

St Alban's Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026



Services this month

1 February – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany and Prayers and Blessing for students and educators (at 10am)

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

8 February – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Sung Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

6pm Taizé Service – Prayer with Songs from Taizé

The Reverend Paul Weaver

15 February – Transfiguration. Last Sunday after Epiphany

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

18 February – Ash Wednesday

12noon Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes and 7.45pm Choral Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

22 February – First Sunday in Lent and Litany and Ashing

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Sung Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Paul Weaver

Sunday School will be held at 10am in The Loft (above the Main Hall)

What's on at St Alban's during February

Wednesday 4, 11, 18 and 25 February

Everyday English Classes at 10am

Thursday 5, 12, 19 and 26 February

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

12.00pm The first meeting of the RLT Women's Discussion Group for 2026 will be held at Christine's home. New members are very welcome. Enquiries to Christine on 0418 241 372.

Monday 9 February

7.45pm Parish Council meeting in the Seminar Room

Tuesday 10 February

St Alban's Mothers Union will resume on Tuesday 10 February, with a Eucharist service at 11.30 am, followed by lunch and a meeting in the seminar room. Please bring a sandwich. Fruit and cake will be supplied.

All are welcome to attend, you don't have to be a mother. Men are also very welcome to join.

Thursday 19 February

6.30pm **Men's BBQ Group** will be held in The Old Sunday School Room (behind the Parish Office).

Wednesday 18 February

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a 40-day season of engaging in daily prayer and reflection, by reading and meditating on the word of God, almsgiving, and increasing acts of generosity and service, concluding on April 2, and preparing for our Lord's passion and resurrection.

On Ash Wednesday we have two services – 12noon Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes; and 7.45pm Choral Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes.

The Ashes are prepared from the previous year's Palm Crosses, and placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross, for those who would like to receive the ashing. If you would like to contribute your Palm Cross from last year please place it in the porch by Sunday 15 February

Saturday 28 February

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

Dates for 6pm Taizé Services during 2026 are: April 12, June 13, August 9, October 11 and November 8
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Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection for February 2026 is now available. *Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection* is produced within the parish with a thought and prayer for each day of the month, as well as weekly prayers.

The March Newsletter

Our Newsletters give more information on what is happening at St Alban's. If you know of a parish event coming up during March, would you please let the Parish Office know. The deadline for the March Newsletter is Tuesday 24 February.

Keeping in Touch:

If you are not yet on our Parish Roll, or you have changed your address, email or phone number, we would like to keep our parish records up to date. Please complete one of the cards in the brochure holders on the back of the pews and hand it to the Duty Parishioners or the Rector at the door, or send an email to the Parish Office.

New Congregation

Fr Phil with the Wardens and Parish Council are very pleased to advise that we are establishing a Chinese language congregation. Fr Simon Pei and his wife Lillian and their children will join the Parish, with Fr Simon leading the new congregation.

The Parish has recognised for many years that there is large group of Mandarin and Cantonese speaking people in our community. According to Australian Bureau of Statistics data on the Epping area over 40 per cent of people living in Epping identify a Chinese cultural ancestry; 25 per cent were born in mainland China or Hong Kong; and 35 per cent speak either Mandarin or Cantonese at home.

Those people are of course welcome to come to our existing services, but our services are not always ideal if English is not your first language. By commencing this new congregation, we will be able to better reach out and connect to a broader group of people who live in and around Epping.

This new congregation and the structure will be similar to our Indonesian congregation EpIC, which in a very short time has successfully settled into the life of the Parish.

Fr Phil, the Wardens and Parish Council are all agreed that any congregation that is established needs to be part of the broader Parish community and not just a hall user.

Fr Simon is a Sydney ordained Anglican Priest and has work with or led a number of Chinese congregations. He is also a chaplain with the Mission to Seafarers but will dedicate a number of days each week to the Parish.

The new congregation will meet in the lower hall at 10:00 am for a service in Mandarin. There will be some weekday activities in Cantonese. Children will be welcome to attend our existing Sunday School. The intention is that much like EpIC (the Indonesian congregation) this new congregation will be financially self-supporting.

On a Sunday we will have an opportunity to come together, English language, Indonesian and Chinese congregations for a shared time of fellowship at morning tea.

We also want to be able to hold combined services and activities at various times of the year. These may take a slightly different form to what we are used to, so that we can welcome and reflect the great diversity in our community. There will be things that we need to think about differently and what works with one group may require a different approach for another.

This exciting opportunity will truly make St Alban's an embracing city on a hill. We are thankful that God has answered our long-time prayers by making this opportunity a reality with Fr Simon and Lillian and we welcome them to our community.

Fr Phil and the Wardens.

Renewed Mission

In recent weeks we have had new people and congregations join our church expanding our community at St Alban's. One of the key goals is that we move forward together. To enable us to do this effectively, we are revisiting our vision and mission language, so that it might be clear, memorable and easily translatable across the languages of our new congregations.

In the past, our vision which has served us well was to be "a city on a hill". We are working on new wording to clarify our priorities and provide focus and direction.

As part of this process, we are articulating our mission which we have captured into three simple words:

Gather

Grow

Go

Our mission defines the "How" we will achieve our vision, and these three words help us define our three goals and activities that we want to achieve as we church together.

Some of the intentionality of the language is that:

- We want to capture the Biblical activities that God's people are called to do
- We want to use embodied language as we think about ourselves as both the Body of Christ and the Family of God.
- We want to use phraseology that even our Sunday School children can remember, use and understand.
- We want to establish a framework to explain what it means to be a Disciple-Making Church and what we want for ourselves and one another as we follow Jesus Christ.

Over the coming weeks in February, I will be going deeper into the Biblical Foundation of these words at our 8am and 10am services.

Through the next 3 weeks I will be unpacking/exploring,

- We in the Bible as God people are called to Gather together with God's people around God
- As Christians, we are called not to stay the same, but called to Grow, in our Love for God and our love for others
- Jesus in Matthew 28 leave us with a specific responsibility to Go and make disciples of all nations.

To ground these ideas in your minds let me for now give you the mental picture of a tree. The root system, the trunk and the canopy.

The root system describes the activity of Growing deeper in our understanding and love for God and the roots hold up the tree. The trunk symbolises the Gathering point of the tree which is the people of God, it gives it the strength and the structure. Finally, the Canopy symbolises the activity of Go out into God's world and the embodied ambassadors of the Gospel or to put it another way to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord"

I look forward as we Gather as God's people to working through with you these ideas and considering our future as a church as we work in lock step with one another, glorifying God in all that we do and say.

The Rector

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

Ecumenical Churches in our Area - Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford; Uniting Church Parishes of Epping and West Epping; Epping Presbyterian Church; Epping Baptist Church; and Epping Congregational Church.

Pray for our Parish, our Ministry Team and our Congregations - Pray for our Rector Phil in his leadership of our community of faith, and pray our ministry team – Bill and Gloria; Doris; and Aimee and David – as they serve in our parish; pray for Pastor Kian and Liza; and for Fr Simon and Lillian as they lead and develop their congregations. Pray for our Wardens, Elizabeth, Noel and David and for the Parish Council; and for our Parish Administrator, Denise.

As our various activities and ministries are recommenced pray for all who serve the parish, and pray that we may each contribute our skills, talents, time and finances as we are able. At this time, as we approach the Parish AGM, pray for God's guidance as to who he is calling to serve as office holders in the parish in the year ahead.

Pray that we may keep a holy and reflective Lent, meditating and increasing our acts of generosity and service. (See the John Donne prayer in The Parish Magazine page 10).

Pray for Aimee and David leading our children's ministry, pray that our children and young people will find joy and understanding in knowing the importance of Jesus in their lives.

In the Indonesian congregation pray that the students can study well and be salt and light at university, and that young workers can testify to Jesus in their workplace; and pray for students as they prepare to return to Indonesia, so they can continue to walk in the Lord and bless this nation.

In our Chinese congregation pray for Fr Simon and Lillian as they gather and grow the Mandarin speaking members for Sunday services, and as they develop weekday activities for Cantonese speaking members of the congregation.

Anniversary of Death – Jean Poole; Beryl Matthews; Ronald Joseph; John Oliver; Anthony de Boos 1/2; John Chapman 2/2; Irene Middleton 3/2; David Bryant 4/2; Alfred Howe 7/2; Douglas Wickremsinghe 7/2; Janette Munns 8/2; Phyllis Middleton 9/2; Alister Sim 10/2; Kirsten Russell-Jones 101/2; Phyllis Evans 11/2; Gwen Farrer 12/2; Charles Gilling 12/2; Ena Rosebuck 13/2; Doug Pearson 13/2; Norma Gough 13/2; Ruth Rixon 14/2; Luke Albers 14/2; Nicholas Leyer 14/2; Gregory Taylor 15/2; Ron Sim 15/2; Alison Daniels 16/2; Norah Dickinson 20/2; Raymond Newland 21/2; Millicent Hauff 21/2; John Skeoh 21/2; Enid Hubbard 22/2; Rex Way 23/2; Ronald Young 25/2; Geoffrey Feltham 28/2; Kathleen Field 28/2; Bruce Carr-Boyd 29/2

Mission of the Month

Anglicare Chaplaincy

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 actual 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 tell you more about this ministry.

Some of us have benefited from the ministry of Chaplains at Anglicare Retirement Villages, as well as at hospitals. For further information about Anglicare Chaplaincy, please refer to the display on the narthex board or visit website <https://www.anglicare.org.au/community/chaplaincy/>

There are a few ways you can financially support the Anglicare Chaplaincy ministry. Either use the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your weekly offertory (please write 'Anglicare Chaplaincy' next to the stamped date) or use a plain envelope marked 'Anglicare Chaplaincy.' Alternatively, transfer funds electronically to the St Alban's account - please use the tag 'Anglicare Chaplaincy', or donate funds directly at <https://www.anglicare.org.au/donate> - use the pull-down menu under *Area of Support* and click on either *Chaplaincy – Hospital and Emergency* or *Chaplaincy – Prison and Community*.



Lenten Ecumenical Service

Thursday 19 February 11am at West Epping Uniting

Each year St Alban's with the Uniting Churches of Epping and West Epping and the Catholic Parishes of Epping and Carlingford join to host an Ecumenical Service, followed by light refreshments, for Lent. This year the service will be held at West Epping Uniting Church, Cnr Carlingford Road and Orchard Street Thursday 19 February at 11am.

Please invite your friends and neighbours - this service is not just for the Anglican, Uniting and Catholic church members, it is an opportunity for any denomination or none - a time for reflection at the commencement of Lent.

Contacts for further information: Christine Murray and Peggy Sanders

The Parish Magazine

The latest magazine, February to April 2026, is now available. This is published every three months. 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.

Would you like to contribute to the next edition of The Parish Magazine? Please contact the editor Julie Evans via email julie.evans@ihug.com.au or via the Parish Office. Photographs of Parish events are also welcome.

Changes for Annual General Meeting in March 2026 –

Changes to the ordinance means that at the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) in March 2026, most office holders will need to have completed Safe Ministry 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. More information is on the noticeboard.

The Annual General Meeting for the Parish is **Sunday 22 March 2026** after the 10am Service.

Volunteers Needed: Share Your Gifts and Serve!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved, meet others, and contribute to our parish community? We believe everyone has unique gifts and talents, and we have many opportunities for you to put them to use for God's glory.

We are currently seeking volunteers for the following ministries:

- **Welcoming Team:** Greet fellow parishioners and visitors, helping everyone feel welcome and at home.
- **Hospitality Team:** Assist with breakfast or morning tea on a Sunday.
- **Tech/Media Team:** Assist with zoom and presentation slides during services.
- **Maintenance Team (including Garden Maintenance):** Help keep our church a safe and welcoming physical environment.
- **Flower Guild:** Help beautify the church with others capable people.

How to Get Involved

If you're interested in any of these roles or want to learn about other opportunities, we'd love to connect with you.

Please contact the Parish Office (details on back page).

Your time and talent are a blessing to our church.

Zoom details for Sunday 10am Service

<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.

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.

PARISH STAFF

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

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

Assistant Minister (part-time) Bill Walton

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

Student Ministers: Doris Awad - doris@eppinganglicans.org.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

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