

# Epping Anglicans

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

**Our Vision:** To be a Worshipping, Recognisably Anglican, Multi-racial, All-age, Gathered, Christian Community - 'a city on a hill'

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

5 December 2021

---

### 8am Eucharist

Reader: Elizabeth Jenkins

*President: Bishop Ross Nicholson*

*Preacher: The Reverend Paul Weaver*

### 10.00am Eucharist

(also available via Zoom)

Reader: Derek Jones

*President: Bishop Ross Nicholson*

*Preacher: The Reverend Paul Weaver*

### 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, unless otherwise indicated.**

To mute/unmute your phone, press \*6

*We acknowledge that St Alban's Church is situated, and most of our parishioners live, on the land of the Wallumedegal people of the Eora nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. We give thanks for their care of the land over many generations, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.*

## **Rector's letter :**

You may have noted an intriguing feature of the Old Testament Bible passages that we have been reading each Sunday so far in Advent. Advent is the season when we are reminded of the Second Coming of Christ. The gospel and epistle readings make it quite plain that the return of Christ is a future event. But as modern readers, the Old Testament passages are a bit more ambiguous.

Take for example these words from Jeremiah 33 we heard last Sunday;

“In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.” Jeremiah 33:15

Jeremiah was writing to an Israel in exile in Babylon far from their homeland of Judah. Are ‘those days’ when God would fulfil his promise to establish an eternal throne for David, when the Exiles returned to Jerusalem, when Jesus began his ministry or when Jesus returns?

Malachi was writing to the Jews who had returned from exile. His message is even more complicated because he could be writing about John the Baptist (which he clearly is in Malachi 4:5);

“See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,”

Or of Jesus’ ministry;

“and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.” Malachi 3:1

Or his Second Coming;

“he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.” Malachi 3:3

But what is clear from all our readings is that the advent of Christ will change our world. But more importantly it will change us. Zechariah prophesied that John the Baptist would;

“Go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.” Luke 1:76-77

Through Christ our sins are forgiven and a new life opens up to us. We are ‘refined and purified’ and through the power of the Holy Spirit enabled to fulfil that prayer of the Apostle Paul;

“that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight<sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,<sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” Philippians 1:9-10

---

## **Serving in the Sanctuary**

As we return to having both 8am and 10am services in the Church we are looking for more people to assist as servers in the Sanctuary.

If you would like to join the serving team, or discuss what’s involved, please get in touch with Peggy Sanders, after church or [psanders@ozemail.com.au](mailto:psanders@ozemail.com.au) or 0413481854.

---

## The 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. The colour of Advent is purple, the colour of royalty to welcome the coming of Christ the King. The purple of Advent is also the colour of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week.

This points to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The nativity, the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion. Jesus came into the world as the "Word made flesh" and lived among us to reveal God and his grace. He did this through his life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection.

We celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent and look forward to the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent celebrates far more than just a 2,000-year-old event—amazing as that was; it celebrates the revelation of God in Christ reconciling all creation to God's self. Sunday Bible readings for Advent reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, our accountability for faithfulness at his coming, the judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

Advent symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and congregation, as we affirm that Christ has come, is present in the world today, and will come again in power. Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour.

The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century.

Each Sunday in Advent is marked by lighting a new candle on the 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** symbolizes **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** symbolizes **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. In liturgy, the colour rose signifies joy.
- ♦ 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.



**Church:**

Mosman - St Clement; Mosman - St Luke; Naremburn/Cammeray - St Cuthbert and All Saints; Neutral Bay - St Augustine and Cremorne Point  
LifeWay Lutheran Church Epping; Parish of St John the Baptist, Epping, UK  
Christmas Bowl (*Mission of the Month*)

**In our World and Community:**

Give thanks for the blessing of living in a democratic, stable and prosperous country, and pray for those parts of the world where there is war, violence and fear, especially Ethiopia, Sudan and Afghanistan. May leaders of nations and peoples seek the way of peace, justice and understanding.

As we share together during Advent, give thanks and pray for so many people fulfilling particular responsibilities in the sanctuary, choir, kitchen, at the door and in other ways.

Pray for the parish in these challenging times, and for great wisdom as we consider how to best move into the future. May we move forward effectively as restrictions are reduced, and as we begin services in church again. May we find the person(s) of God's choice to join the Parish staff, and help lead us towards effective outreach and growth as God's people.

Pray for our world, our country and our state as the COVID crisis continues. Ask God to give great wisdom to our leaders, especially that they will make wise decisions as we move out of lockdown.

**Recently Deceased:**

Daniel, grandson of Jane Bryant  
Daniel's funeral will take place this week, and is expected to be streamed live.  
Contact Paul Weaver for further details - paul@eppinganglicans.org.au /  
0408 285 776

**Anniversary of Death:**

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; Clifford Harvie 11/12

---

**Carols in the Park**

*12 December at Boronia Park*

Food stalls from 5pm / Guest performers at 6.15pm / Carols at 7.15pm / Fireworks at 9pm

---

**Weekly Offertory Envelopes**

The 2022 envelopes are now available. Giving has changed over this last year due to Covid restrictions and many parishioners are now transferring directly into St Alban's accounts. You are encouraged to continue to do this.

If you would prefer to use weekly envelopes, they are now available at the back of the church unlabelled. Kindly take a blank box boxed set. If you would like a set of envelopes mailed to you, please let the office. If you would prefer to directly debit your weekly offertory, the church bank account details are on the back page.

---

## ***Mission of the Month***

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

Since 1949, compassionate Christians have followed Rev 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**.

For vulnerable communities around the world, the **effects of the COVID pandemic are catastrophic**. Already struggling, they are now being pushed to the brink without the support they need to survive.

**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**.

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](http://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](http://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.



---

### **Gift of Appreciation to mark Fr Paul's Retirement**

A Service of Appreciation to mark Fr Paul's retirement will be held at 10am **Sunday 30 January 2022** followed by a Luncheon in the Parish Hall.

Please 'Save the Date'.

More details of the function will be distributed and invitations to parishioners present and past will be issued.

If you would like to **contribute to a gift to Paul and Sarah** would you please make your payment by 20 December – (i) transfer to the parish account; or (ii) envelope in the collection box; or (iii) envelope to the parish office – **in each case please mark it as 'Gift for Fr Paul'**.

---

## MU End of Year Lunch

St Alban's MU have invited past women parishioners residing at ARV Castle Hill, to join us for our end of year lunch/Christmas lunch, to be held on Tuesday 7 December at 12.30 pm in the Gwen Davidge function centre at ARV.

If a woman parishioner living there has not received an invitation for some reason please let me know ASAP.

We look forward to a time of fellowship together. Jan Boyley 0449274876

---

## Christmas Flowers

We are looking for CHRISTMAS BUSH to put in with flower arrangements for Christmas. If anyone has some to spare to beautify our church it would really appreciate some.

We will be arranging the flowers on Thursday 23 December and would need it delivered to the church by 9.30 am on that day. If you need to have it picked up please ring me and I will make arrangements to do so on the Wednesday.

If anyone would like to make monetary donations for the flowers it would be greatly appreciated. These can be left at the office or placed in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and put in the offertory, or just given to me.

Jan Boyley 0449274876  
Convenor of flower guild

---

## ***Supporting Christian Community Aid Christmas and beyond***

Thank you to everyone who has supported Christian Community Aid (CCA) throughout 2020 and 2021. During the past two years of crisis, the **number of people requesting help** from CCA, across all its programs, **has tripled**.

Your generous donations of food, essential items and cash are **making an impact** on those in the local community who are suffering. CCA staff are on the ground doing everything they can to ensure children and their families get the urgent support they need.

As part of our Parish's year-round support of CCA, you can continue to donate groceries and essential items and, as Christmas approaches, **festive food and gifts for the CCA Christmas hampers**. St Alban's will deliver the last donations from the Parish for this year on 20 December, when CCA volunteers and sponsors start preparing the hampers.

If you have food and gift items you wish to donate to CCA by Christmas, the deadline for the collection bag in the narthex at Saint Alban's is **Sunday 19 December**, and for the church office, **Thursday 16 December**.

As part of their Christmas Appeal, CCA has set a goal of raising \$100,000 in the community by 19 December, to support families suffering from family violence. For further details, and to donate funds online, please visit the CCA webpage [www.ccas.org.au/campaign/christmas-appeal](http://www.ccas.org.au/campaign/christmas-appeal)

---



## **Next Sunday Services**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

*12 December 2021*

**8am Eucharist at St Alban's**

Preacher Bishop Ross Nicholson

**10am LIVE and via Zoom**

Preacher Bishop Ross Nicholson

# WHAT'S ON...

## **Monday 6 December**

Nicholas of Myra, bishop and philanthropist

## **Tuesday 7 December**

Ambrose of Milan, bishop and teacher

*Parish office open*

9-11am Staff meeting

12.30pm MU Christmas Lunch

1.00pm Ladies Bible Study led by Jenny Nicholson via Zoom  
(link is the Sunday morning service, shown on the front page)

7.45pm Evening Bible Study with Bishop Ross.  
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84072186575>  
Or dial in: 8015 6011 / Meeting ID: 840 7218 6575

## **Wednesday 8 December**

The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## **Thursday 9 December**

*Parish office open*

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by zoom  
The recurring link is: - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89931360228>  
Meeting ID: 899 3136 0228

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

## **Friday 10 December**

*Rector's day off*

---

## **Office arrangements**

The parish office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Denise is working from home on Wednesday and Fridays and can still be contacted on the office phone (98763362).

Denise will be away Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

Father Paul can be contacted on 0408 285 776 and Bishop Ross on 0407 916 603.

---

## Volunteers needed

Could you help on the breakfast or morning tea roster? To keep these activities running smoothly more helpers are needed.

If you can help, kindly let Elizabeth Jenkins know.

elizabethjenkins86@yahoo.com.au or 0403792967.



---

**Sunday School is on at 10am  
in The Loft.**

Please send items to be considered for next Sunday's bulletin by  
**Wednesday at 2.30pm.**

---

**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

**Associate Priest**  
(Part time)

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

**Parish Administrator**

Mrs Denise Pigot 98763362  
office@eppinganglicans.org.au

**Children's Ministry Worker**

Amy Taylor

**Choir Director**

Mrs Michelle Lee 0439 595 528

**Organist**

Aleks Mitsios

**Website** - [www.eppinganglicans.org.au](http://www.eppinganglicans.org.au)