

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'

17th Sunday after Pentecost

19 September 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
'Welcome'*

Join Zoom Meeting:

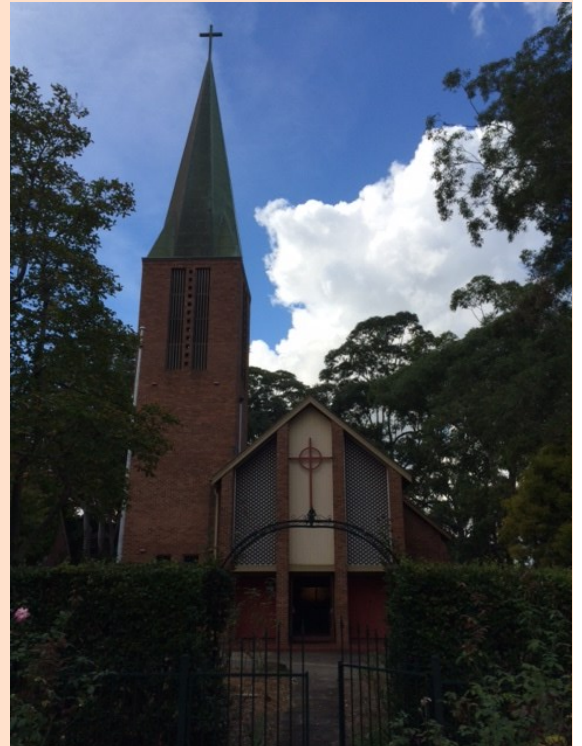
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389>

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:

How important is welcome and welcoming to our spiritual life? There has been talk about double vaccinations being a requirement for a host of recreational and work place participation. Religious gatherings could also be swept up in that requirement. But how would such a rule align with the biblical injunction;

“let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds,
²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,”

Hebrews 10:24-25

Gathering together for Christians is more than a recreational pastime.

Luke writes expressing the power of Christian gathering when he observes in Acts 2;

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. . . ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Welcome is a characteristic of the Christian faith because it is an outworking of hospitality and fellowship. Those words of Luke show what a powerful impact those Christian gatherings had upon the watching community.

The reason for such power can be seen by Jesus’ words to his uncomfortable disciples;

“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.” Mark 9:37

The discomfort of the disciples was the question of Jesus, ‘What were you arguing about on the road?’ What they’d been arguing about was who was the greatest. When you remember the personalities and backgrounds of the Twelve you can easily understand why they were arguing about their rank.

The Kingdom of God, however, inverts our human concept of greatness. The first will be last and the last will be first. To be great in the Kingdom is to be a servant. Jesus’ talk of his impending betrayal, death and resurrection underscores that truth. Even the disciples, in their own band, could see the reality of Jesus’ words. In the world’s eyes none of them were great, in fact they were the most disparate group Jesus could have picked. But they were chosen and welcomed in by Jesus. And in being welcomed in by Jesus they were welcomed into a relationship with God himself.

The welcome of God brings the powerless, the dependent, those without influence into the very presence of God. And in his presence is the great power be changed.

Alpha Online

Would you like to be a part of an online Alpha Team here at St Alban’s, or like to be part of a course when we run it? If so, please contact + Ross

rossnicholson@eppinganglicans.org.au

For more information, here is a link to the Alpha website- <https://www.alpha.org.au/basics> that introduces the course, and here is a link on running the course online- https://d3672eab-4812-43d4-a122-21bc399dec31.filesusr.com/ugd/4d40c0_e0a53594f3234bf494890ac5ed7d669a.pdf

Season of Creation 2021 Prayer

Creator of All,

We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life.

With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house “even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young.” We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honor the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life on Earth.

But we know that our will to power pushes the planet beyond her limits. Our consumption is out of harmony and rhythm with Earth’s capacity to heal herself. Habitats are left barren or lost. Species are lost and systems fail. Where reefs and burrows, mountaintops and ocean depths once teemed with life and relationships, wet and dry deserts lie empty, as if uncreated. Human families are displaced by insecurity and conflict, migrating in search of peace. Animals flee fires, deforestation and famine, wandering in search of a new place to find a home to lay their young and live.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all. In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

From Father Paul

Have you been vaccinated yet? To be vaccinated is not only to access substantial protection for ourselves against COVID-19: it also provides safety for those with whom we are in contact - family, friends, those with whom we deal with at shops and other places. To be vaccinated is to **love our neighbour**.

All the approved vaccines that are available are effective. Like other vaccines they may not provide an absolute 100% protection, and they may have side-effects for a very small number of people, but in the vast majority of cases the evidence is that they do their job effectively. If you have concerns, please raise them with a doctor, rather than failing to get vaccinated.

I imagine that the vast majority of our parishioners have already been vaccinated. Thank you! However, there is another concern, as the government considers making certain places and activities accessible only to those who have been vaccinated. There is good reason for them to consider such a policy, but for churches it will raise a great concern. We seek to be a community that welcomes all people. We do not want to have to tell people who come to worship that they will not be admitted - even if they have not been vaccinated. We will, in any case, certainly be seeking to make our church as safe as possible for all people, but we want to always be a welcoming community. Please pray for the government and for church leaders seeking to come to a way forward on this matter.

And again, please get vaccinated if you have not done so. And look for ways to graciously remind people who are resistant to vaccination that it is not just a private issue: it is a matter of being a good neighbour.

Church:

Christ Church Northern Beaches; Freshwater St Marks;
Warriewood Brook Retirement Village Aged Services;
The Mission to Seafarers; Retired Clergy;
The Cathedral Parish of St Alban's Griffith;
The Bishop of Bathurst and his Diocese
CBM (*Mission of the Month*)

In our World and Community:

Please also note the Season of Creation Prayer on page 3

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 Parish Council meeting this Monday. Pray for great wisdom in making decisions about the planned development, and in setting priorities for our future. 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 in preparing us to move out of lockdown. Pray for doctors, nurses and all who work in the areas of health and personal care: may they have the wisdom, strength and skill they need, and be kept safe in their work. And please also pray for teachers and students as they prepare for their return to school next term. Pray that good decisions will be made about any restrictions being placed on those who have not been vaccinated, and pray for church leaders seeking to explain the difficulties for Churches as they seek to be open to all people.

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.

Anniversary of Death:

Francis Whittington 19/9; Helen McIntyre 20/9; Beryl Atkinson 20/9;
Aiden Warner 21/9; John Colling 22/9; Joan Bellamy 22/9; Ann Couch 23/9;
Victor Lisle 23/9; Carnie Parsons 24/9; John Couch 24/9; Scott Ekert 24/9;
Veronica Couch 24/9; Chevron Joseph 24/9; Shaun Joseph 24/9;
Iris Fitcher 25/9

**Sunday School is in recess
until church resumes in person.**

Mission of the Month

CBM Australia

CBM is an international Christian development organisation devoted to improving the lives of people with disabilities in the poorest places on earth. **Poverty and disability go hand in hand** creating a cycle of inequality, isolation and exclusion that leads to the most **extreme forms of poverty**.

Throughout its 110-year history including 30 years in Australia, CBM has developed proven community-based programs that help millions of people benefit from real, lasting change.

Currently over one billion people are **living with disabilities**, and they are **unduly impacted** during times of crisis and disaster. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that CBM continues to work globally with their partners to ensure no one is left behind.

With hospitals and clinics still open to provide services to the most vulnerable, the most neglected and the most forgotten, CBM is actively working with field partners to ensure essential programs are delivered and people with disabilities are included in response efforts. For further details, please refer to the websites www.cbm.org.au and <https://www.cbm.org.au/covid-19>

There are a few ways for you to financially support CBM in their global ministry during this time of crisis:

- Donate funds directly at <https://my.cbm.org.au/donate> where there are credit card, PayPal and direct debit options. There is also a COVID-19 Crisis Appeal donation page at <https://my.cbm.org.au/covid-19/donate>
- Transfer funds electronically to the Saint Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'CBM'.
- 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 CBM.



Take action for Afghan refugees and their families

Our hearts ache over the crisis unfolding in Afghanistan. It is hard to not feel a degree of helplessness and hopelessness as we see the desperation of people fleeing for their lives, and hear the stories – particularly from Afghan women and girls – about what this change will mean for their human rights and their livelihoods. As this crisis unfolds, Christians, and followers of Jesus, from across Australia, are being moved to speak boldly to our national leaders to provide urgent action for the well-being of Afghan refugees.

Common Grace has joined with Christians in Australia calling for urgent action by [signing onto the Christians United for Afghanistan Call](#).

We ask you to join us in this important and urgent call for action to welcome, protect, reunite, and support Afghan refugees. Together we can make a difference.

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.



"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.

Next Sunday Services
18th Sunday after Pentecost
26 September 2021
Zoom only at 10am
Preacher The Reverend Paul Weaver

WHAT'S ON...

Monday 20 September

John Coleridge Patteson, first bishop of Melanesia, martyr

7.45pm Parish Council Meeting via zoom

Tuesday 21 September

MATTHEW, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST AND MARTYR

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 Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84072186575>
Or dial in: 8015 6011 / Meeting ID: 840 7218 6575

Wednesday 22 September

Thursday 23 September

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 24 September

Pew
Reflections
BCEJCEJONS
BGM

Proverbs 31.10-31; Psalm 1;
James 3.1-12; Mark 9.30-37

James warns us about how dangerous our tongues are – comparing them to a small fire that brings the whole forest down to ashes. May we always endeavour to use our speech to build others up, not to tear them down. Forgive us for any throw-away comments that cause long-term damage to others.



- Set a guard, O Lord, on my mouth: and keep the door of my lips. (Ps 141.3)
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Central Africa, especially in Zambia.

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

Catch Up on Sermons

On the Epping Anglicans website, you can find sermons preached most Sundays, and some others prepared by the clergy and other preachers over recent years.

Reflect on sermons you have heard recently, read sermons you did not hear at the time, and go back to earlier sermons as well.

You are invited to make use of this easily-accessible resource.

www.eppinganglicans.org.au

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 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