



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*



31st October 2021

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's and 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.

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,

This Sunday is a significant day for our parish! Our Annual Parish Meeting marks the passing of a year in which, despite many disruptions, the life of our parish has continued; and we now dare to look towards the year ahead, with all its opportunities, challenges, and unknowns. Thank you to all who have written reports which provide a record of this point in our parish's journey.

Today is also the final week of online services, before we return to our normal Sunday morning service times from next week. Since the pandemic began we have had 53 Sundays with the main parish gathering on Zoom rather than in person: we pray, of course, that we can now continue to meet in person as we go forward.

As you're aware, meeting in person will not be quite as simple as we would wish! We've all become used to checking in, applying sanitiser, wearing masks, and so on: now, as elsewhere, we have the additional element of providing proof of vaccination at some services.

We are allowed to hold services in either of two modes. If all provide proof of vaccination, we can have up to one person per 4m²: this means 50 at St Eanswythe's and a little over 40 at St Clement's. If vaccination is not checked, the maximum attendance is 30. (It is significant that places of worship—unlike cafes, restaurants, cinemas and most other venues—are allowed to have any gatherings at all where vaccination is not checked: this is surely an acknowledgement of the importance of gathering together as people of faith. These gatherings are indeed *essential services!*)

Following the responses from many of you earlier this month, some services (particularly those which normally have larger numbers) will require proof of vaccination, and others not: where proof of vaccination is required, this is indicated on the back of this pew sheet. I do hope that this allows as many people as possible an opportunity to come to church. If there is no service which you can attend, please let me know and we can certainly explore whether there is another arrangement which would accommodate more people.

Clearly it is deeply problematic for us to exclude *anyone* from a gathering of the church, and there is no obvious solution to this difficulty. We either exclude those who cannot provide proof of vaccination; or we exclude those who are medically vulnerable and/or those who don't make it within the lower attendance limit. Meanwhile when we are online, we exclude others who don't have the necessary computer setup.

So, we trust that this is an interim measure, and look forward to when we can simply open the doors and welcome everyone. In the meantime, can I invite you each to notice anyone who might find themselves separated from the life of the parish, and then to take some action of welcome and inclusion?

With my prayers for our life together in this eventful week and in the year ahead, Chris

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

God of peace, you taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: by the power of your Spirit lift us to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; 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 Ruth

During the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. A man with his wife and two sons went from Bethlehem of Judah to dwell in the territory of Moab. The name of that man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the territory of Moab and settled there.

But Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died. Then only she was left, along with her two sons. They took wives for themselves, Moabite women; the name of the first was Orpah and the name of the second was Ruth. And they lived there for about ten years.

But both of the sons, Mahlon and Chilion, also died. Only the woman was left, without her two children and without her husband.

Then she arose along with her daughters-in-law to return from the field of Moab, because while in the territory of Moab she had heard that the LORD had paid attention to his people by providing food for them. She left the place where she had been, and her two daughters-in-law went with her. They went along the road to return to the land of Judah.

Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Go, turn back, each of you to the household of your mother. May the LORD deal faithfully with you, just as you have done with the dead and with me. May the LORD provide for you so that you may find security, each woman in the household of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

But they replied to her, "No, instead we will return with you, to your people."

Naomi replied, "Turn back, my daughters. Why would you go with me? Will there again be sons in my womb, that they would be husbands for you? Turn back, my daughters. Go. I am too old for a husband. If I were to say that I have hope, even if I had a husband tonight, and even more, if I were to bear sons—would you wait until they grew up? Would you refrain from having a husband? No, my daughters. This is more bitter for me than for you, since the LORD's will has come out against me."

Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth stayed with her. Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is returning to her people and to her gods. Turn back after your sister-in-law."

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD do this to me and more so if even death separates me from you." When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her about it.

(1.1-18; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul: while I live I will praise the Lord;

While I have any being: I will sing praises to my God.

Put not your trust in princes: nor in flesh and blood, which cannot save.

For when their breath goes from them, they return again to the earth: and on that day all their thoughts perish.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob: whose hope is in the Lord their God,

The God who made heaven and earth: the sea, and all that is in them,

Who keeps faith for ever: who deals justice to those that are oppressed.

The Lord gives food to the hungry: and sets the captives free.

The Lord gives sight to the blind: the Lord lifts up those that are bowed down.

The Lord loves the righteous: the Lord cares for the stranger in the land.

He upholds the widow and the fatherless: as for the way of the wicked, he turns it upside down.

The Lord shall be king for ever: your God, O Zion, shall reign through all generations. Praise the Lord.

(146)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Christ has appeared as the high priest of the good things that have happened. He passed through the greater and more perfect meeting tent, which isn't made by human hands (that is, it's not a part of this world). He entered the holy of holies once for all by his own blood, not by the blood of goats or calves, securing our deliverance for all time. If the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkled ashes of cows made spiritually contaminated people holy and clean, how much more will the blood of Jesus wash our consciences clean from dead works in order to serve the living God? He offered himself to God through the eternal Spirit as a sacrifice without any flaw.

This is why he's the mediator of a new covenant (which is a will): so that those who are called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance on the basis of his death. His death occurred to set them free from the offenses committed under the first covenant.

(9.11-15; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

They sent some of the Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap him in his words. They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you're genuine and you don't worry about what people think. You don't show favouritism but teach God's way as it really is. Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay taxes or not?"

Since Jesus recognized their deceit, he said to them, "Why are you testing me? Bring me a coin. Show it to me." And they brought one. He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?"

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” His reply left them overcome with wonder. [...]

One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

Jesus replied, “The most important one is *Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this, *You will love your neighbour as yourself.* No other commandment is greater than these.”

The legal expert said to him, “Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one’s strength, and to love one’s neighbour as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, “You aren’t far from God’s kingdom.” After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

(12.13-17, 28-34; 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

Gathering of the Pilgrims...

From this Wednesday 3rd, we will resume gathering for regular services—thanks be to God! Details are on the back page. Please note that for Thursday 10am, and Sunday 8:45am and 10:30am, proof of vaccination is required; other services are open to all comers. There is no requirement for registration beforehand.

All Souls’ service

Our annual All Souls’ service will be held next Sunday 7 November, 5pm at St Eanswythe’s. At this service we remember loved ones who have died, especially (but not only) in the last 12 months. If there are particular people whom you would like to add to the list of those remembered, please give their names to Rev’d Chris.

Please do also consider if there is anyone you could invite to this service: perhaps someone who has lost a loved one recently. (The service will also be live streamed.)

Ordination of priests

Our assistant curate, the Rev’d Kathryn Bellhouse, will be ordained to the office of priest, on Saturday 27 November at 10:30am at St Paul’s Cathedral. Unfortunately due to restrictions there cannot be an open invitation to attend, but the service will be live streamed. This will be a wonderful and significant moment in her ministry—our congratulations and prayers are with you, Kathryn!

On that weekend Rev’d Kathryn will be presiding at the Eucharist on Sunday 28th at 8:45 and 10:30, and also at a special service on Saturday 27th at 5pm at St Eanswythe’s. All are welcome to these special celebrations as she begins her priestly ministry.

As a parish we will be making a presentation to Rev’d Kathryn on this occasion, and you are invited to contribute generously! Contributions can be made by direct deposit, with the reference “ordination gift”.

Op Shop

Our Op Shop reopens this Wednesday at 10:30am—another cause for rejoicing! The roster has several gaps in it at the moment, so we are in need of some more people to join the team—please do contact Zoya Davies if you would like to help. (Op Shop volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated.)

Thank you

On behalf of Christopher and all my family, I wish to express my sincere thanks for all the prayers and kind words that we received on the sad passing of my Mother Jean. Thank you. May she rest in peace. Sandra Hansen

Looking ahead: dates for the diary

7 November

All Souls’ service: 5pm at St Eanswythe’s and live streamed

Readings for next Sunday: 7th November (24th Sunday after Pentecost)

Ruth 3.1-7; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9.23-28; Mark 12.38-44

Readings for weekday Eucharist: 3rd & 4th November

Exodus 19.1-6; 20.1-21; Psalm 119.17-24; Matthew 5.17-20

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 the Glasgow climate conference under way this week.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the church in Canada & the USA. For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Wangaratta (Bp Clarence Bester, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; St Augustine's Mentone (Ben Soderlund).

Our parish & community: For all who live with griefs, old or new; for all who will be remembered and all who will gather for our All Souls' Service next Sunday.

Agencies supported by our parish: Welcome West Wagon – providing support to asylum seekers in the western suburbs.

Those with particular needs at this time: Vivienne, Cathy, Nalani, Sash, Trish, Mark & Andrew.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: James Milway (1 Nov), Claudia Irvine (4), Elizabeth Starr (5).

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.



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

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Churchwardens:

Lily Griffin
Anita McAnda
Scott Pitcher

Child Safe Officer:

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse

This week in our parish:

Sunday 31st October

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

8am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's & streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, on Zoom
10:30am Annual Parish Meeting, on Zoom
5pm Ordination of deacons Andrew Seedhom & Mark Tibben, St Eanswythe's (registration required)

Tuesday 2nd

7:30pm Reflective Bible study, St Eanswythe's

Wednesday 3rd

9:30 Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
5pm Evening Prayer, St Eanswythe's
7pm Point Cook Small Group, meeting in Apex Park

Thursday 4th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's
10am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's (requires vaccination)

Friday 5th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's
5pm Youth Group, St Clement's

Sunday 7th October

ALL SAINTS

7:45am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's & streamed on Facebook
8:45am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's (requires vaccination)
10:30am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's (requires vaccination)
5pm All Souls' service, St Eanswythe's & streamed online (requires vaccination)

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 #.)