

Epping Anglicans

Parish of Saint Alban's, Epping
with Saint Aidan's, West Epping

Our Mission: Gather, Grow, Go

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

22 February 2026

Sunday Services

8.00am Eucharist and The Litany

Reader: Margaret Foster / Preacher: *The Reverend Phil Lui*

@ 10.00am

Sung Eucharist and The Litany - Also available by zoom *(details on page 4)*

Reader: Meredith Lawn / Preacher: *The Reverend Phil Lui*

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 Bible Study

Rector	The Rev'd 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 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
Caretaker	Kari Hewitt - kari@eppinganglicans.org.au

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

Combined Church Fellowship with Morning tea - Please stay for morning tea in the Main Hall after the 8am and 10am services. Everyone is very welcome.

What's coming up at St Alban's...

TODAY Newcomers Lunch from 12noon.

Please RSVP to Phil on 0413 396 435 if you would like to attend.

Wednesday 25 February

10am Everyday English Classes

Thursday 26 February

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom (*link on back page*)

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Saturday 28 February

9.30am Garden Maintenance. Many of the regular helpers are currently away so extra hands, of all ages, would be greatly appreciated. Enquiries: Gill McLennan 0411 957 270.

Sunday 1 March

Second Sunday in Lent. Preacher: The Reverend Paul Weaver.

Tuesday 3 March

7.30pm Bible Study at North Epping will resume. Enquiries to Ted on 0431 663 853.

Saturday 28 March

Making of Palm Crosses in The Seminar Room from 9.30am will be a working bee to make Palm Crosses for the following day, Palm Sunday. We would be very grateful to those who can assist. No experience necessary – tuition given. A small pair of scissors would be helpful equipment. Enquiries: Margaret Cummins 9680-4865

The Litany: The Litany will be said at the time of the Intercessions in our Service today. Sometimes called 'The Great Litany' in it's longer version, it is an ancient form of responsive prayer often used at the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. In some churches it is sung, and sometimes 'in procession' while moving around the church. There is a rhythm to the series of prayers, a repetition in the congregational responses, and a logical progression of the content - it is an "all-embracing" prayer.

Lent - In this season of Lent, we are hoping to spend dedicated time together reflecting on the magnitude of Jesus's death. We'll spend six weeks, on the Sunday afternoons of Lent, looking at the final four chapters of John's gospel, where we orientate ourselves to see Jesus achieve his victory over death by being the suffering servant, who is lifted up on the cross and draws all people to himself.

We will meet on Sundays starting TODAY (22nd Feb) in the Seminar Room at 1pm. If you are interested, please talk with Bill on Sunday after the services or contact him on 0494 622 899.

Lenten Study - If you are interested in participating in the Lenten Study to be held after the Healing Service from **11.45 to 1pm on Thursdays 5, 12, 19, 26 March and 3 April**, please join the Rev'd Barbara Howard, who has recently joined the 8am congregation, TODAY (22nd Feb) **in the hall between the two services**. Barbara will introduce the study book *Word in the Wilderness: A Poem a day for Lent and Easter*.

Lenten Devotion and Bible Reading Plan for 2026 - The Rector has prepared a plan for 40 days of reading through the Gospel of John. Please pick up your copy from the church porch.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Parish will be held on Sunday 22 March 2026. Please find the relevant information on the church porch noticeboard.

Nomination forms for Wardens, Parish Councillors, Synod Reps and Parish Nominators are available at the back of the church and are required by 15 March 2026.

Mothers Union Sydney will be conducting a seminar titled "Contentment" on Friday 27 February at 10am. Members of Epping Mothers Union plan to watch it livestream at ARV Castle Hill. All are welcome. Morning tea will be provided. For more information please speak to Jan Boyley, Jane Bryant or Elizabeth Jenkins (0403 792 967)

For Your Prayers

Church: Evangelism and New Churches; Arden Anglican School; Epping Presbyterian Church; Macquarie Community Church. ABM - Mission of the Month

For Your Prayers for the Month are included in the February Monthly Newsletter (page 5). Please refer to these to include in your prayers.

In addition: Please pray for Pastor Kian and Assistant Minister Bill as they prepare to travel to Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, from 1 - 6 March 2026. Pastor Kian will teach at Jaffray Bible School and Bill will travel with him to learn about and observe teaching in that context of SE Asia.

Prayer for Lent: Lord God, throughout this season of Lent, I ask for your guidance to walk this path of spiritual discipline. Grant me the strength to commit to daily prayer and reflection, to read and meditate on your word, to commit to almsgiving, and increasing acts of kindness and service. Open my heart to the quiet whispers of your voice. During these 40 days, let me reflect on the life and sacrifices of your Son, Jesus Christ, and emerge from it renewed in spirit and commitment to your calling. Amen.

Anniversary of Death: 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

Those recently deceased: Robert (Bob) Dickinson passed away Thursday 19/2/26. His funeral will take place at Northern Suburbs Crematorium at a date to be decided.

Mission of the Month **ABM AID Lent appeal 2026 - Give Water, Give Life**

Lent is a time of the desert, of wandering in a spiritual wilderness. It is also a time in which we come to recognize the importance of **water** and its place as the **source and sustainer of life**.

Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are basic human rights. They should be available to everyone, everywhere – but they aren't. ABM AID works with local partners to provide communities in **Kenya, Vanuatu, Myanmar and other places** around the world with clean water.

This Lent, your generosity can bring the lifegiving gift of clean water to vulnerable people. With your support, we work with trusted Anglican partners to bring clean water, safe toilets and essential hygiene facilities to people who need them.

For further details, please refer to the Missions display on the narthex board, or visit website www.abmission.org/appeals/appeals-major/lent2026/

There are a few ways to financially support ABM and AID and their partners during Lent this year. Place your gift in the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your weekly offertory envelope, or in a plain envelope marked 'ABM Lent'. Alternatively, transfer funds electronically to the St Alban's account - please use the tag 'ABM Lent', or donate funds directly at www.abmission.org/appeals/appeals-major/lent2026/



Lenten Quiet Day of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd, to be held at St John's Birchgrove on Saturday 7 March 2025. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

More details are on the porch noticeboard.

Bush Church Aid (BCA) Collection Boxes

March is BCA box opening time. Please bring in your BCA boxes for the March count. They may be left at the church office or placed in the offertory bag, or handed to the duty parishioner 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.

The March Newsletter will be published next week. If you have any items to be added, please send to the office by Tuesday 24 February.

Total Givings for 2025 as at December

Giving and donations: \$189,849 / Budget: \$206,760 / We are behind by: \$16,911

However giving and donations were up 1% on the last year which is a very promising trend which we would like to see continue into 2026.

As at the end of December 2025 we have experienced a continued increase in giving, which we are immensely thankful for.

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.



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.

Zoom details for Services available by Zoom:

<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.
