.

Pray for the work of Bush Church Aid as they seek to serve God and the people of the rural, regional and remote communities in our vast country.

Prayer for the Week:

Lord God Almighty, teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind. For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever. Amen.

Anniversary of Death:

Philip Beer 30/3; Jill Lonsdale 30/3; Joyce Rogers; Fred Rogers; Diana Bowlan;
Edward Carden; Lenore Carden; Gladys Ranyard; Valerie Woodman 1/4;
Sheila Dummer 2/4; Grahame Doggett 4/4; Jack Guthrie 5/4;

St Alban's is open during the week
for prayer and reflection, when the office is open.

Prayer for Peace and Hope in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Myanmar



As war, violence and unrest continue in many areas of the world including the Middle East, Ukraine and Myanmar as a parish we remain committed to pray for all those caught up in the misery and dislocation caused, suffering the loss of loved ones, homes and livelihoods. We pray for the soldiers and citizens drawn into wars not of their making; and we pray for the children traumatised and suffering from disease and hunger. We pray for leaders who will seek the cessation of war, the restoration of peace and the rebuilding of community.

Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God, our days are in your hands; we lift up all those who are victims of violence and injustice, that you might surround and uphold the men, women and children caught up in war, violence and unrest. Empower your Church and all humanitarian workers to bring hope and healing to the wounded, relief to the suffering, and comfort to those who mourn. We pray that you would soften the hearts of all those leaders involved in these conflicts, that they would be led to work for justice and lasting peace for their people, these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pew
Reflections
REFLECTIONS
BGM

Joshua 5.2-12;
Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5.16-21;
Luke 15.11-32

Today we read the familiar story about the Prodigal Son. For some of us it's easy to feel that we take on the role of the older son, always there, usually ignored. But the point of the story is to show us that God's love is there for us, no matter how much of a mess we have turned our lives into. When we're in the mud surrounded by the swine – a desperate situation for a pious Jew – we should remember that God is always willing to welcome us home with a warm embrace and a party.

- Pray that all who would benefit from returning to God would do so, firm in the knowledge that a warm welcome awaits.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of North India

Text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission, 2025

Connect Cards

These cards can be found in the holders on the back of the pews or in the church porch. Week-to-week connect cards are available for parishioners to communicate points for prayer, feedback on the service or sermon, or perhaps you would like to bring something to the attention to the ministry staff.

Connect Cards are also for new or visiting people as a first step to help the St Alban's community welcome you, or you could use the QR code below, whichever you prefer. Providing details and some information helps us to be in touch with you. All information is handled confidentially and securely.

ABM Lent appeal 2025

Anglican Board of Mission

ABM AID's Lent Appeal 2025 features their partners and the women they empower through education, livelihoods, and community leadership in Zambia, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, Vanuatu, and the Philippines. Together, they help them transform lives and challenge injustice.

The Anglican Church in **Zambia** is passionate about ending gender-based violence and working towards women's equality in that country. The church works with local communities, especially in rural areas, to form Gender Committees and Gender Action Groups which are trained to prevent and respond effectively to gender-based violence when it occurs in their villages. Both men and women are members of the groups.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, the Anglican Churches in **Vanuatu** and **Papua New Guinea** are meeting the challenge of women's empowerment by providing programs in Language, Literacy and Numeracy. The literacy program provides a path to equality and economic empowerment for the women who participate.

In **Kenya**, women and teenage girls are the most vulnerable group in the country. Their greater vulnerability to poverty is worsened by gender-based violence and harmful cultural attitudes to gender. Many also have limited control over land and other resources. In the **Philippines**, women form a large part of the agricultural workforce, but returns on their labour are low.

ABM AID's church partners in the Philippines and Kenya facilitate women's leadership and empowerment as they promote effective livelihood programs in those countries, particularly in rural areas where poverty levels are high.

For further details, please refer to the Missions display on the narthex board, and to the website www.abmission.org/appeals/appeals-major/lent2025/

There are a few ways to financially support ABM and AID and their partners during Lent:

- Donate funds directly at www.abmission.org/appeals/appeals-major/lent2025/
- Transfer funds electronically to the Saint Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'ABM Lent'.
- Place your gift in an ABM Lent Appeal envelope, or in the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your weekly offertory envelope, or in a plain envelope marked 'ABM Lent' - 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 morning; 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 the ABM Lent appeal.



The next meeting of the **RLT Women's discussion group** will be held on Thursday 3 April at Judy's home starting at 12.00pm.

New members are welcome and should ring Christine Murray for details on 0418 241 372.

Morning Tea invitation

Please keep Wednesday 9 April free.

The Everyday English team of volunteers would like to invite members of the parish to a morning tea to celebrate Easter with our students.



We see this as a great opportunity for people who worship at St Alban's to meet and speak to our students who come from various countries and who never really get a chance to have an English conversation with someone outside of their communities.

Please come and participate in this important outreach at St Alban's from 11am to 12 noon on Wednesday 9 April.

2025 Chrism Eucharist

This year's Chrism Eucharist is to be held at Christ Church St Laurence, George St, Sydney, at 11.00am on Tuesday 15 April (Tuesday in Holy Week). The Right Rev'd Dr Michael Stead, Bishop of South Sydney, will be the celebrant.

A general invitation is extended to clergy, parish readers and parishioners to attend the service.

A light lunch will be served following the service. There is no need to RSVP.

Yes! ABM still wants your used stamps!

Recycle your used stamps - individual stamps from envelopes and postcard are very welcome, as are albums and whole collections from stamp collectors, some of these collections prove to be very valuable when sold – a generous gift to the Anglican Board of Mission! If you wish to donate stamp albums please contact Peggy as it's important to leave all the stamps in the album (they fetch much more). Likewise, stamps in perforated sheets are best left in that format. When taking stamps from envelopes, parcels and postcards **try to leave about 1cm of envelope or postcard on each side of used stamps.**

There is an orange box for used stamps in the church porch.

ABM thanks all those who leave used stamps for collection as the money raised goes towards the work of ABM in mission.

So does BCA! Stamps left in the orange used stamps box in the porch are divided between ABM and BCA.

Peggy Sanders (0413 481 854)



BCA Boxes

As one way of raising money for Bush Church Aid – the ministry to grow the church in rural, regional and remote Australia – parishioners take a money box to collect their loose change. At certain times of the year we bring these back and the money is counted and sent to BCA.



It is BCA box opening time again. Please bring in your BCA boxes ready for the March count. They may be left at the church office or placed in the offertory box at any service.

If you would like to become a supporter of BCA please contact the parish office and a collection box will be sent to you. Boxes are opened and proceeds forwarded to BCA half yearly.

ABM Lenten Studies

Into the Desert

ABM invites you to journey into the Australian desert during Lent with 40 days of bible readings, reflections, sayings and prayer suggestions.

These Lent resources have a particular focus on Australian landscape, history and writing, Aboriginal reconciliation and the long Christian tradition of desert-shaped theology. The app is available for Apple devices (iPhone and iPad). A free pdf version of the resource is available. <https://www.abmission.org/resources/into-the-desert/>

Other Lenten Studies are available here: <https://www.abmission.org/resources/lent/>

There is also a resource available for Holy Week to Ascension - please see more information on the Noticeboard.

Mission of the Month donations received in March

\$440 = BCA (February)

\$413 = ABM (March)

This amount has been donated through the Parish accounts and do not include donations made by parishioners directly to each mission or the BCA Boxes.

Sydney Chamber Choir *presents* **Fauré Requiem**

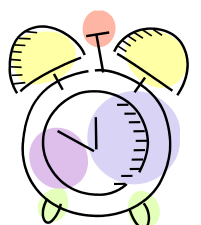
Saturday 5 April at 5pm - St James' Church, King Street

Conducted by Sam Allchurch with Angela Brun (soprano), Andrew O'Connor (baritone) and Thomas Wilson (organ).

Also on the program are works by Mendelssohn and Australian composer Brooke Shelley. sydneychamberchoir.org

Daylight Saving

ends NEXT SUNDAY (6 April) at 2am.
Don't forget to put your clocks BACK one hour.



WHAT'S ON...

Monday 31 March

Office closed

Tuesday 1 April

9.00am Staff Meeting

Wednesday 2 April

10.00am Everyday English Classes

7.30pm Choir practice

Thursday 3 April

Richard of Chichester, bishop

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

12noon RLT Women's Discussion Group at Judy's home

Friday 4 April

Rector'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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

6 April 2025

8am Eucharist with Hymns

Preacher: Dr Ruth Shatford

10am Sung Eucharist

(also available by Zoom)

Preacher: Dr Ruth Shatford



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 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 & Youth Ministry Worker	Kari Hewitt 0402 119 004 kari@eppinganglicans.org.au
Music Director	Chris Czerwinski 0452 557 695 krzysztof_czerwinski@yahoo.com
Student Minister	Doris Awad doris@eppinganglicans.org.au

Website - www.eppinganglicans.org.au