



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*

5th September 2021 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, on Zoom

Welcome...

...whether you are sharing in worship online or reading this pew sheet quietly at home. The life of our parish continues, as together we praise the Lord, reflect on God's word, and pray for the world, the church, our community and each other.

We look forward to gathering again in person as soon as possible.

Our parish lies on the country of the 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 (including to Pay The Rent to local First Nations people).

SHARING THE PATH OF FAITH

reflections from the clergy and our parish community

Dear friends,

During this week we've needed to adjust our expectations about the progress of COVID-19 in our community, with the Premier and others acknowledging that this wave cannot be beaten back to zero in the way we have done previously.

This has been heavy news, not least because it means that we are probably a good way off from being able to gather again in person. For a second year, next week's celebration of St Eanswythe's Day will be online; and it's difficult to know what might be possible for various other events in the coming months.

Gathering as the church is at the heart of how we "do" our faith, as we worship God together and as we affirm that we are called to be the community of Christ: fed by the living Word and sent out into the world. But even when we cannot gather in person, there are still plenty of ways for us to "do" faith, to shape our lives to the call of Jesus.

Bearing in mind our parish's commitment to mission as *growing in faith, serving others, and nurturing a common a life* (see the top of this page), some ways of being doers of our faith at this time might include:

- sharing in Morning and/or Evening Prayer regularly at least once during each week
- reading through one of the books of the Bible, even one that you already know well
- phoning someone to see how they are going
- getting vaccinated for COVID-19
- ordering a meal from a local business, or from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (see meals.asrc.org.au), in order to support the livelihoods of others
- donating towards desperate needs around the world (eg through [Act for Peace](#) or [Anglican Overseas Aid](#))
- joining Christians from around Australia in signing a call for our government to support Afghan refugees, both those already here and others still seeking a place of safety (see www.unitedforafghanistan.com)

Are there particular actions, "doings", that are nurturing and deepening your life of faith in these difficult times? These are surely worth noticing as God continues to work in us, day by day and week by week.

With my prayers for each of you, Chris

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase our faith, hope, and love,
and, that we may receive all you promise,
make us love what you command;
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.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A good reputation is better than much wealth;
high esteem is better than silver and gold.
The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD made them both.

...
Those who sow injustice will harvest evil;
the rod of their fury will come to an end.
Happy are generous people,
because they give some of their food to the poor.

...
Don't steal from the poor, because they are poor.
Don't oppress the needy in the gate.
For the LORD will take up their case
and press the life out of those who oppress them.
(22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Those who put their trust in the Lord shall be as Mount
Zion: which cannot be shaken, but endures for ever.
**As the mountains stand about Jerusalem, so stands
the Lord about his people: from this time forward
for evermore.**

For the sceptre of wickedness shall have no sway over
the land apportioned to the righteous: lest the
righteous set their hands to do evil.

**Do good, O Lord, to those who are good: to those
that are upright in heart.**

As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, let the
Lord lead them away with the evildoers: and in Israel
let there be peace.

(125)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of James

My brothers and sisters, when you show favouritism
you deny the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ, who
has been resurrected in glory. Imagine two people
coming into your meeting. One has a gold ring and fine
clothes, while the other is poor, dressed in filthy
rags. Then suppose that you were to take special notice
of the one wearing fine clothes, saying, "Here's an
excellent place. Sit here." But to the poor person you
say, "Stand over there"; or, "Here, sit at my
feet." Wouldn't you have shown favouritism among
yourselves and become evil-minded judges?

My dear brothers and sisters, listen! Hasn't God
chosen those who are poor by worldly standards to be
rich in terms of faith? Hasn't God chosen the poor as
heirs of the kingdom he has promised to those who love
him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Don't the
wealthy make life difficult for you? Aren't they the
ones who drag you into court? Aren't they the ones who
insult the good name spoken over you at your baptism?

You do well when you really fulfil the royal law
found in scripture, *Love your neighbour as yourself.*
But when you show favouritism, you are committing a
sin, and by that same law you are exposed as a
lawbreaker. Anyone who tries to keep all of the Law
but fails at one point is guilty of failing to keep all of
it. The one who said, *Don't commit adultery*, also
said, *Don't commit murder*. So if you don't commit
adultery but do commit murder, you are a lawbreaker.
In every way, then, speak and act as people who will be
judged by the law of freedom. There will be no mercy
in judgment for anyone who hasn't shown mercy.
Mercy overrules judgment.

My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say
they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to
have faith can't save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother
or sister who is naked and never has enough food to
eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm!
Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't
actually give them what their body needs? In the same
way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful
activity.

(2.1-17; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

Jesus left that place and went into the region of
Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know that he had
entered a house, but he couldn't hide. In fact, a woman
whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean
spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at
his feet. The woman was Greek, Syrophenician by
birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her
daughter. He responded, "The children have to be fed
first. It isn't right to take the children's bread and toss it
to the dogs."

But she answered, “Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

“Good answer!” he said. “Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter.” When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

After leaving the region of Tyre, Jesus went through Sidon toward the Galilee Sea through the region of the Ten Cities. Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly speak, and they begged him to place his hand on the man for healing. Jesus took him away from the crowd by himself and put his fingers in the man’s ears. Then he spat and touched the man’s tongue. Looking into heaven, Jesus sighed deeply and

said, “*Ephphatha*,” which means, “Open up.” At once, his ears opened, his twisted tongue was released, and he began to speak clearly.

Jesus gave the people strict orders not to tell anyone. But the more he tried to silence them, the more eagerly they shared the news. People were overcome with wonder, saying, “He does everything well! He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who can’t speak.”

(7.24-37; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

NOTES AND NEWS

for your information and prayers, from around and beyond the parish

Eucharist

On Thursday we decided to celebrate the Eucharist with a special intention to pray with the many parts of our world ‘groaning in bondage and labour pains’. This came up as a result of many persons—during children’s time, youth group, small group—asked, ‘What to pray for?’ Saying, ‘Pray for an end—to the restrictions, the pandemic—pray for an end.’

So, we heard again the words of Paul in Romans 8.22, groaned with our world, and prayed for an end: may the Saviour bring all of us, with all our absent brothers and sisters, to feast again at the one altar-table, ‘on earth as in heaven!’

This will continue as a weekly celebration of the Eucharist, at 5:30pm on Thursdays—do join in with your own prayers. You can watch live or later on our Facebook page, as well as afterwards via our parish website.

Reflective Bible study

We’ll meet on Zoom at 7:30pm on Tuesday, exploring together a passage from the Gospels. Everyone is welcome—no prior knowledge is needed.

The Melbourne Anglican

The September issue of TMA is out now: printed copies can be picked up from the shelves outside the parish office, and it will also be available online at <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/this-months-tma>

Mission Giving

Our mission giving donations for the current year have recently been sent out. One message of appreciation came from [Newport Outlets](#) Neighbourhood House: “Thank you for this kind donation to our centre. ... We have just come out of quarantine as we had a positive case come into the centre. Your donation will be most warranted to get out to our clients to assist.”

Bush Church Aid donation boxes

Due to current restrictions Beryl Brown will not be collecting BCA boxes as usual in September, however please keep adding to your box until further notice!

Looking ahead: dates for the diary

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 12 September | St Eanswythe’s Patronal Festival |
| 10 October | Blessing of Animals: 4pm at St Clement’s |
| 31 October | Annual Parish Meeting |

Readings for next Sunday: 12th September (Feast of St Eanswythe)

Proverbs 1.20-33; Psalm 19; James 2.18-26; Mark 8.27-38

Take some time to prepare for worship together by exploring the readings beforehand. Some things to notice might be:

Is anything here particularly relevant to my situation at this time?

Is there anything here that doesn’t immediately make sense to me?

What comes just before and just after this section of the Bible?

Does this remind me of something elsewhere in the Bible?

For our prayers:

The world and nation: For strong and effective leadership for the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the church in Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal. For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia:); The Diocese of Adelaide (Abp Geoff Smith, Asst Bps Denise Ferguson, Timothy Harris, Christopher McLeod; Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; St David's Doncaster East (Judy Frost).

Our parish & community: For those who have lost work and are struggling to afford housing and living costs.

Agencies supported by our parish:

Anglican Overseas Aid—their work with women who live in the slums of Kolkata, India.

Those with particular needs at this time: Kay, Vicky, Tania, Nancy, Joyce, Vivienne, Tom.

The communion of saints:

Those who have died recently: David Graham.

Year's mind: Eric Vincent (6).

To add a name to the public pew sheet prayer list, either those needing prayers now or those to be remembered on the anniversary of their death, please contact one of the clergy.

You can also contact one of the clergy by email or phone, for prayers to be included when we gather for Morning and Evening Prayer on Zoom.



Keeping in touch...

- ⇒ Pew sheets are available on our website at www.anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets
- ⇒ Visit www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav for photos, links, news and other updates.
- ⇒ If you don't already receive our weekly email including news, changes of service times, and other updates, please send your email address to parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au

Giving...

- ⇒ 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 pledge giving please include your name or envelope/reference number. For further details see anglicanaltlav.org.au/giving

The Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

www.anglicanaltlav.org.au

(03) 9398 1005 parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au PO Box 48, Altona VIC 3018

Vicar:

The Rev'd Chris Lancaster
0423 199 850 chris.lancaster@anglicanaltlav.org.au

Assistant Curate:

The Rev'd Katie Bellhouse
0416 378 748 katie.bellhouse@anglicanaltlav.org.au

Assistant Priest & Maori Minister:

The Rev'd Danny McRoberts
0448 841 196 dann.mcroberts@gmail.com

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 5th September

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, on Zoom

Monday 6th

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom
5:30pm Evening Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Tuesday 7th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
5:30pm Evening Prayer, on Zoom
7:30pm Reflective Bible study, on Zoom

Wednesday 8th

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom
5:30pm Evening Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Thursday 9th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
5:30pm Holy Eucharist, streamed on Facebook

Friday 10th

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom
5:30pm Evening Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Sunday 12th September

Feast of St Eanswythe

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, on Zoom

Services on Facebook can be accessed at www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav

Services on Zoom can be accessed at zoom.us/j/9726172254 (passcode 93981005)

(Or by phoning (03) 7018 2005—when prompted, enter 9726172254#;
then when asked for a participant ID, press #.)