



# ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA / LAVERTON

St Eanswythe's Altona :: St Clement's Altona Meadows :: O Te Wairua Tapu Ki Poipiripi



*To proclaim God's love and life in Christ:  
growing in faith † serving others † nurturing a common life*

## 23rd August 2020 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, open to join on Zoom

### Welcome...

...whether you are sharing in worship online or reading this pew sheet quietly at home. The life of our parish continues!

This includes our ongoing care for each other—please don't hesitate to contact someone else in the parish, or the Vicar, if there's anything you need.

*Our parish lies on the traditional country of the Yaluk-ut Weelam people within the Boonwurrung clan, part of the greater Kulin nation.*

*We recognise and honour the Indigenous custodians of this land over countless generations, and we pay our respects to their elders, past and present.*

*We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, justice and healing.*

### From your priest...

Dear friends,

Those who have needed to be tested for COVID-19 will be familiar with the strict instructions that are given afterwards: go directly back home, and do not leave your home for shopping, exercise or any other reason except an emergency, unless and until you are notified of a negative result. For the last few weeks, we have all been under similar orders from 8pm each night, and indeed most of us are spending most of our days at home as well.

How are you experiencing these prolonged periods at home? There are of course all sorts of practical implications to this pattern of life, but beyond that there is very much a spiritual dimension to this new and enforced stability. I've commented already this year that there is something of the monastic experience here, as we are required to remain in one place, and come to terms with ourselves and with God.

In the eleventh century in Italy, St Romuald of Ravenna established a branch of the monastic tradition which also emphasised the vocation of the hermit—one who spends most of their time alone with God. His "Brief Rule" is brief enough to be quoted in full:

*Sit in your cell as in paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it. Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish. The path you must follow is in the Psalms – never leave it.*

*If you have just come to the monastery, and in spite of your good will you cannot accomplish what you want, take every opportunity you can to sing the Psalms in your heart and to understand them with your mind.*

*And if your mind wanders as you read, do not give up; hurry back and apply your mind to the words once more.*

*Realise above all that you are in God's presence, and stand there with the attitude of one who stands before the emperor.*

*Empty yourself completely and sit waiting, content with the grace of God, like the chick who tastes nothing and eats nothing but what his mother brings him.*

"Sit in your cell as in paradise..." What might it mean for us to spend these solitary days as if in paradise, open to the presence of God, content with the face of God, and trusting in all that God will provide for us?

With my prayers for all that God might do within us during this time,  
Chris

## PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

### COLLECT

O God, fount of all wisdom, in the humble witness of the apostle Peter you have shown the foundation of our faith: give us the light of your Spirit, that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God, we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### PARISH PRAYER

**Creator God, your love gives life in abundance, and makes us whole again and again. Draw us closer to Jesus, we pray, and give us a heart for all your beloved children. By your Spirit, may our parish bring blessing to young and old, and may our lives be good news for a hungry world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### FIRST READING *Exodus 1.8-2.10*

Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. He said to his people, "The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. Come on, let's be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land." As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread. So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. They made their lives miserable with hard labour, making mortar and bricks, doing field work, and by forcing them to do all kinds of other cruel work.

The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: "When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live." Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live.

So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, "Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?"

The two midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them." So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. And because the midwives respected God, God gave

them households of their own.

Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: "Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live."

Now a man from Levi's household married a Levite woman. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. When she couldn't hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank. The baby's older sister stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children."

Then the baby's sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

Pharaoh's daughter agreed, "Yes, do that." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I'll pay you for your work." So the woman took the child and nursed it. After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I pulled him out of the water."

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM *124*

If the Lord had not been on our side, now may Israel say: if the Lord had not been on our side, when our enemies rose against us,

**Then they would have swallowed us alive: when their anger was kindled against us.**

Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, and the torrent gone over us: the raging waters would have gone clean over us.

**But praised be the Lord: who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.**

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler: the snare is broken, and we have gone free.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord: who has made heaven and earth.**

SECOND READING *Romans 12.1-8*

So, brothers and sisters, because of God’s mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don’t be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God’s will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don’t think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. We have many parts in one body, but the parts don’t all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. We have different gifts that are consistent with God’s grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 15.21-28*

Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

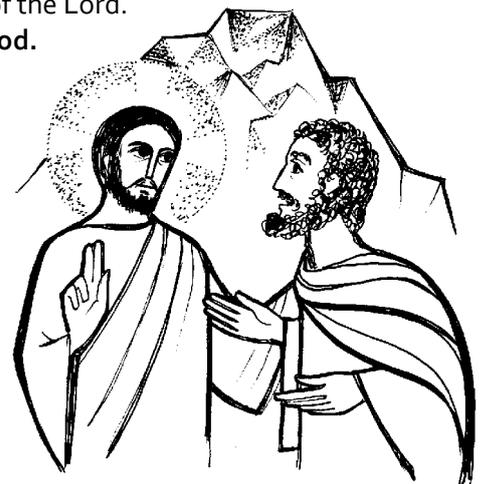
Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won’t be able to stand against it. I’ll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.” Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



**Readings for next week: 30 August (Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost):**

Exodus 3.1-15; Psalm 105.1-6, 23-26; Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28

**GROWING IN FAITH CONVERSATIONS** continue this week: everyone is welcome to join, and no prior knowledge is needed. Why not join in and see what you discover?

**Sunday 23rd and 30th at 10:45am**—*When I pray* (hosted by Kathleen Alleaume-Ross)

**Tuesday 25th at 7:30pm**—*Richard Rohr’s chapter “Two Witnesses to Jesus and Christ”* (hosted by Dean Mason)

**Wednesday 26th at 7:30pm**—*Prayers and intercession* (hosted by Michael Francis)

For further details, Zoom links (these are different for each group) and materials to read beforehand, visit

<https://anglicanaltlv.org.au/growing-in-faith-august-september-2020/>

**KIDS’ CORNER** 4-4:30pm on Wednesdays, on Zoom—some games, a story and a chat with others. All welcome! (The Zoom link is the same as for Sundays.)

**READERS AT 8AM** If you would like to be one of two readers at the 8am Morning Prayer service on a Sunday, please let Rev’d Chris know. The readers join in from home via Zoom, and the service is also live streamed on our parish Facebook page.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has found a way to continue giving to the parish over the last four months. Deposits can be made to the parish Bendigo Bank account at any time (BSB 633 000, account number 157 594 722, account name “St Eanswythe’s Altona with St Clement’s Laverton Anglican Churches”). For further details see the *giving* page on our parish website: [anglicanaltlv.org.au/giving](https://anglicanaltlv.org.au/giving)

## For our prayers:

The world and nation: For those unable to cross borders to return home or to make a new home.

### The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. For Christians who are persecuted and martyred today, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: Diocese of Bunbury.

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; hospital chaplains; St Thomas', Ferntree Gully Upper.

Our parish & community: For residents and staff of aged care facilities, and their families.

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

Particular current prayers: Peter, Faye, Susan, Jane, Gustavo.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Trevor McDonald (24), Mary Truman (25), Jesse James (26).

Ongoing prayers (remembered at Morning Prayer through the week):

Sharilyn, Ruby, Paul, Mavis, Belinda, Joseph, Daniel, Stuart, Nick, Vahid, Malek, Davey, Jimmy, Jayden, Ashlee, Tanatha, Julia, Anna W, Elly, Patricia M, Tim.

*To add names to the prayer list, either those needing prayers now (with their agreement) or those to be remembered on the anniversary of their death, please send details to [anglicanaltlav@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanaltlav@gmail.com) or give to the Vicar.*

### A prayer for these times:

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.



## Keeping in touch...

- ⇒ Pew sheets are available on our website at [www.anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets](http://www.anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets)
- ⇒ Visit [www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav](https://www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav) for photos, links, news and other updates.
- ⇒ If you don't already receive emails regarding news, arrangements for services, and other updates, please send your email address to [anglicanaltlav@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanaltlav@gmail.com)
- ⇒ Please send all material for the pew sheet to [anglicanaltlav@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanaltlav@gmail.com)

## The Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

[www.anglicanaltlav.org.au](http://www.anglicanaltlav.org.au)

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### Vicar:

The Rev'd Chris Lancaster  
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### Assistant Priest & Maori Minister:

The Rev'd Danny McRoberts  
0448 841 196 [dann.mcroberts@gmail.com](mailto:dann.mcroberts@gmail.com)

### Theological student:

Dr Kathleen Alleaume-Ross

### Churchwardens:

Lily Griffin  
Anita McAnda  
Scott Pitcher

### Child Safe Officers:

Sandra Hansen (St Clement's)  
Anita McAnda (St Eanswythe's)

## This week in our parish:

### Sunday 23rd August

#### Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook  
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, open to join on Zoom  
10:30am Children's time, open to join on Zoom  
10:45 Growing in faith conversation, on Zoom

### Tuesday 25th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook  
7:30 Growing in faith conversation, on Zoom

### Wednesday 26th

9am Morning Prayer, open to join on Zoom  
4pm Kids' Corner, on Zoom  
7:30pm Growing in faith conversation, on Zoom

### Thursday 27th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

### Friday 28th

9am Morning Prayer, open to join on Zoom  
5pm Youth group, on Zoom

### Sunday 30th August

#### Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook  
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, open to join on Zoom  
10:30am Children's time, open to join on Zoom  
10:45 Growing in faith conversation, on Zoom

Services on Facebook can be accessed at [www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav](https://www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav)

Services on Zoom can be accessed at [zoom.us/j/9726172254](https://zoom.us/j/9726172254)  
(Or by phoning (03) 7018 2005—when prompted, enter 9726172254#;  
then when asked for a participant ID, press #.)