



Sunday, June 21, 2026

Whereas the congregation of Saint Alban's Episcopal Church first gathered for its first service on Palm Sunday, 1946, marking the founding of the parish in Waco, Texas;

Whereas their founding rector, the Reverend Charles A. Higgins, a former missionary in China and prisoner of war during the Second World War, welcomed a delegation of Chinese clergy in February 1948, including the Reverend Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman ordained in the Anglican Communion;

Whereas the builder of the church, William Smith, a World War II veteran and former prisoner of war, was liberated at the end of the war by a group of American soldiers that included his own brother, Reginald Smith;

Whereas Saint Alban's has maintained a longstanding sister-parish relationship with All Saints', Nambiti, in the Anglican Diocese of Southern Malawi, hosting Bishop Alinafe Kalemba in 2013 and 2025, and the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, Blantyre, in 2024;

Whereas the parish has grown rapidly over the last twenty years, expanding from 150 people on a Sunday to over 550, making it one of the thirty largest parishes by Average Sunday Attendance in the United States;

Whereas Saint Alban's welcomes all, including unchurched individuals and those who have previously left the Church, providing a faithful witness to Jesus Christ through Word, Sacrament, and community fellowship;

Whereas the congregation is active in service to the Waco community, focusing on children and families in the child welfare system, as well as individuals experiencing hunger, homelessness, poverty, and recovery from substance use disorders;

Whereas the parish continues to deepen its spiritual life and connection to the wider Church, having welcomed Bishop Rowan Williams for a Choral Evensong in October 2025, and celebrating its milestones with the congregation and visiting bishops;

Therefore, be it resolved that I and the Bishops of the Diocese of Texas express appreciation for the people and ministries of the last 80 years at Saint Alban's Episcopal Church, Waco, and pray for our Lord Jesus Christ to continue to pour his blessings upon them and their community.

Thanks be to God.

C. Andrew Doyle, D. D.,
IX Bishop of Texas

