

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'

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Australia Day Observance

24 January 2021

Each service will be printed in a booklet for everyone to have their own copy.
These will be available at the church entrance.

Individual cups will be used for Holy Communion.

at St Alban's

8.00am Eucharist

Reader: Elizabeth Jenkins

President: The Reverend Paul Weaver

Preacher: Bishop Ross Nicholson

10.00am Eucharist (also available via Zoom)

Reader: Lynn Bock

President: The Reverend Paul Weaver

Preacher: Bishop Ross Nicholson

(Please stay home if you feel unwell)

Next Sunday's Services

4th Sunday after Epiphany

31 January 2021

At ST ALBAN'S

8.00am Eucharist - Preacher: Bishop Ross Nicholson

10.00am Eucharist - Preacher: Bishop Ross Nicholson

*We acknowledge that we gather here 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.*

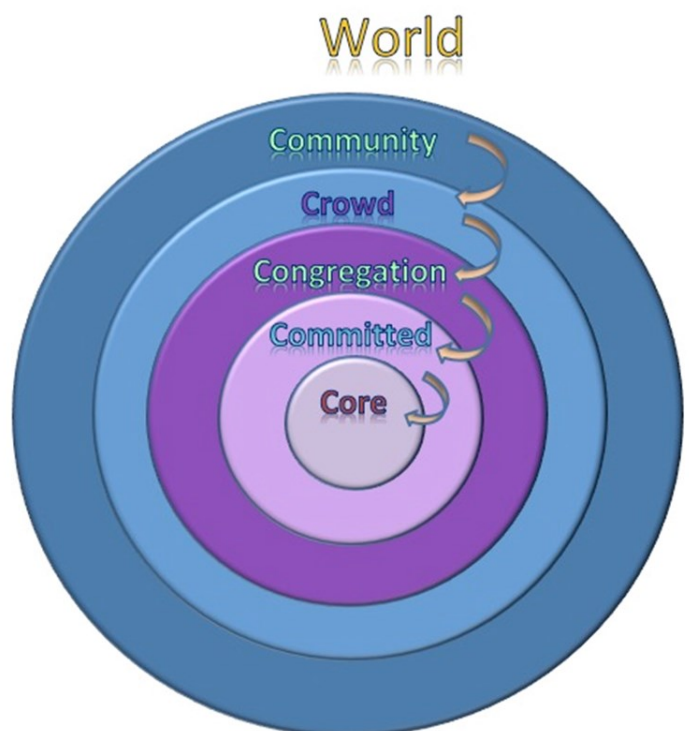
Rector's Letter

We've seen over the last couple of weeks how Jesus called his disciples. There is a pattern that is discernible in how he interacts with people in different places on their spiritual journeys. Below is a diagram of this process that Jesus used of moving people from one spiritual level to the next and the commitment that was exhibited by those at each step. It is also a diagram that is applicable to our own ministry as a church.

In the story of John the Baptist in Mark 1:4-5 we see John reaching out to an 'agnostic' community and bringing them into a 'Crowd' of believers and unbelievers. The next ring composes the 'Congregation'. This group are more committed to their local church than those who represent the 'Crowd'. They take seriously the obligation of belonging and the consequent responsibility of fellowship in that church family. We see that in action when Jesus calls two of John the Baptist's disciples to join him.

Last week Paul spoke to us about Philip bringing his friend Nathanael to 'Come and see' Jesus. Nathanael's declaration that Jesus is the Son of God, the King of Israel, was a declaration of that willingness to commit more deeply to Jesus. The 'Committed' on the diagram are those who are dedicated to growing in their trust in Jesus.

What Jesus was doing was moving people to a deeper level of commitment that would move them from the fringes of faith into the 'Core' who provide leadership within the local church. In the Great Commission Jesus sends this 'Core' out to make disciples, ie is to help move people from one level to the next as they grow in their faith and spiritual maturity.



Appreciation to Jan McIntyre

As advised at the end of 2020, Jan McIntyre has stepped down from the role of Co-ordinator of the Pastoral Care Committee. The planned expression of appreciation to Jan had to be postponed when services in the church were suspended on 20 December 2020.

Towards the end of the **8am Service NEXT SUNDAY**, the parish will have the opportunity to express our appreciation of Jan's enormous contribution to the life of the parish - in her pastoral care committee co-ordinator role, in her previous roles as Warden and Rector's Warden, and in the numerous other ways that she has expressed her caring and concern for all of us.

The **10.30am Thursday Healing Service**
will recommence on **4 February 2021**.

All are welcome.

Church:

Beecroft - St John the Evangelist; Macquarie - St George and St Dunstan;
West Epping Uniting Church; Epping Baptist Church
Bush Church Aid (*Mission of the Month*)

In our World and Community:

Give thanks for the blessings of life in Australia, and pray for God's blessing on our country and its leaders. Pray for the Commonwealth and State Governments: for wisdom, integrity and compassion. Give thanks for our indigenous people, and pray that their needs will be taken seriously and that they will be treated with justice and compassion, so that they can play their rightful positive role in our communities.

Pray for Joe Biden as he takes up his role as President of the USA. May he have great wisdom in responding to the challenges he faces, and pray also for healing in the nation. Pray for leaders of all nations, that peace and justice will be strengthened, and that the needs of all will be responded to.

Pray for our world as the COVID pandemic continues. May God's blessing be on those who are ill, bereaved, isolated or frustrated, and especially those in health and caring fields, who assist the suffering. Pray that vaccines will be effective in reducing the effects of the virus throughout the world, and that all governments will have great wisdom in making difficult decisions.

Pray for students, teachers and other staff as schools resume this week. May this year be a year for effective educations for all. Pray particularly for those who are beginning at new schools, and those who are going to school for the first time.

Pray for Father Jim McKeon, who is taking up the role of Parish Priest of the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford. May God's blessing be on him and his people as he settles in. Give thanks also for the ministry of Fr Peter Dowd, as he takes up the new challenges and opportunities as Chaplain at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Pray for the work and ministry of the Bush Church Aid Society, our Mission of the Month, in its support of work in rural and isolated areas, and all who serve with the BCA.

Pray for our Parish as we look to the opportunities and challenges of the coming year. Especially pray for Ross in his leadership responsibilities, and for all of us in our fellowship, service and worship. May we have God's wisdom and strength as we move forward in to the future.

Anniversary of Death:

Dora Perry 24/1; Doreen Peacock 24/1; Dorothy Partington 26/1;
Nicholas Brayner 26/1; Lionel Nash 26/1; Gertrude Simmons 27/1;
Roger Holloway 29/1; Kate Hindley 30/1; Derrick Evans 30/1

For your Prayers

Our website has had a facelift!

Many thanks to Christopher Lawn who organized the design and upgrade. We also thank Malcolm Lawn, our webmaster, for his continued maintenance.

Take a look: www.eppinganglicans.org.au (it's not quite finished, but almost there).

Mission of the Month

Bush Church Aid Society of Australia

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia, an association within the Anglican Church, has a priority in mission to the isolated, remote urban and rural people of Australia.

Since 1919 BCA has enjoyed responsibility for ministries ranging from flying padres, church services, scripture in schools and family counselling, to welfare and medical services. Mission vans, hostels, hospitals, the Flying Medical Service, Mail Bag Sunday School, clergy, nurses and others played their part in taking the love of Christ to all corners of our vast continent.

For more information about the BCA, please refer to the display on the narthex board, or visit website www.bushchurchaid.com.au

There are a few ways for you to financially support BCA:

- Donate funds directly at <https://www.bushchurchaid.com.au/donate>
- Transfer funds electronically to the Saint Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'BCA'.
- Place your gift in the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your offertory envelope (please write 'BCA' next to the stamped date) or in a plain envelope marked 'BCA', and deposit the envelope in the collection box as you arrive for a service at Saint Alban's.
- Drop off your monetary donation to the Church office on Tuesday morning or Thursday morning; or leave it 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 BCA.

Positions vacant - Sydney Diocesan Services

Manager Diocesan Services (SDS), and
Database Administrator (Office of the Archbishop)

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact the parish office for more information.

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

Parish Directory

Parish Office (at St Alban's) is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings (during COVID-19)

Address - 3 Pembroke Street Epping 2121 (PO Box 79 Epping 1710)

Phone - 9876 3362

St Aidan's Church - 30 Downing Street, West Epping

Rector	Bishop Ross Nicholson 0407 916 603 rossnicholson@eppinganglicans.org.au
Associate Priest	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
Organist	Aleks Mitsios
Website - www.eppinganglicans.org.au	