

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'

9th Sunday after Pentecost

25 July 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: Bishop Ross Nicholson

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

Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing

by Zoom

Thursday at 10.30am.

An invitation and link will be sent out on Tuesday.

*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:

What do you think of church? I'm not thinking specifically about St Alban's or a Sunday service but church in general. It doesn't take much to know what the world thinks of the Church. Pedophile priests and predatory pastors have clarified that for us all. The history of the church at various times has also let us down. The decline in church attendance is also an indicator of what people think of the church.

But what do you think of the church? As we read through Ephesians you get to see that Paul has a very high opinion of the church. He describes the church; "which is his (Christ's) body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." Ephesians 1:23

He writes that; "through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." Ephesians 3:10

And that God's glory might be; "in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever." Ephesians 3:21

For Paul the church is no ordinary organisation. It is the body of Christ, a holy temple, the dwelling place of God.

But we may not feel that way. With hostile attacks from an egocentric culture and our own self-doubt or unworthiness, the church can seem a very fragile fellowship. But that belies the eternal truth, that it was for the church, the people of God, that Jesus died. We are a renewed people. Our identity is not something we create but a gift from God, we are his children.

Based on this glorious truth Paul makes two prayers for us. Firstly; "that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love." Ephesians 3:16-17

And secondly; "that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:18-19

At the heart of these prayers is the understanding that on our own we will fail to be who God created us to be. But with the Holy Spirit at work in our hearts, with our lives rooted and grounded in love and knowing the love Jesus has for us, we will be filled with the fullness of God. A fullness that comes by God's power at work within us.

Our prayer ought to be that our church would reflect that glory of God through all of us.

NCLS

The National Church Life Survey is the longest running longitudinal study of church life in the world. Every five years all churches, from all denominations are invited to join the survey. It provides incredible insights into our own individual church life and a great snapshot of what is happening more broadly.

Covid restrictions may interfere with the usual distribution and completion of the survey this year. To help alleviate some of these problems the survey is available online as well as a hard copy. To help with ordering the surveys those of you who would like a hard copy please let the office know by Monday 2nd of August, otherwise it is assumed that you will complete the survey online.

Church:

Hunters Hill Parish; North Epping - All Saints; North Ryde - St John;
Robert Menzies College & Trinity Chapel, Macquarie
The Cathedral Parish of St Alban's Griffith
The Bishop of Bathurst and his Diocese
House of Welcome (*Mission of the Month*)

In our World and Community:

Pray for the people of Myanmar in this period of military control, violence and fear, as well as the ravages of COVID-19. Remember the church of Myanmar, going through difficulty and suffering. May leaders have great wisdom as they lead God's people.

Give thanks for the blessings God has given our Parish over the years, and for the life, fellowship and witness of our church. May God continue to provide for our church and show the way forward as we look to the future. May we find ways to effectively support members who are feeling isolated and in need of encouragement.

Pray for Ross and Jenny as they settle back into life in Epping. May Ross have great wisdom as he leads the parish through these uncertain times, and seeks to guide us into the future.

Continue to pray for our world, our country and our state as COVID continues to affect people's lives. Pray for our Prime Minister, Premier, Chief Health Officer and state government as they make decisions designed to reduce the length of our lockdowns, and to restore the life of our state to normality. Ask God to help health professionals and others caring for the ill, and to keep them safe. May more and more people receive the vaccine, in our own state and country, and throughout the world, and may leaders of nations make wise decisions as they respond to the crisis.

Pray for teachers and other school staff, as well as students and their families, adjusting to this period when home schooling is required for so many. Especially remember students whose HSC trials are being disrupted.

Pray for displaced people, refugees and asylum seekers throughout the world. May those coming to Australia receive just and compassionate treatment, and may God's blessing be on the House of Welcome and other organisations providing assistance to these people.

Anniversary of Death:

Myrtle Evans 25/7; May Aitchison 25/7; Betty Dempster 26/7;
John Nossiter 27/7; Marion Hadley 27/7; Norm Pacey 28/7;
Stanley Deough 29/7; Graham Croker 30/7; Margaret Sim 31/7

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection

Accompanying this week's email is the August issue of Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection, which has been produced, using the Lectionary as a guide. We hope you will find this helpful.



Hard copies are available in the brochure holders outside the church and parish office. If you would like a copy mailed to you, kindly let the office know.

Mission of the Month - The House of Welcome

The House of Welcome at Granville assists and supports **refugees and asylum seekers** in the community by providing shelter and a resource / referral centre. Their services include medical and legal support, as well as assistance in finding emergency and permanent accommodation, gaining employment and enrolling in English classes.

The **Pastoral Care Committee** of Epping parish has actively supported The House of Welcome during the past several years. As always, the HoW has a increasing demand for assistance from their many clients, especially during 2020 and 2021 with the added stress of COVID-19. Many of their clients who had secured temporary jobs, have now lost their jobs and because of their asylum seeker status are not eligible to access Job Seeker payments.

The HoW has seen an increase of 110% in requests for assistance with food, rental support and financial assistance. People are calling the centre in acute states of distress wondering how they will feed their families. Because of COVID-19 restrictions the Pastoral Care Committee is unable to shop and deliver food and cleaning items. By the Parish donating cash, the HoW will be able to use the money to buy in bulk and make good use of the money they do receive.

The House of Welcome is also expanding their work in the asylum seeker and refugee community. For further information about The House of Welcome and its many programs and activities, please refer to the display on the Narthex board, or visit website <https://www.stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome>

There are a few ways you can financially assist The House of Welcome.

- Donate funds directly to The House of Welcome using a credit card on their website <https://www.stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome/make-donation-house-welcome>
- Transfer funds electronically to the Saint Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'The House of Welcome'.
- Drop off your monetary donation in the Church office letterbox any time; or mail a cheque to the Church office at PO Box 79 Epping 1710 with a note that the funds are intended for The House of Welcome.

Emergency Relief Appeal - UPDATE

During the **current lockdown**, Christian Community Aid (CCA) has announced that they are 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.

While our Parish is currently unable to collect and take food donations to CCA, 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 any time; or mail a cheque to the Church office at PO Box 79 Epping 1710 with a note that the funds are intended for CCA.
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Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 1pm via Zoom.

The Zoom details are the same as the Sunday morning church service (on the front cover of this bulletin).

All are welcome. Contact Jenny Nicholson on 0437697746

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Bp Ross has invited anyone interested to a scheduled Zoom meeting every Tuesday night from 7.45pm till 9pm.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84072186575>

Or dial in: 8015 6011

Meeting ID: 840 7218 6575

Parish Mission Action Planning Day

Saturday 14 August 2021

9am to 3.30pm

With Covid uncertainties much of what we may have used a Saturday planning meeting for will need some pre-preparation. As the time gets closer we will advise the final shape of our planning time, whether live or Zoom.

In the meantime, find attached a questionnaire that seeks to determine what we value as a church here at St Alban's. You might like to read and reflect on the questions and send your responses back to the office by **Tuesday 10 August**. We will collate those responses and circulate to everyone.

In a previous iteration of the Parish Vision there was a reference to 'Recognisably Anglican'. Here is a link to a helpful article by Bishop Paul Barnett on the 'Ten Elements of Historic Anglicanism' <http://paulbarnett.info/2011/06/ten-elements-of-historic-anglicanism/>

As we get closer to our planning day we will send further documentation to guide our thinking about the future of St Alban's that God is preparing us for. Please be praying that God will guide and direct us, will open our eyes to his mission plans and have willing hearts to follow where he leads.

Pew
Reflections
Reflections
BGM

2 Samuel 11.1-15; Psalm 14;
Ephesians 3.14-21; John 6.1-21



St Paul prays for the Christians at Ephesus that Christ may dwell in their hearts. May it be our prayer too, because wherever Christ dwells there is love. May love for Christ and love for his people flood our lives, impelling us to show them that love in Christ's name.

- Pray that Christ may enter our hearts and fill us with love, compassion and joy.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Myanmar

Text: Robert McLean, ABM's Partnerships Coordinator © Anglican Board of Mission

Next Sunday Services
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
1 August 2021

Zoom only at 10am
Preacher Bishop Ross Nicholson

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.

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

Please note:

This weekend there may be a disruption to Bp Ross, Fr Paul and the office emails (as we are changing providers). Kindly leave any important emails till Tuesday.
The email addresses will be the same.

Please consider paying your offertory directly into the church account.

The details are:-

St Alban's Ac: BSB No: 032 081 A/c: 000024

St Aidan's Ac: BSB No: 032 081 A/c: 810086

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