St Alban's Monthly Newsletter
NOVEMBER 2026



Sunday at St Alban's

8.00am Sung Eucharist

@ 10.00am Sung or Choral Eucharist
Also available by zoom

EPIC Indonesian Congregation
(Old Sunday School Room)
Pastor Kian Holik

Chinese Congregation
(Lower Hall)
The Reverend Simon Pei

Sunday School in The Loft
(above the Main Hall)

Youth @ St Alban's

Combined Church Fellowship with morning tea in the main hall after services

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 1 November – All Saints Day(Liturgical Colour White)
8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: Dr Ruth Shatford

Tuesday 3 November
7.45pm All Souls (Liturgical Colour White)
Preacher: The Reverend Paul Weaver

Sunday 8 November – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost and Remembrance Sunday (Liturgical Colour Green)
8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Sung Eucharist
6pm Taizé Service – Prayer with Songs from Taizé - Final Taizé Service.
The Reverend Paul Weaver

Sunday 15 November – 9.30am. Our Parish will celebrate Christ the King – The Reign of Christ (Liturgical Colour White) with a combined service across the parish.
No 8am or 10am services
Preacher: Pastor Kian Holik

Sunday 22 November – Sunday Before Advent and DV Sunday
(Liturgical Colour Green)
8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Choral Eucharist

Sunday 29 November – Advent Sunday (Liturgical Colour Violet)
8am Eucharist with Hymns
10am Advent Hymns, Prayers and Lessons, Morning Prayer.
Preacher: Assistant Minister Bill Walton
This Sunday we will farewell The Reverend Paul and Sarah Weaver and thank them for their significant contribution to our parish over many years.

More information on special Services in November

Christ the King - 15 November
Sunday 15 November: **9.30am** our Parish will celebrate the **Festival of Christ the King**, with one service including all congregations. This will be followed by **lunch -** we are asking members of our English Congregation to bring sandwiches, or a slice, or cake, or cheese or fruit.
Please fill in details on the sign-up sheet in the porch

DV Sunday - 22 November
With other parishes in the Sydney Diocese we will take time on Sunday 22 November to consider the presence of domestic and family violence and abuse in our community and in the church. We will hear a message from our Archbishop, and we will have the opportunity to pray for marriages, families, victim-survivors, and churches.

This Sunday will also mark the commencement of the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** which runs from 25 November – 10 December, which is a global United Nations campaign.

The campaign began in 1991 as a strategy to unite and magnify calls for the elimination of violence against women and girls. Each year, the 16 Days of Activism campaign galvanises movements and organisations working around the world, and draws the attention of governments to the critical issue of gender-based violence.

Within the Anglican Church it is Mothers Union (MU) worldwide which supports and promotes this campaign - promoting peace in every home and community; promoting dignity and recognising the value and worth of every person created in God's image; promoting safety in churches, homes and community free from violence, abuse and exploitation; and recognising that preventing violence and abuse requires the collective action of all.

Sunday 29 November: Advent Sunday
The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the four weeks Season of Advent. Advent is the beginning of the Christian year. It is a time of preparation and waiting for the coming *(Adventus)* of Christ. In Advent we are waiting to celebrate again the first coming - remembering the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem; and we are waiting for the second coming - pointing towards the promised return of Jesus Christ.
See more about Advent on page 4

8am Sung Eucharist
10am Service of Advent Hymns, Readings and Prayers (in Morning Prayer)
- our hymns, readings and prayers will help us to reflect on the meaning of Advent.

During the Service we will **farewell The Reverend Paul and Sarah Weaver** as they leave our parish and relocate to the inner west of the city. After the Service we will have the opportunity to talk with them over morning tea. We will be asking for contributions of food for the morning tea.

What's on at St Alban's during November

Tuesday 10 November
MU are having their Christmas lunch at Wills Café, Anglicare Castle Hill. All are welcome. Please let Elizabeth Jenkins 0403 792 967 or Jan Boyley 0449 274 876 know if you would like to attend by Sunday 8 November.

Wednesdays
10am Everyday English Classes
12noon-2pm Chinese Knowing Jesus Course
7.30pm Young Adults Growth Group

Thursdays
9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom
10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing followed by morning tea

Thursday 5 November
12noon RLT Women's Discussion Group will be held at Margaret Pearson's home. New members are very welcome. Enquiries to Christine on 0418 241 372.

Thursday 12 and 26 November
7.30pm Bible Study at North Epping. Enquiries to Ted on 0431 663 853.

Thursday 19 November
6.30pm Men's BBQ Group will be held in The Old Sunday School Room (behind the Parish Office). All men are very welcome.

Fridays
7.30pm to 9pm - Mandarin Bible Study led by Simon Pei held in the Seminar Room. All welcome.

Saturday 28 November
9.30am Garden Maintenance. Extra hands, of all ages, are always helpful. Enquiries: Gill McLennan 0411 957 270.

11am-1pm Indonesian Prayer Meeting in Seminar Room.
(EPIC) every fourth Saturday of the month a prayer group meeting held in the Seminar Room from 11am to 1pm focusing on events happening in the world.

Christmas Stall

On **Sunday 6 December** we will hold a Christmas Stall after each of the services - we are looking primarily for edible goods which would be good for the table, or as gifts. Some new craft items may also be welcome - please talk to Elizabeth Jenkins 0403 792 967 if you wish to check what will be saleable.

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. The three purple candles are coloured for the season. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday in Advent, Gaudete Sunday ("Rejoice Sunday"), reminding us of the joy of the coming of Christ. The white candle symbolises the presence of Christ and is joyfully lit on Christmas Day.

The **first candle** symbolises **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle". The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.

The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called the "Bethlehem Candle". Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

The **third candle** symbolises **joy** and is called the "Shepherds' Candle". To the shepherds' great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too.

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angels' Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace - he came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

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.

Synod Summary

At the conclusion of the recent Synod a summary was prepared for sharing with parishes. The 2026 Synod Summary for Parishes is now available on the Parish Noticeboard. The summary highlights the key decisions of the Synod, as well as action items for parishes.

Moore Matters: The Spring 2026 edition of *Moore Matters,* the magazine of Moore College*,* includes an article by our Rector on the current life of the parish "Always Reforming" on pages 16 and 17, and on page 18 a contribution by our Student Ministers, Doris Awad, and another by Aimee Wong. The online version can be accessed https://moore.edu.au/resource/moore-matters-spring-2026/

Youth @ St Alban's will be looking together at Two Ways to Live, a simple outline of the good news about Jesus Christ, used worldwide to help Christians articulate their faith and share it with others.

Please be praying:

- Give thanks for the ongoing enthusiasm and engagement of Youth @ St Alban's in learning from the Bible and growing in relationship with God and each other.
- Give thanks for the support of many families and parishioners who love and serve our Youth.
- Pray that our youth will trust in and be committed to Jesus.
- Pray that the series on Two Ways to Live will grow Youth @ St Alban's in confidence in their faith, so that they can remain firm through the ups and downs of high school life.
- Pray they will also grow in clarity of their faith and feel equipped to explain their beliefs to friends and family.
- Pray for Bill, Gloria, Jono, and Becky as they lead Youth. Please pray they would have energy as they lead and teach the Bible clearly and faithfully.

Church WhatsApp Group

This WhatsApp group is a place for our church family to organise informal things, share what is happening in our lives, and grow as a community together!

If you would like to join this group, please use the QR code.

Safe Ministry Requirements for Office Holders

In 2025 the ordinance governing Parishes was altered to require various office holders, including Wardens and Parish Councillors to have completed Safe Ministry (“SM”) training before being nominated for a role at the Parish AGM. SM is the Sydney Diocese requirements to protect vulnerable people. The Wardens and Parish Council elected in March 2026 all completed the required training.

Although it is several months until the next AGM (scheduled for March 2027), it is time for people who may wish to serve the Parish in 2027 to complete training so that they can be nominated.

Background

As you will be aware from the media, there is unfortunately an ongoing number of reports of inappropriate behaviour towards vulnerable people including children, the elderly, those with disabilities, and women across society, both historical and current. The Diocese, in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, instituted policies and guidelines to protect all people within the Church, in particular children and vulnerable adults. SM requirements are in addition to any statutory requirements such as mandatory state legislated Working With Children Checks.

Parish Response
The Parish adheres to SM requirements. We have our own processes; a SM Representative; you will see the regular notices reminding people of how to report issues. Within the Parish every ministry/leadership role, both ordained and lay, needs to be assessed and the person needs to complete and meet varied requirements. Those working with children have the most significant requirements.

Safe Ministry and the Annual General Meeting
The changes to the ordinance means that at the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") in March 2027, office holders will need to have completed SM training **before** they can be nominated for election. This is mandatory, the only exception is for appointments made by the Rector (which are made after the elections, and sometimes after the AGM). These people will have a short period in which to complete requirements.

SM is mandatory for Wardens and Parish Councillors. Other roles such as Nominators, Synod Representatives, Treasurer, et al., are encouraged to undertake the training.

What Does This Mean For People Considering Nomination?
For people who are already undertaking some form of leadership or ministry, you may have already completed the required training. If in doubt, check with Fr Phil. If SM training has not been undertaken then you will need to complete the training before you can accept a nomination for a role. The training is not onerous. There is several hours of online units to complete, which you can do at home at your own pace, followed by a webinar.

You are encouraged to consider **NOW** ways that you can serve the Parish. Too often we leave this thinking and discussion until the new year, in the weeks leading up to the AGM, but we need to be doing this earlier and perhaps even undertaking the training, even if you may decide not to nominate.

We want a Parish Council that is representative of the whole Parish, in age, diversity, skills, experiences, etc. We need to have new people coming onto Parish Council in these important roles to bring fresh ideas as well as allowing others to take a step back.

We need to ensure that we are meeting our statutory obligations, but more importantly that our Parish is a safe place for all people, especially the young and vulnerable, reflecting the love of Christ to all. May I ask you to be giving this prayerful consideration for yourself and others whom you feel would make a contribution to the leadership of the parish.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Fr Phil or one of the Wardens.

Essex Street Development

The Parish has been advised of a proposed Significant Development Application (SSDA) at 15, 17 & 19 Essex Street, Epping, which is being advanced by Eloura Developments Epping Pty Ltd (Eloura). Notting Hill Advisory has been engaged by Eloura to coordinate community and stakeholder engagement for the proposed SSDA.

The proposal has no direct impact on the St Alban's site and the Parish is not a party to this development.

The Wardens will meet with the advisory firm and provide a response from the Parish.

Individuals can also attend a community engagement meeting in early November (details as follows).

The proposal, being progressed through the NSW Government's Housing Delivery Authority (HDA) pathway with a concurrent rezoning, seeks to redevelop the site with two residential buildings of 15 and 9 storeys on a shared podium, comprising approximately 150 apartments in a mix of one, two and three-bedroom layouts. It would also include basement parking and a loading dock accessed from Essex Street, landscaped setbacks around the edges of the site, and communal open space at ground level and on the rooftop. Part of the additional floor space would be delivered as affordable housing, held in perpetuity and managed by a registered Community Housing Provider, providing homes for key workers such as nurses and service workers.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for lodgement with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) later this year, after which it will be assessed by the Department and placed on public exhibition for further community feedback via the NSW Major Projects website. As part of the engagement process, Notting Hill Advisory will seek feedback from the community and stakeholders and prepare an Engagement Report summarising the matters raised and views expressed in relation to the proposal.
The wider community has an opportunity to hear from the project team at:

- Community Webinar (online): **Wednesday 4 November 2026**, 6pm – 7pm. Join online for an overview of the proposal and the opportunity to ask questions. Please register using **this** webinar registration link.

  (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8511804853866405719)

- Community Information Session (in person): **Thursday 5 November 2026**, 5pm – 7pm, Epping Leisure and Learning Centre (Meeting Room 1), 1 Chambers Court, Epping NSW 2121. Drop in at any time to view information and speak with the project team.

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend either session.

For Your Prayers

Parishes in our Mission Area

Beecroft, St John the Evangelist; Eastwood, St Philip; Gladesville, Christ Church; Macquarie, St George and St Dunstan; North Epping, All Saints; Ryde, St Anne; Soul Revival; West Ryde, St Columb; North Ryde, St John; Bridge, Trinity Chapel.

Also - pray for St Paul's Burwood and for the induction of their new Rector on Thursday 26 November 6.30pm - Choral Evensong with Induction and Installation of The Reverend Ryan Austin-Eames as the 10th Rector of the Parish. (St Paul's ask for RSVP for anyone wishing to attend - please check their website for the form.)

Pray for St Luke's Enmore with the Commissioning of The Reverend Jack Monaghan as their new Rector on Monday 30 November at 7pm.

Ecumenical Churches in our Area

Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford; Uniting Church Parishes of Epping and West Epping; Epping Presbyterian Church; and Epping Baptist Church.

Our Parish Community

Pray for our Rector Phil in his leadership of our Parish; for our mission to Gather, Grow, Go; giving thanks for God's provision and goodness to us as we pray for each of our congregations and their leaders - Pastor Kian (Indonesian congregation) and The Reverend Simon (Chinese congregation).

Pray for our Assistant Minister, Bill; our Student Ministers Doris, Gloria, Aimee and David - giving thanks for their commitment, and asking for God to guide them in their studies, and in their plans for the next year. Pray for our Parish Administrator, Denise; and for our Music Director Chris, and our organists.

Pray for all those who minister and worship with us, and all who volunteer their time and talents to enable and enhance our worship and fellowship: our choir; our AV and Zoom operators; our duty parishioners; our flower arrangers, our readers and intercessors, sacristans, servers and assistants, the linen launderers, the gardeners, the Magazine editor, the archivists, the Safe Ministry Representative, and those who organise and serve us morning tea. May we all use the time, talents and resources that God has bestowed on us to worship him, praise him and for the benefit our community of faith.

Pray for guidance and vision for our Wardens and Parish Council as they seek to enable and manage the growth of the parish, and address all the issues related to the maintenance and use of our buildings.

Pray for all those in the parish, and known to us, who are ill or hurting in body, mind or spirit. Pray for God's healing touch to restore strength, and bring peace to anxious minds. Pray for God's mercy and compassion to surround them and all who care for them.

Our World: Pray for peace, for leaders of countries to find diplomatic solutions that will bring harmony between nations, and for wars, conflicts and oppression to end. Guide leaders towards fair and wise decisions, calming the anger and fear.

Domestic, Family and Gender-Based Violence
Pray for women, children and men who live in fear in their homes, in their workplaces and even in their churches. Pray that they will have the courage to seek help, and will be surrounded with people who will act with compassion and wisdom. Pray that we may be places of refuge, not silence; of justice, not complicity.

Anniversary of Death James Wright; Fred Bell; Charles Johnson 1/11; George Lavis 1/11; Judith Johnson 1/11; Thelma Tagg 2/11; Gordon Howitt 2/11; Eugene Brayner 3/11; Margaret Holloway 3/11; George Walker 4/11; Alix Eaton Evans 7/11; Roma Baldwin 7/11; Sumitha Wickremesinghe 8/11; Myrna Burke 9/11; Sidney Loo Ching 11/11; Elizabeth Johnson 11/11; Agness Passe-de-Silva 11/11; Robert Englebrecht 11/11; Bill Dickinson 12/11; Doreen Brown 13/11; Edna Snyman 16/11; Shirley Bolton 16/11; Eileen Nicol 17/11; David Rien 17/11; Bruce Wilson 18/11; Albert Abel 19/11; Margaret Lundie 21/11; Robert Wells 22/11; Mary Boulton 23/11; Reena Mathew 23/11; George Beattie 24/11; Brunhilde Novak 26/11; Daniel Smith 26/11; Ruby Gilling 27/11; Georgina Lisle 29/11; Marianne Hardin 30/11.

Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection for November 2026 is now available and is produced within the parish with a thought and prayer for each day of the month, as well as weekly prayers.

The Parish Magazine - The current edition of The Parish Magazine, November 2026 – January 2027, is available in the porch and on the parish website https://www.eppinganglicans.org.au/

The Parish Magazine records recent events in the parish, gives details of parish activities and publishes articles of general interest and articles which set out opinions on a range of matters the subject of discussion within the Anglican Church community. The Editor, Julie Evans encourages articles for the magazine. The deadline for contributions to the next edition is 8 January 2027 - julie.evans@ihug.com.au

Hospital Visiting Supplies

On behalf of the St Alban's Mothers Union Members, thank you for the parishioners who have assisted with sewing up, and knitting small bears, beanies and booties and donating baby bibs and socks to give to the new mothers we visit. The hospitals visited are Royal North Shore, Norwest Private and The San.

It would be useful for more supplies of the above items.



The size range for the socks is newborn 0 to 3 months age or up to 6 months age. Bibs can be bigger. If anyone can assist with knitting booties (up to 6 months of age) it would be appreciated too. Many thanks in advance.

Enquiries to Jane Bryant 9894 0439.

Mission of the Month
Anglicare Christmas Connection 2026

Throughout November, Saint Alban's is supporting **Anglicare Christmas Connection 2026**—an opportunity to share Christ's love in practical ways and to bring help and hope to families facing hardship and isolation. This appeal replaces Anglicare's **Toys 'n' Tucker** Christmas appeal from previous years.

The more focussed Christmas Connection appeal supports Anglicare's frontline services, including financial wellbeing, foster care and chaplaincy. Your gift will help Anglicare provide practical assistance and personal care to people in need throughout the year.

a Practical help

- You are encouraged to visit online the Anglicare Christmas Connection secure website at https://christmas.anglicare.org.au/#gift
  Choose from **twelve gift options** representing practical Anglicare services—such as community pantry groceries, foster care support or face-to-face financial counselling. Select the gift that reflects the kind of practical support you would like to provide, and complete your **secure online donation**.
- Alternatively, transfer your donation electronically to the Saint Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'Christmas Connection'.
- For **cash donations**, please place in a Christmas Connection envelope, with your chosen gift card, and put the envelope in the bag during the offertory collection. Both cards and envelopes are available from the temporary display stand now in the narthex.
- For **credit card** payments not online, and donations by **cheque**, please complete the tear-off slip attached to the envelope.

Please note that one of the 12 gift cards is marked 'A Gift for Where It's Needed' whereby you can **nominate any amount**.

Please remember that every gift, whatever its size, helps remind a neighbour in need that they are **supported, valued and not alone**.

b Meaningful connection

You are also encouraged to write a **short message or prayer** for someone receiving Anglicare's support. Please use the tear-off message panel of the Christmas Connection gift card. A **Message Mailbox** is now set up in the narthex for you to drop in your handwritten Connection Cards.

Guidance for writing messages and examples are at https://christmas.anglicare.org.au/giving/write-a-message



🌿 Garden Maintenance – Volunteers Needed!

Our church garden maintenance is held **every 4th Saturday of the month**.

We are looking for **more volunteers** to help keep our church grounds beautiful, clean, and welcoming. No special gardening experience is required - just a willing heart and a helping hand!

If you can spare some time, please come along and join us. Every helping hand makes a difference!

📅 **When:** Every 4th Saturday of the month

🌳 **What:** Garden maintenance and general grounds care

🙋 **Volunteers:** More helpers are warmly welcomed!

Thank you for supporting the care of our church grounds. We look forward to seeing you there!

Used Stamps

Dear friends at Saint Albans, thank you for your donation of stamps over the past year which are a valuable source of income for the work of ABM. The money generated from your donation of stamps, and stamp albums, supports the work of ABM throughout the Anglican Communion and often funds much needed projects which we find difficult to resource from our regular donations.

Anglican Board of Mission.

At this time of the year when we may receive more mail for Christmas, please remember to save used stamps, just tear them off the envelopes leaving some around the stamp, and put them in the orange box which is in the Church porch. Albums are also welcome - please leave them in the Office.

Thank you for your support. Peggy Sanders , Secretary, ABM Sydney Diocescan Committee.

Giving in offertories and donations to August 2026

Offertories and donations totalled $148,592 against a budget of $128,240, placing us $20,352 ahead. This is also $30,011 (25%) higher than at the same time last year.

These figures do not include giving from the Indonesian and Chinese congregations, as their offerings mostly support their own ministry resources. It is encouraging that this appears to be a somewhat robust and stable improvement that has continued. This will enable us to seriously consider candidates to fill some key roles to enable us to build on this growth trajectory that we are experiencing.

The Wardens continue to be thankful for this positive result in giving and are greatly encouraged by it. We continue to pray that this momentum will continue, helping us remain faithful in the Parish's mission through the rest of 2026 and into 2027.

Zoom details for Sunday 10am Service

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?pwd=VGpWNXRMcFlLYXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09

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.

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.

Offerings for EPIC Indonesian congregation, please specify EPIC in the reference.

Offerings for the Chinese congregation, please specify 'Chinese' in the reference.

If you wish give to the Mission of the Month or any other specific cause (eg Assistant Minister/Student Minister Fund), 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.

PARISH STAFF

Rector: The Reverend Philip Lui 0413 396 435 - phil@eppinganglicans.org.au

Assistant Minister (part-time): Bill Walton – bill@eppinganglicans.org.au

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

Parish Administrator: Denise Pigot 98763362 - office@eppinganglicans.org.au

Music Director: Chris Czerwinski 0452 557 695
krzysztof_czerwinski@yahoo.com

Student Ministers: Doris Awad - doris.awad@student.moore.edu.au
and Gloria Walton

Student Ministers and Children's Ministry Workers: Aimee and David Wong

Indonesian Congregation (EPIC) Pastor: Kian Holik
kian@eppinganglicans.org.au

Chinese Congregation Pastor: Simon Pei - simon@eppinganglicans.org.au

Caretaker: Kari Hewitt 0402 119 004 – karihewitt94@gmail.com

Parish Office - 3 Pembroke Street Epping 2121 (PO Box 79 Epping 1710)
9876 3362 - www.eppinganglicans.org.au