

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.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

8 January 2023

8.00am Eucharist

Reader: Elizabeth Jenkins
Preacher: *Bishop Ross Nicholson*

10.00am Eucharist

Also available by zoom
Reader: Derek Jones
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.



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

Rector's Letter

Most of us are probably familiar with that old aphorism that says 'experience is a great teacher'. But there are two ways we can learn, from our own experience or the experience of others. The reason this is so, is because there are two types of teachers in this world that God has created, the Teacher of Wisdom and the Teacher of Consequences.

Over the next five weeks we are going to explore the experience of a number of heroes of the Bible. But what we will see is that each of these heroes has major character flaws that would suggest that God could not use them. Yet this series is not about your flaws but God's faithfulness.

Abraham is known as the Father of Faith (Romans 4:16) and yet if we follow his story through the book of Genesis, we see that he makes a number of stumbles along the way. On two occasions his deception almost brought disaster on innocent parties. Rather than relying on the promise of God for a child to Sarah his wife, he follows her suggestion to sleep with her maidservant Hagar.

Abraham is fearful, he watches his own back, he makes his own plans, he lets his wife talk him into a bad choice. You could say Abraham is just like you and me. But what we learn is that for all his failures, God is the one who accepts and changes him. The Apostle Paul wrote of Abraham;

"He did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God," Romans 4:20 NIV

The lesson for us lies in this statement that Abraham 'was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God'. Notice the passive nature of that word, Abraham was strengthened. It wasn't Abraham that was doing the strengthening, it was God.

If our hope lay in what we do for God, then our regular failures would bar us from friendship with him. But it is faith, our trust in his promises, that opens the gate to forgiveness and salvation. Our flaws will always cause us to doubt our standing with God. But if we, like Abraham, trust in the faithfulness of God we can have that full assurance of the acceptance of God.

The first Taizé Service
for the year will be held on
Sunday 12 February 2023 at 6pm
(not this Sunday as advertised last week)

"All in Church"
Is continuing throughout January and is on TODAY
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.

Church:

Ryde - St Anne; West Ryde - St Columb;
Chaplains at Macquarie Hospital, North Ryde
LifeWay Lutheran Church Epping
Parish of St John the Baptist, Epping, UK
Anglicare Chaplaincies (*Mission of the Month*)

In our World and Community:

Pray for our parish community: particularly those who are ill, and those suffering in mind or body or spirit, or close to death, for their families and carers. Pray for families who mourn the death of a family member, may they experience God's love, comfort and peace.

Pray for our community, those in economic hardship, and those fearful for the future: pray that they will receive support, and that our charitable organisations will be well supported in order to provide for those in need.

Pray for those suffering as a result of war, humanitarian crises, and extreme weather conditions. May we understand the plight of the displaced and the despised, and pray for the refugee who waits and yearns for a miracle.

Pray for God's guidance in our parish as we look to the opportunities and challenges of the coming year – pray that we will be open to allow for his word and wisdom to be revealed to us. Pray that we will be willing and able to reveal to others the mystery of God's love, and provide a welcome to those who seek to know Jesus Christ.

Prayer for this week

Almighty God, you have filled us with the light of the Word, who became flesh and lived among us: let the light of faith shine in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Those recently deceased:

Doug Carruthers and Joan Craven
Information will be available once services have been arranged.

Anniversary of Death:

Deborah Riedel 8/1; James Parsons 9/1; Charles Middleton 9/1;
Charles Johnson 10/1; John Telfer 13/1; Brenda McLeod 13/1;
Brian McLeod 14/1; Robin McLeod 14/1

Volunteers Needed

If anyone would like to help Denise in the parish office, to answer the phone plus much more, on either a Tuesday or Thursday (9am to 1pm), would you kindly let her know on 9876 3362 / office@eppinganglicansorg.au.

This is a great way to meet more parishioners and know what is happening around the church.



Mission of the Month Anglicare Chaplaincies

Alongside its wide-ranging work with people in need, Anglicare provides chaplains and chaplaincy services throughout Sydney and the Illawarra - in hospitals, prisons, mental health centres, aged care services, and in the community, ministering to people in need of personal and spiritual support. Some funding support is given by the government for these ministries, but this falls far short of covering the real cost.

Our Mission of the Month encourages you to support these ministries with your gifts and your prayer, and perhaps to consider the opportunity of serving as a volunteer, working in this ministry of listening and loving support. Fr Paul Weaver is a former Chaplain at Concord Hospital and can advise you on how to find out more about this important ministry.

Many of us have benefited from the ministry of Chaplains at Anglicare Retirement Villages, as well as hospitals. For further information about Anglicare Chaplaincies, please refer to the display on the narthex board or visit website www.anglicare.org.au/about-us/ministry-partnerships/chaplaincy/

There are a few ways you can financially support the Anglicare Chaplaincies.

- Donate funds directly at <https://www.anglicare.org.au/get-involved/make-a-donation> - use the pull-down menu under Designation and click on Chaplaincies.
- Transfer funds electronically to the St Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'Anglicare Chaplaincies'.
- Place your gift in the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your offertory envelope, or in a plain envelope marked Anglicare Chaplaincies, 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 morning 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 Anglicare Chaplaincies.



Myanmar Lunch & Learn

If you missed the Myanmar Lunch and Learn at Saint Alban's last November, then you have another chance on **Sunday 5 February 2023** presented by the ABM Sydney Diocesan Committee, St Luke's Anglican Parish Mosman and St Peter's Anglican Parish Cremorne at the Parish Hall at St Luke's, 12 noon for 12:30pm.

First-hand [illustrated] stories from ABM pilgrims to Myanmar in 2020.

Enjoy a light lunch of authentic Myanmar food with wine or fruit juice.

Free Admission.

Contact details to book in: office@stlukesmosman.org.au or telephone 9960 6910.

Save the Dates

On 16 June 2023 the Parish will celebrate the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the new (current) Church building. Several celebration events are planned to mark the occasion, including:

- 6:30 pm Friday 16 June 2023 – Choral Evensong followed by supper
- 9:30 am Sunday 18 June 2023 – St Alban's Day Choral Eucharist followed by Brunch/Lunch

Further detail around these events will be advised in the New Year. Please make a note in your diary/calendar so that you can participate in the celebrations.

If you would like to assist with the celebrations in some way, please contact Bp Ross or David Tait.

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.

Pew
Reflections
REFLECTIONS
BGM



Readings for the Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42.1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-17

As Jesus emerged from the water at his baptism, a voice from heaven was heard that said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' How can we live so that God is pleased with us, too?

- .Lord Jesus Christ, may my life please our heavenly Father. May I always be worthy of being called his child.
- .Give thanks for the work and witness of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.

Text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission 2022.

Office arrangements

This week the office will be open on Tuesday and Thursday.

Bp Ross can be contacted on 0407 916 603.

Bulletin notices

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

Parish Roll

Are you new to the Parish or have your details changed? If so, would you kindly let Denise know your new details by email or phone (see back page) and if you are new, kindly fill in a form on the welcome desk.

STAMPS

Thank you to everyone who have dropped off stamps. ABM and BCA benefit from the sale of stamps. If you are able to trim the stamps this would be helpful.

Tin Bin (*hessian bag*) ...

Thank you for your ongoing support. It is greatly appreciated by Christian Community Aid at Eastwood. All types of packaged food (not fresh) and bathroom supplies will be happily received.



A booklet '*Guidelines for Funeral Service*'
has been produced as a caring initiative
by our Pastoral Care Committee.
If you would like one,
copies are available at the back of each church.

"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
2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
15 January 2023

8am Eucharist at St Alban's

Preacher Bishop Ross Nicholson

10am Morning Prayer at St Alban's and Baptism (also streamed)

Preacher Bishop Ross Nicholson

4.30pm 'All in Church'

The Reverend Phil Lui



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.

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

WEEKLY SERVICES PLANNED
DURING JANUARY 2023
AT ST ALBAN'S

8.00am Eucharist

10.00am Eucharist - *including Zoom*

4.30pm All in Church

There are no weekday Services during January

Sunday School resumes on Sunday 5 February 2023

Eucharist with Prayers for Healing resumes on Thursday 2 February 2023