



St. John's Anglican Church Albany Consecrated 1848.

Sunday, 4th January 2026
The Epiphany of Our Lord



Sentence of the Day

'Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.'

Isaiah 60.1

Collect

Lord God of the nations,
we have seen the star of
your glory rising in
splendour:
may the brightness of your
incarnate Word pierce the
night that covers the earth,
signal the dawn of justice
and peace, and beckon all
nations to walk as one in
your light. We ask this
through Jesus Christ, your
Word made flesh, who lives
and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, in the splendour
of eternal light, God for ever
and ever. Amen.

Prayer of the Week

**Almighty God,
you have shed upon us
the light of your
incarnate Word:
may this light, kindled
in our hearts,
shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, now and for
ever. Amen.**

Today's Readings

1st Reading Isaiah 60.1-6

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon
you.
² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to
you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on
their nurses' arms.
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be
brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to
you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

2nd Reading Ephesians 3.1-12

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner
for Christ Jesus for the sake of you
Gentiles—² for surely you have already
heard of the commission of God's grace that
was given to me for you,³ and how the
mystery was made known to me by
revelation, as I wrote above in a few
words,⁴ a reading of which will enable you to
perceive my understanding of the mystery of
Christ.⁵ In former generations this mystery
was not made known to humankind, as it has
now been revealed to his holy apostles and
prophets by the Spirit:⁶ that is, the Gentiles
have become fellow-heirs, members of the
same body, and sharers in the promise in
Christ Jesus through the gospel.⁷ Of this
gospel I have become a servant according to
the gift of God's grace that was given to me
by the working of his power.⁸ Although I am
the very least of all the saints, this grace was
given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news
of the boundless riches of Christ,⁹ and to
¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.
¹¹ On entering the house, the
y saw the child with Mary his mother; and
they knelt down and paid him homage. Then,
opening their treasure-chests, they offered
him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
¹² And having been warned in a dream not to
return to Herod, they left for their own
country by another road.

make everyone see what is the plan of the
mystery hidden for ages in God who created
all things;¹⁰ so 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.¹¹ This was in
accordance with the eternal purpose that he
has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in
whom we have access to God in boldness
and confidence through faith in him.

Gospel Reading Matthew 2.1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was
born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from
the East came to Jerusalem,
² asking, 'Where is the child who has been
born king of the Jews? For we observed his
star at its rising, and have come to pay him
homage.'
³ When King Herod heard this, he was
frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;
⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and
scribes of the people, he inquired of them
where the Messiah was to be born.
⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for
so it has been written by the prophet:
⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers
of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise
men and learned from them the exact time
when the star had appeared.
⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,
'Go and search diligently for the child; and
when you have found him, bring me word so
that I may also go and pay him homage.'

⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out;
and there, ahead of them, went the star that
they had seen at its rising, until it stopped
over the place where the child was.
¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹ On entering the house, the
y saw the child with Mary his mother; and
they knelt down and paid him homage. Then,
opening their treasure-chests, they offered
him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
¹² And having been warned in a dream not to
return to Herod, they left for their own
country by another road.

The Psalm for today is Psalm 72, Verses 1 to 7 and 10 to 14.

¹ Give the king your judgement, O God: and your righteousness to the son of a king,

² That he may judge your people rightly: and the poor of the land with equity.

³ Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness: and the hills also with prosperity for his people.

⁴ May he give justice to the poor among the people: and rescue the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live while the sun endures: and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.

⁶ May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:

and as showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his time shall righteousness flourish: and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰ The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

¹¹ All kings shall fall down before him: and all nations do him service.

¹² He will deliver the needy when they cry: and the poor that have no helper.

¹³ He will pity the helpless and the needy: and save the lives of the poor.

¹⁴ He will redeem them from oppression and violence:

and their blood shall be precious in his sight.

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading *Isaiah 42.1-9*

2nd Reading *Acts 10.34-43*

Gospel Reading *Matthew 3.13-17*

P686

P122

P3

HYMNS – EUCHARIST SETTING DUDMAN TIS 756

	8am	9.30am
Introit		304
Gradual	314	314
Offertory	301	301
Recessional	309	309

We respectfully acknowledge the Menang Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we worship and minister, and pay respect to elders past and present.

Children's Church is available at our 9:30am service. This week's Children's Talk is 'Seeking the Savior.'

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS - All are welcome at the Lord's table. Baptised, communicant members of all Christian denominations, are very welcome to receive Holy Communion and any person welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar rail and wish to receive the Sacrament in your pew, please speak to a sides person.

Hello Dear Friends

Happy New Year to you all.

This Sunday we get to celebrate Epiphany. Our sentence tells us that the light has come and we pray that the bright light shines for all nations to be as one. Isaiah talks of the bright glories of the church of God when all people will come in. Psalm 72 sees David praying for Solomon and giving a prophecy regarding his reign and of Christ's kingdom. Paul talks to the Ephesians of his ministry, his qualifications, his call and the results of his works. And it being Epiphany, we hear of the Magi, their search and worship of Jesus.

Epiphany is always a day of contrasts for me - it's always memorable as it's the anniversary of my Mum's death - my reaction to her death was a most important part of my Christian journey and led me to a great epiphany of my own - an uncovering and revealing of the gift of God's grace and love and the understanding of forgiveness!!!

I found a story!!

Alan was recovering in hospital from a motorcycle accident. It was coming up to Christmas. One night as he lay in bed he looked out the window and noticed that the sky was full of stars. Suddenly he began to think about the Three Wise Men (Magi) and their journey to Bethlehem in search of the Christ Child.

Then he began to think about himself, something which up to then he had never really done. And he said to himself: 'Here I am, 23 years old, and what have I done with my life? What have I achieved?' The answer was 'nothing'. He was still living for thrills and excitement. He had wasted the best years of his life and had nothing to show for them.

Next, he thought about his relationship with the Lord. The Magi didn't have the Lord at the start of their journey. But they set out to look for him, and persevered until they found him. For him it was the opposite. He didn't have to go looking for the Lord. He had him from the very start. He was baptised and brought up a Christian. He went to church regularly until he was fifteen. But then he gave it all up. He lost the Lord. And instead of looking for him, he deliberately turned his back on him. More, he was in rebellion against him.

That was a very dark night for Alan: when all this came crowding in on him. But when the darkness was at its thickest a beautiful thing happened. It

was if the Lord's star rose before him, as he gazed out the window: and suddenly he realised that the Lord's light hadn't been extinguished. It had continued to shine all those years, except it was hidden by clouds. And a wonderful truth dawned on him: even though he had abandoned the Lord, the Lord had not abandoned him. All those years the Lord had been searching for him.

He was overcome with joy. He never thought that he mattered to anyone, least of all to the Lord. And he said to himself: 'From now on I have a star that will not play me false: I have a compass that will not lie to me'.

When the Magi found the Lord, they offered him wonderful gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh. Now that Alan had found the Lord, what could he offer him: he thought? For a while he was at a complete loss. But then he realised there was something he could offer the Lord. He could offer the Lord, himself. But, of course, he would first of all have to find himself before he could offer himself as a gift to anyone else. However, he could at least make a start, and that he was determined to do right away.

Christmas came, and Alan remained in hospital. But people saw an amazing change in him. Up to this, he had been full of bitterness about life in general, and about his accident in particular. Now he had a smile and a cheerful word for everyone. People were puzzled as to what had produced this change in him. But Alan himself knew what it was. It was the fact that he had found the Lord. And as we know no one can truly find the Lord without being completely changed.

Years later he said: 'That was the first real Christmas in my life. No, I didn't hear angels singing in the sky. But I did experience some of the peace they sang about, on that first Christmas night'.

Everybody needs a star to follow, just as ships at sea need a lighthouse beacon to guide them safely to port. Truly blessed are we if the star of the Lord has risen before us and twice blessed are we if we follow that star steadfastly all our lives. Many spend their lives searching for what they already have, and do not find it.

We are indeed blessed!

Karen

Prayers for:

The Diocese of Ballarat - Bishop Garry Weatherill, clergy and people.

The Parish of Australind - Priest-in-Charge Revd. Jamie Murray and wife Verity.

Please pray for:

- * Our developing ministry of blessing and our new Local Houses of Prayer to flourish and bear good fruit.
- * Course participants in Alpha, Living Free, Being Together to be blessed through these courses in their growth and maturing in the faith.
- * That we would be a community resting in the Father's love, attentive to Jesus' voice and faithful to His word. That we would be a community full of the Holy Spirit exercising His gifts and bearing His fruit.

Diocesan Ministry: The Blackwood Deanery - Revd. Justine Richmond.

For the World:

- *The St John Ambulance officers and staff.
- *School Chaplains and special needs staff in schools.
- *All residents and staff of aged care facilities.
- *For countries where Christians are

persecuted and those who are unhappy with their work conditions or have no work at all.

Prayers for:

Anglican Church of Kenya - Diocese of Kapsabet.

St. Andrew's Ol'Lessos Parish - Parish Priest - Rev. Emmanuel Rono, wife Teresa, Curate Revd. Tecla Chepsiror and husband Enock.

St. Paul's Tulon Parish - Parish Priest - Revd. Philemon Arusei, Curate Revd. Joseph Chumo and wife Rael.

St. James' Chemase Parish - Parish Priest - Revd. Noah Togom and wife Naomii

Please pray for -

- * That students would be proactive in sharing their lives with friends in their respective schools.
- * That the Lord would protect those working in health facilities against all communicable diseases.
- * That believers would give generously and sacrificially for mission and church projects.

Diocesan Ministry - Pray that God may grant us peace by all means.

HOPE 25

HOPE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

We give thanks to God today for Hope25.

Right across our country
from the north to south,
from the east to the west,
Anglicans have been proclaiming
the hope we have in Jesus.

People have been bold in giving invitations
courageous in sharing their stories,
and faithful in speaking about hope.
Many people have heard about Jesus.
and have taken steps towards faith.
We praise God for the many who have heard
of our hope,
for those who we have welcomed into our
churches
and for those who have believed in Jesus.
We ask God to continue to bless our church
as we live in hope.

Mothers Union Monthly Prayer

Loving Lord, our faith is in you.

We place our future in your hands as we follow where you lead. Inspire us with your vision and empower us with your Spirit, that we may walk forward together.

knowing you are our guide and companion. Amen

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Martha's Soup Kitchen - Monday 12pm-1pm.

Outdoor Markets continue to be held each Saturday in January.

Order of St Luke Services will recommence in February 2026, there is no scheduled service for January 2026.

2026 Lectionaries are still available from the Office for \$12.50.

Emergency Relief - Hi everyone Thanks for your previous donations which we very much appreciated. We urgently require the following items:

- * 1 litre full cream long life milk.
- * 1kg plain or self-raising flour.
- * 1kg white rice.

Thank you and best wishes from the ER team.

Ministry opportunities - The Church cleaning team and Op Shop are looking for extra volunteers to join them. Please contact our Op Shop Manager, Wardens or Revd. Karen.

Church Watch is now up and running again on Fridays from 11am-2pm. If anyone is interested in assisting with this ministry please speak to Revd. Karen.

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PEACE OF MIND

Regardless of age, an enduring power of attorney (EPA) , an enduring power of guardianship (EPG) and an advanced health directive (AHD) can be accessed at <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/justice/>

[civil-law/enduring-power-of-attorney](#) and are recommended to be in place to provide peace of mind to our families. Do you have a will?

AND FUNERALS - Information to assist you make your wishes known re funeral arrangements can be accessed via the Parish Office. The completed information is for your family and/or support persons to ensure your wishes are carried out.

Prayer Chain - A parish prayer chain has been re-established. If you have prayer requests **please contact Revd Karen (0434 702 343)**, who will communicate with other members of the team. Prayer requests will not be discussed by prayer chain members and will be kept in confidence. If you wish for prayers to continue for more than one week, please contact Rev. Karen again. The importance and power of prayer is intrinsic in our faith. Prayer is an act of worship that glorifies God and reinforces our need for God. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7(NRSV).

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER.

A contemplative prayer service is held in the Lady Chapel every Tuesday of the month at 11am. The format is flexible, but follows The Rhythm of Life: Celtic Daily Prayer by David Adam and includes a time of silent prayer, up to 20 minutes for regulars. The service is chosen as a result of discussion about matters on the hearts of those attending, and the contemplation based on a mantra taken from the psalm. The service takes less than an hour usually, and it is followed for those who wish to stay, by the regular Tuesday 12.30 Eucharist. The books are supplied, and contemplative time can be modified for those new to this form of prayer. You are most welcome to come and try a new experience! Cherry O'Donnell.

Direct Giving via Electronic Banking -
Thanks again to those who are continuing to support the church in one form or another. Could I please ask that those that are electronically transferring money to the church follow the following instructions.

Ordinary Direct giving - quote the word "Donation" in the reference section and deposit into Anglican Community Fund.

Planning for our Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2026

Our AMP will be held on Sunday 22nd February 2026. In order to prepare for this please find detailed the timeline of events.

Forms are now available in the Parish Office and at the back of Church for you to register as a voting parishioner. You will not need to register again if you did so last year. Registration will be available until end of January. (a list of those already registered is available with the registration forms).

From 9th December 2025 until 24th January 2026, nomination forms for elections to an office in the parish will be available. The following positions will be elected:

Parish Councillor x 6.

Please hand these completed forms to Revd. Karen.

Voting will take place on 15th February 2026 and 22nd February 2026 and end before the AMP.

All Ministry reports should be completed and send to Parish Office before 9th January 2026.

Please pray for those called to serve as Parish Councillors.

Thank you and Blessings.

Revd. Karen.

BSB: 706-001
Acc: 3000 3081

Mission giving should be deposited into the Parish Holding Account using the word "Mission" as a reference.

Banking details are:
BSB: 706-001
Acc: 3000 8763



This month's Mission of the Month is YouthCARE -

WA's leading provider of pastoral care and values education

meeting the needs of our community and supporting the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing, which is increasingly important for both children and adults.

YouthCARE has been serving government school communities throughout the state for over 50 years and continues to serve hundreds of thousands of Western Australians every year.

Guided by values of care, respect, compassion and service, YouthCARE reaches people in need through specific programs, sessions and opportunities that draw together various aspects of community. Partnerships with service and resource providers connect people with real world solutions, empathy and a sense of belonging while guiding students, parents and school staff towards positive outcomes and experiences.

YouthCARE actively supports the wellbeing of over 600 school communities across Western Australia delivering positive impacts and the hope for a brighter future.

For further detail please visit the YouthCARE website <https://www.youthcare.org.au>

Services at St John's.

We have implemented live streaming of services on Facebook - If you use Facebook please "like" the following pages Anglican Parish of Albany and Anglican Parish Albany Service Stream for live services or recordings. We will also put a link on the website www.anglicanchurchalbany.org.au so you can watch the recordings.

Normal Worship times:

Sunday 8:00am	Sung Eucharist with Hymns
Sunday 9.30am	Live streamed sung Eucharist with Hymns
Sunday 7.00pm	Live Streamed Compline
Tuesday 12.30 pm	Eucharist
Monday - Friday	Morning and Evening Prayer live streamed at 8am and 5pm.

The next Order of St Luke Healing Service will be held on Thursday 12th of February at 9.30am in the Lady Chapel.

CONTACT DETAILS

Priest-in-Charge: Reverend Canon Karen Cave - Mob: 0434 702 343

Email: priest@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au

Safe Church email - safechurch@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au

Wardens:

Email: wardens@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au

Mike Taylor: Mob: 0417 967 368

John Blake: Mob: 0438 761 950, (H) 9844 4587

Georgie Walker: Mob: 0428 425 293

Parish Office:

Parish Administrator: admin@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au

Rachel Matthews – 9841 5015

Parish Office Volunteer: Kate Britton.

Office Hours – Mon - Thurs 9am to 12pm and Fri 9am –5pm.

Op Shop:

Mob: 0474 265 500

Manager - Ann Robinson

Trading Hrs are 10am-2pm Mon-Fri.

Director of Professional Standards:

Ms Davina Goldthorpe - Ph: 9425 7203. Email:

safeministry@perth.anglican.org

Mandatory Reporting Service:

Ph: 1800 708 704. Website: www.mandatoryreporting.dcp.wa.gov.au

Please check out our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages at Anglican Parish of Albany and encourage your friends to follow us.