

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4 December 2022

8.00am Eucharist

Reader: Elizabeth Jenkins

Preacher: *Bishop Ross Nicholson*

10.00am Eucharist and Sunday School Pageant

Also available by zoom

Reader: Derek Jones

Motet: In God's word will I rejoice by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Preacher: *Bishop Ross Nicholson*

4.30pm 'All in church'

The Reverend Phil Lui

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

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). *A password isn't required.*

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 in the Main Hall after each of the 8am and 10am services and the Children's Party after 10am.



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

The Rector's letter

John the Baptist has been described as the last Old Testament prophet because he is the last prophet to announce the coming of the Messiah. When John was asked if he was the Messiah he pointed to Jesus in the distance and said;

“Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29

How was he so sure of that?

“I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” John 1:32-34

And yet after he was arrested, he sent his disciples to ask of Jesus;

“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Luke 7:20

We live in what theologians call the ‘overlap of the ages’. We live in that time between the death and resurrection of Jesus and his imminent return. We were told by Jesus that the Kingdom of God has come near, yet we look forward to its fulfilment when Jesus returns. We live in the ‘now and not yet’.

John the Baptist had expected Jesus to come as Messiah and straight away usher in his Kingdom. John had been looking at only one aspect of the Messiah’s ministry, his coming in judgement to end all evil. He’d overlooked that first Jesus must save his people from that evil.

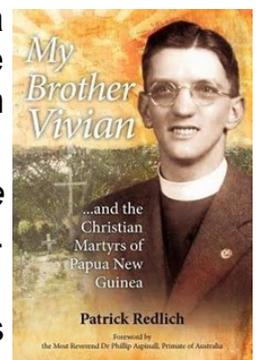
A good definition of a kingdom is a realm where a king rules and the people obey. Jesus is the King, he is the Lord of Creation. He rules now in the hearts of all his faithful followers. But until that Day when he returns with all the saints, we who are living must continue to live as obedient citizens, loving God and loving our neighbours as ourselves. And we can begin that right ‘now’!

The Reconciliation Necklace

Did you attend last Sunday’s service when the Reconciliation Necklace was placed in the Martyrs’ Chapel at Saint Alban’s? Patrick Redlich, the donor of the necklace, has written a book about his brother Vivian, one of the New Guinea Martyrs. Patrick writes also about the Reconciliation Ceremony he attended in Popondetta Cathedral in 2009 when he was presented with this necklace and other gifts.

If you would like a copy of the book, *My Brother Vivian, and the Christian Martyrs of Papua New Guinea*, it is available at a cost of \$25. Please speak to Peggy Sanders or Julie Evans at Saint Alban’s.

Please visit the Martyrs’ Chapel to see the framed necklace and its story.



Julie Evans and Peggy Sanders would like to thank all who contributed to the success of last Sunday’s 10am Service. To Bp Ross for his support, Denise for her hard work, Chris and the choir, Meryl and Margaret for the flowers and Elizabeth and her assistants for the morning tea.

Church:

Shore School; Willoughby - St Stephen; Willoughby Park -
St John & St James; CMS (Chinese Anglican Church) in Northern Region
Epping Presbyterian Church; Epping Church of Christ
Christmas Bowl (*Mission of the Month*)

In our World and Community:

Pray for those in the flooded areas of Australia, and our neighbours in the earthquake damaged areas: those who have lost family, those who are injured, those who have had their homes and businesses damaged or destroyed, and those who have lost their livelihoods and suffering disruption to their lives; and pray for emergency services and all those working to ease the suffering. May God's calming presence ease their suffering.

As wars and conflict continue in the world, as oppression, famine, and other humanitarian crises are occurring in many places: pray for those who mourn, the displaced, the homeless, the hungry, the malnourished, and the refugees, may they receive aid and hope, and a place of safety.

Pray that God will raise up world leaders with the courage and compassion to work for the good of all people; that all people may experience good and wise government.

Pray for those experiencing economic hardship, those fearful for their future welfare: pray that we will have open hearts to provide support as we are able.

Pray for our parish community: particularly those who are ill, undergoing operations and procedures, suffering in mind or body or spirit, or close to death. Pray that they, and their families and carers, may experience God's love, comfort and peace.

Pray for our parish in our evangelism, outreach and hospitality: for our 'All in Church'; for our involvement in the Langston Markets; for our welcoming of new families. Pray that God will guide us in helping to build his kingdom here.

Pray for Amy and the children in our Sunday School: giving God thanks for the faithful teaching and learning throughout the year.

Prayer for this week

Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Anniversary of Death:

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;
Margaret Ewart 8/12; Dorothy Rushforth 9/12

"All in Church"

Sundays from 4:30pm-5:30pm in the Lower Hall

with casual play and fellowship starting at 4:10pm. Dinner will be included.

All people, from all ages are welcome to participate. Please be praying this would advance God's kingdom, by reaching people in our community.

Mission of the Month



Sharing God's love through the **Christmas Bowl**

Since 1949, compassionate Christians have followed The Reverend Frank Byatt's legacy, coming together each Christmas across Australia and the world to provide safety in exile for people forced from their homes by conflict and disaster.

The impacts of the climate crisis, rising inflation and the ongoing war in Ukraine are all contributing to **growing food scarcity** for many communities already uprooted by conflict and disaster around the world. This global food crisis is now pushing millions to the **brink of famine** with families in urgent need of food, care and lifesaving support.

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**.

The evangel is complete only when the action of the Gospel matches the message of the Gospel. (Rev. Frank Byatt, 1954)

For further details of this **ecumenical appeal**, 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 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.

Zoom Prayer Meeting

We will be continuing the Parish Zoom Prayer meeting at 7.15am on Wednesday mornings. If you would like to join us, use the Sunday morning Zoom Church link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389> Meeting ID: 825 1618 2389

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER
7.45pm Festival of Lessons & Carols



CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm Family Christmas Service
9.30pm Festival Choral Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am Festival Choral Eucharist

COMBINED CHURCHES EVENT **Carols in the Park**

Sunday 11 December
at Boronia Park

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection

The December issue of Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection is now available. This has been produced by the Pastoral Care Committee, using the Lectionary as a guide. We hope you will find this helpful in your daily journey.



Sunday School
will be in recess from
next Sunday
11 December 2023

Prayers for the people of Ukraine, and for the people of Russia

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

We also recognise the suffering of Russian soldiers and citizens who have been drawn into a war not of their making. May they display courage in their convictions and calls for peace. May they look to you as a source of comfort in the face of tyranny and the hardships that will flow from their government's actions. Amen.

MU CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our final meeting for this year will be our Christmas lunch to be held on Tuesday 6 December at the West Pennant Hills Sports Club on New Line Road at 12 noon. Anyone requiring transport is asked to meet at the church at 11.30 am and contact Jan Boyley on 0449274876 beforehand.

As we require numbers could all members please let me know on the above number if you wish to attend.

Care of the Sanctuary Linen

There is a small team of members of the parish who care for the linen that we use in the Sanctuary. The members of the team are **Robin Arnold, Margaret Pearson, Janet Smith and Peggy Sanders** – and most have been laundering the linen over many years. We thank each for this important service to the parish.

Currently, each person is on the roster for a calendar month, and collect the linen on a Sunday, wash, iron and return the following Sunday, wherever possible.

To reduce the number of weeks 'on duty' for each it would be good to be able to have a few additional parishioners. Anyone interested in volunteering please speak with **Peggy Sanders** on 0413 481 854, or by email psanders@ozemail.com.au or after a service.

New offertory envelopes are now available
at the back of the church.



Updating our Parish Roll

Are you new to the Parish or have your details changed?

We have many parishioners here who are not on our roll. Would you kindly fill in the below details so we know how to contact you. Please hand this slip to a duty parishioner or leave in the office letterbox (in the door to the parish office).

Please add the other members of your family who are members of the congregation or attending Sunday School

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: Home _____ mobile _____

WHAT'S ON...

Monday 5 December

Office closed

Tuesday 6 December - Nicholas of Myra, bishop and philanthropist

- 9.00am Staff meeting
10.00am Ladies Bible Study led by Jenny Nicholson via zoom (*link below*)
7.45pm Evening Bible Study with Bishop Ross.
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84072186575>

Wednesday 7 December - Ambrose of Milan, bishop and teacher

- 7.15am Prayer meeting via zoom (*link below*)
7.30pm Choir practice

Thursday 8 December - The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom (*link below*)
10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Friday 9 December

The link for the above zoom meetings is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389>

Office arrangements

The office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can still contact Denise on the office phone on Wednesdays and Fridays. Bp Ross can be contacted on 0407 916 603.

Next Sunday Bp Ross will be away taking a family wedding.

This week Phil will be on leave Monday to Wednesday.

Bulletin notices

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

"IN THE LOOP" - Communication and Prayer

Many members of the parish will be aware of our system of rapid communication to inform parishioners, by email, when a situation of need has occurred within the parish, such as emergencies, funerals, illness or other significant events. This enables a group of concerned people to pray for members of the congregation and their loved ones, in times of particular need.

If you would like to ask for prayer through "In the Loop", contact Barbara Meintjes as below. If you are sharing information or asking for prayer for someone else, it is important to have their agreement, and to let Barbara know that you have their agreement. If you wish to join the group of parishioners who are "In the Loop", please contact Barbara Meintjes on barbarameintjes@hotmail.com.

Members of "In the Loop" are asked to be discreet in their use of information they receive. At all times the use of information in "In the Loop" will be at the discretion of the Clergy.

Next Sunday Services
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
11 December 2022

8am Eucharist at St Alban's

President: The Reverend Paul Weaver
Preacher The Reverend Phil Lui

10am Eucharist at St Alban's *(also streamed)*

President: The Reverend Paul Weaver
Preacher The Reverend Phil Lui

4.30pm 'All in Church'

The Reverend Phil Lui

6.00pm Taizé

The Reverend Paul Weaver

**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.

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 0407 916 603
rossnicholson@eppinganglicans.org.au

Assistant Minister

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
youthstalbans@gmail.com

Music Director

Chris Czerwinski
krzysztof_czerwinski@yahoo.com

Website - www.eppinganglicans.org.au