

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'

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

24 October 2021

Due to NSW Government restrictions as a result of the current COVID-19 outbreak, we regret that no congregational services will be held today.

10.00am Eucharist

(ONLY available via Zoom)

Preacher: The Reverend Paul Weaver
"When Life's Not Fair"

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389>

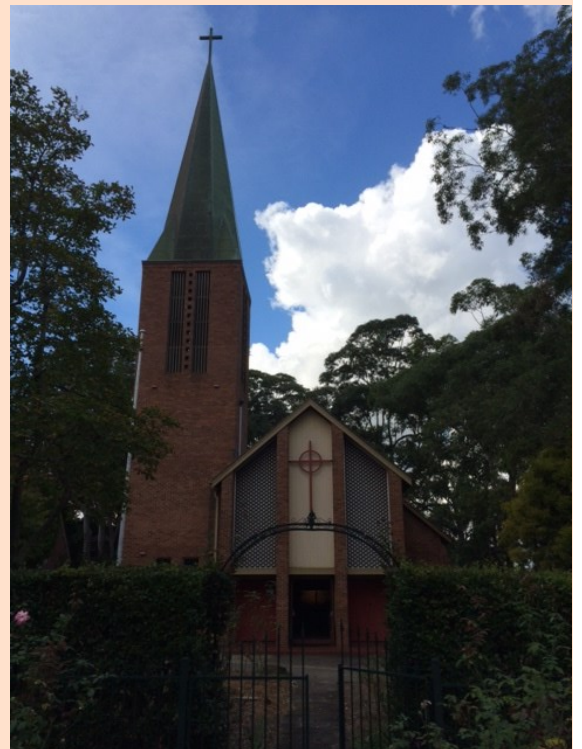
If you are dialling in, the number is: 8015 6011

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 :

We have all heard the epithet 'She has the patience of Job', but if you have read the Old Testament book of that name you would know the man Job displayed no such thing. Job is part of what is known as the Wisdom literature. Along with Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs, wisdom literature expresses the nitty gritty of everyday life and aims to share with the reader how to live with the highs and lows we will all experience as God's people living in the world he created.

The book of Job is probably the grittiest of all these books. It begins by throwing back the curtain of heaven, but quickly drops down to the consequences on earth. It raises the problem of evil, retribution for sin, the challenge of suffering, does God listen?, and a myriad of other questions that can rattle spiritual simplifications.

Attached to our Bulletin this week is a daily reading guide, '28 Days with Job'. If you have never read the Book of Job or have never practised the discipline of daily Bible reading this will give you a simple entre into both. Daily Bible reading and meditation is an essential element of spiritual formation and a Christian exercise that has been practiced since the beginnings of the Church. You may also remember seeing it listed in the 'Spiritual Health Check' that was part of our Planning Day materials.

We read in the gospels Jesus' habit of removing himself to a quiet location to spend time with his heavenly Father. If you would like to establish a habit of daily bible reading one of the best methods is to include it as part of a regular daily ritual. We all have them. Yours might be to get out of bed, have breakfast then a shower and get dressed before heading into the day. Just add a quiet time to that ritual after getting dressed. You might go for a long walk, stop at a café then return home for lunch. Just add a time of reading and prayer before you return home or straight after lunch. The ritual or time of day is not important, what is important is the inclusion of that time with God to read his word and pray into a regular pattern that you have already established.

However you fit it into your routine over the 28 days, begin by asking God to open your eyes and heart to a new truth, a lesson you need to learn or a change you need to make. After you have read the passage for the day, pause to reflect on what you have read and then talk with God about anything you want to share with your heavenly Father.

What is happening at the end of the month?????

**The 8am Eucharist is returning
NEXT SUNDAY, October 31!**

We will continue to have our Sunday 10am service by Zoom.

Our plan is from December 5, our 10am service will also resume in church, and it will again be streamed through Zoom for those who cannot attend.

On **Thursday November 4**, our 10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing will resume at St Alban's Church. Our Thursday morning Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing will continue by Zoom at the earlier time of 9.30am.

Church:

Roseville - St Andrew; Roseville College; Roseville East - St Barnabas,
Castle Cove and Grace Anglican; Turrumurra South - St Philip
Epping Uniting Church; The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford
Act for Peace (Mission of the Month)

In our World and Community:

Pray for the people of Afghanistan, especially those who have good reason for fear. Pray that the Taliban will turn away from extreme and harsh decisions, and that women and children, people who see themselves as under suspicion, and Christians may be allowed to live in safety and with reasonable freedom. Pray for Church leaders and members in places where it is dangerous to be known as a Christian: may their faith be strong, and may they be granted safety and peace.

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. Please pray also for teachers and students returning to school, especially for students facing major examinations.

Pray that the Commonwealth Government will come to a good and truly generous decision regarding refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan. May Australia be a truly welcoming country to those seeking to escape danger and oppression. May our Government also reconsider their response to climate change, and make a positive response before the coming UN Conference in November. Pray also for Dominic Perrottet, our new Premier, in his new responsibilities, and for all members of State Parliament, that they may make good decisions for the welfare of all.

Anniversary of Death:

Jay Pitcher 21/10; Ethel Simpson 21/10; Jean Down 21/10; Beatrice Taylor 22/10;
Margaret Smith 22/10; Doris Gibbons 22/10; Carlisle Passe de Silva 23/10;
Maurice Simmons 24/10; Graham Sawyer 25/10; Barry Rook 26/10;
Jean Muir 26/10; Tony Hunt 27/10; Dorothy Lee 28/10; Zoe McWhite 28/10

BCA Boxes

If you would like to bring in your BCA box, as we missed the September opening, you can drop it off to the office or place it in the offertories when church resumes. If you would prefer to wait until the March opening, that is fine too.



The office will be open this Thursday then the following Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Sunday School is in recess
until church resumes in person on 5 December!**

Mission of the Month

Act for Peace

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. As part of the ACT Alliance, Act for Peace works with local organisations around the world, saving lives when disaster strikes and helping to build long-term change.

Act for Peace's partners are supporting communities most at-risk as they take the lead in combating the current **pandemic** on their own doorstep. In **India** and **Gaza**, refugee communities are receiving health information designed to reduce transmission and to identify symptoms. In **Zimbabwe**, the Act for Peace partner is reaching the general population through church networks to raise awareness of the virus, and to distribute soap and clean water. In **Pakistan**, the partner is assisting medical teams with training.

For further details, please visit www.actforpeace.org.au

Your gift will support these and other vulnerable people across the globe, providing vital support throughout the life of the pandemic. There are a few ways for you to financially support Act for Peace in their **global ministry during this time of crisis**:

- Donate funds directly at <https://www.actforpeace.org.au/give-today>
- Transfer funds electronically to the Saint Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'Act for Peace'.
- Leave your monetary donation in the Church office letterbox anytime; 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 Act for Peace.



ALL SOULS' DAY EUCHARIST

Tuesday 2 November

at 7.45pm

This year we are planning to hold our annual All Souls' Day service at St Alban's as usual. There will be some adjustments as we seek to make the service COVID-safe for us all.

The list of people to be remembered will be placed on the altar. It already includes the names of everyone commemorated in last year's service, together with those whose funerals have taken place since then. Please contact Denise by email or phone if you would like anyone else's name added to the list.

You may wish to bring a flower to place at the sanctuary steps. Candles will be available to be lit in memory of a loved one.



SONGS FROM THE SHOWS

Sunday 14 November
at 2.00pm

St Alban's Parish Hall

Singers: Lachlan Roots and Karen Callaghan

Pianist: Paul Weaver

A chance to come out and listen to some enjoyable music
from popular musicals.

COVID requirements will apply

Donations to Christian Community Aid, Eastwood, will be welcome



Emergency Relief Appeal - UPDATE

During the **current lockdown**, Christian Community Aid (CCA) is committed to continuing **essential services** for vulnerable people in our local community in a COVID-safe way. These services include Aged Care Services, Emergency Relief Services and Food Assistance in the form of food parcels.

CCA recently reported that they are experiencing a significant increase of people accessing the Food Parcels service, the Community Store, Bill Assistance service and Financial Counselling. 'The Emergency Relief Program was booked 2-3 weeks in advance with high demands for food parcels, food vouchers and electricity and gas assistance.' (CCA Annual Report 2020-21)

While our Parish is currently unable to collect and take food donations to CCA at Eastwood, there are a few ways we can **financially assist** CCA so that they can continue to conduct their essential services through this critical time of heightened need.

- Donate funds directly to CCA on their website at <https://www.ccas.org.au/make-a-donation> where there is a choice of payment methods.
- Transfer funds electronically to the St Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'CCA'.
- Leave your monetary donation in the Church office letterbox anytime; 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 CCA.

Anglicans Together AGM

Thursday 4 November at 7pm
via Zoom.

Financial Members who wish to attend the AGM should email the Secretary at admin@anglicanstogether.org and a Zoom link for the meeting will be emailed to you in due course. Financial members may vote and stand for election to the Committee. We are planning, after formalities are concluded, to break into smaller “chat groups”, to which you are invited to bring your drink and nibbles, for informal discussion—some trigger questions will be provided to aid discussion. The pre-Synod briefing usually connected to our AGMs will not be held as Synod is now planned to start on 28 Feb (for just 3 days). We hope to be able to meet in person for that purpose just prior to Synod.

The Reverend Dr Max Wood
President

Prayer Group

A group of people from local churches meet together once a term to pray for Epping Boys' and Cheltenham Girls' High Schools. We are now also including Carlingford High School.

Please join us in praying for the students, staff, HSC students and chaplains at these schools. We will meet via zoom from 8-9pm on Thursday 4 November.

Contact Katrina Collins for zoom details ckjsge@gmail.com or 0400 488 459

Pew
Reflections
REFLECTIONS
BGM

Job 42.1-6, 10-17;
Psalm 34.1-8;
Hebrews 7.21-28;
Mark 10.46-52



Bartimaeus' cries as he sat by the roadside were a prayer from the heart. Unrehearsed, not from a prayer book, raw and desperate. They could not be ignored and when faced with opposition, they grew louder. Our faith calls for moments of desperation such as this when we shout out unrehearsed to Jesus and our faith makes us well. What roadside are you sitting by and what cloak do you need to throw off?

- We give thanks that Jesus is abundant in mercy and that he does not ignore our cries for help.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

Text: Amkela Malaba, Ballina and Lennox Heads Anglicans © Anglican Board of Mission 2021

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

Next Sunday Services
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
31 October 2021

8am Eucharist at St Alban's
Preacher Bishop Ross Nicholson

10am via Zoom
Preacher Bishop Ross Nicholson

WHAT'S ON...

Monday 25 October

Tuesday 26 October

- 9-11am Staff meeting via zoom
- 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 27 October

Thursday 28 October

SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES AND MARTYRS

- 10.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by zoom
The recurring link is: - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89931360228>
Meeting ID: 899 3136 0228

Friday 29 October

Office arrangements

The office is closed during this extended COVID-19 lockdown.

Denise is working from home and can still be contacted on the office phone
(9876 3362) Tuesday to Friday 9am to 3pm.

The parish office will reopen on Tuesday 2 November and, for now, will be open on
Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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

"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 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 the Loop" will be at the discretion of the Clergy.

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