

# ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



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

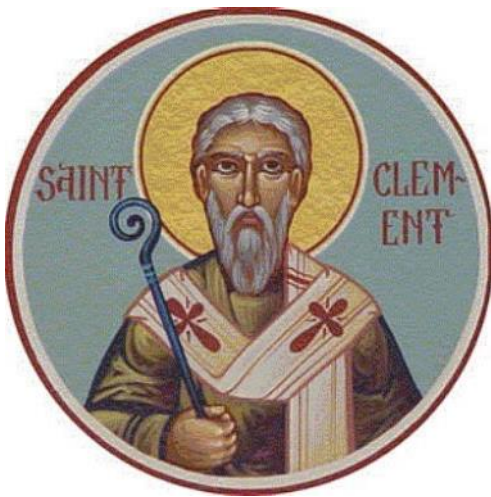


*To proclaim God's love and life in Christ:  
growing in faith † serving others † nurturing a common life*

## 26th November 2023 St Clement's Patronal Celebration

9:30am St Clement's Combined Service  
1:00pm Te Wairua Tapu St Eanswythe's

*Wominjeka :: Haere mai  
Welcome*



A warm welcome to our worship today, especially if you are with us for the first time or visiting from elsewhere.

Please do stay to share refreshments at the end of the service.

This booklet contains the full order of service: please join in the parts printed in bold type.

*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).*

# Gathering in God's name

*We meet in God's name, as God's people – children of God in all our rich diversity, with all that we carry from the complexity of our lives.*

*We turn to God in praise and prayer; this includes recalling all that has separated us from God, and claiming the love and forgiveness that is always held out to us.*

*The Collect then 'collects' these prayers and turns our attention towards the Bible readings which will follow.*

INTROIT HYMN      457 The church's one foundation  
*(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.  
**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

The Collect (prayer of the day)

**Christ the King / The Reign of Christ**

God of power and love,  
who raised your Son Jesus from death to life,  
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation:  
free the world to rejoice in his peace,  
to glory in his justice, and to live in his love.  
Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Opening the Scriptures

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ezekiel (34.11-16, 20-24)

For thus says the LORD God : I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the LORD God . I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the LORD God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD , will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD , have spoken .

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM (100)

O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his face with songs of joy.

**Know that the Lord he is God: it is he who has made us and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Come into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: give thanks to him, and bless his holy name.

**For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever: his faithfulness throughout all generations.**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians (1.15-23)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

GRADUAL HYMN 256 From heaven you came, helpless babe  
*(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)*

## THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

Be faithful unto death, says the Lord, and I will give you the crown of life.

**Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew (25.31-46)

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father,

inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

For the Gospel of the Lord:  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

SERMON

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**



**he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son  
he is worshipped and glorified.  
who has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of Sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

*The prayers may include this or another response:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with our Parish Prayer*

**God of this ancient land, holy beyond time and place,  
you search us out and name us your beloved children.  
Work in us to fulfil your longing and compassion for every person.  
Send your Spirit to renew our life,  
and give us courage to rise and follow where Jesus calls. Amen.**

#### THE GREETING OF PEACE

God has made us one in Christ.  
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,  
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Everyone is invited to turn to those around, and offer a greeting of peace from where you stand. Offerings of money or groceries can be placed in the basket/box provided.*

# Celebrating at the Lord's table

*Our sharing is a gift of grace, a communion with Jesus and with each other. There is a place here for each and every person.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our land in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
4. Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
5. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith*

*Music: Michael Baughen*

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## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer;  
and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



*The priest prays on behalf of all, praising God for God's mighty acts. All respond:*

...to proclaim the glory of your name, for ever praising you and saying:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Last Supper is recalled, including Jesus' command to continue sharing bread and wine: in memory of him, and proclaiming his death and resurrection. All respond:*

...we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory:  
**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The prayer calls on God's blessing and looks to the fulfilling of all things within the goodness of God, and concludes:*

...all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:  
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kua akona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki, ka inoi tātou

**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi**

**Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.**

**Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.**

**Kia meatia tāu e pai ai**

**ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.**

**Hōmai ki a mātou āiane**

**he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.**

**Murua ō mātou hara,**

**Me mātou hoki e muru nei**

**i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.**

**Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;**

**Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:**

**Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te korōria,**

**Āke āke āke. Āmine.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**We who are many are one body**

**For we all share in the one bread**

**Jesus Lamb of God , have mercy on us.**

**Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

*The priest breaks the bread and says*

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

in the breaking of the bread.

**Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

The bread which we break, alleluia,

is the communion of the body of Christ.

**Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

We are one body, alleluia,

for though many, we share one bread.

**Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Come, let us celebrate the feast. Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.  
**Alleluia!**

**Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

*Everyone is invited to share communion or receive a blessing. Children who have been baptised are welcome to share communion. If you would prefer not to share communion but to receive a personal blessing, please indicate when the minister comes to you.*

*While communion is being shared, we sing:*

**Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me.**

*Words: John L Bell  
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**Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.  
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.  
In all your living and through your loving,  
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.**

*Hymn 778  
Words: Elise Shoemaker Eslinger (1942-)  
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## **Going into the world**

*The Eucharist offers us a way to be renewed, transformed, and blessed: now we take that blessing to share with others, in our words and actions, our hearts and lives.*

*'The Eucharist never ends – it must be lived.'*

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Giver of life and love,  
we thank you that in this heavenly banquet  
you invigorate and renew us.  
Living in the unity of the Spirit,  
may we boldly use your gifts  
to continue your work in the world.

**Most loving God,  
you send us into the world you love.  
Give us grace to go thankfully  
and with courage  
in the power of  
your spirit.**

## Notices

**Intinction for the Receival of Wine in Holy Communion:** Hello everyone. I have received authority from Bishop Brad to offer Intinction for the receival of the wine in Holy Communion. This is in view of the continued growth of Covid and the remaining sensitively to the consumption of the wine from the single Chalice. I ran this past the clergy attached to our parish last week. What this looks like would be: one of the stewards would remain close to the president as they distribute the Host. Parishioners can indicate whether they would prefer Intinction or wait for the single chalice. If you indicate a preference of Intinction...the president will dip the Host into the chalice that is near, dip it and pass it to the parishioner. If you indicate a preference for the single chalice, the president will hand you the host and you can take the wine from the second chalice as it is offered by this steward. I offer this in view that there are allsorts of good reasons to take the wine from the single chalice as there is utilising the art of Intinction. It is the Bishop's preference that only the priest 'dips' the host into the chalice for Intinction. The offer is made in view of what I have stated above. I hope this assist people in their worship. Grace & Blessings to you.

*Regards: Dave T*

**Advent & Christmas Giving Envelopes:** Hello everyone. I have received from the Anglican in Development mission requests to distribute their Advent & Christmas giving envelops for 2023. I would need someone from the parish to supervise or at least overlook the collection of these envelops. I can place them in the narthex of each worship centre...and you call make your own judgements whether this something you wish to contribute to. Please give this some prayerful thought. *Regards: Dave T*

**Empty Christmas Tree Appeal Advent 2023:** Donations are invited of non-perishable foods and new unwrapped toys to be placed under our Empty Christmas Trees at St Eanswythe's or St Clement's. (Toys by the second Sunday in Advent please as these will be delivered for distribution by 12 December). All donations of food will continue as per usual Sunday practice. Enquires may be directed to Fred or Alta McAnda at St Eanswythe's or Sandra Hansen at St Clement's.

**Tearfund Gift Shop:** By buying and giving gifts from Tearfund's Useful Gifts catalogue, we can help to create change that lasts. As from 19 November at St Eanswythe's gifts will be available after mass until 17 December. On Sunday 26 November gifts will be available at St Clement's after the combined service. They will also be available after the 5pm service at St Clements on 3 & 10 December. Please see Phillis or call 0417 869 595.

**MU Members Parish Dinner:** To be held on Friday 24 November.

**Planned Giving 2024/25:** Pat Baines has decided that this year is her last as co-ordinator of the Planned Giving Programme. We are asking for any interested parishioners to speak to Pat on 9315 7838 or one of the Wardens who would like to take the opportunity to help undertake this important and vital role. You can also email the parish office on [parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au](mailto:parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au).

**Reflective Bible Study for 2023:** First Tuesday of the month for the remainder of the year at St Eanswythe's meeting room at 7.30 pm. Next one is on Tuesday 5 December.

**Wedding:** Emi Martin, who attends 5pm service at St Clements is getting married to Luke at 3pm Saturday 9th December 2023, at Mullum Mullum Anglican Parish (St Paul's), 40 Warrandyte Road, Ringwood. Afternoon tea in the church hall afterwards. Anyone from church would be very welcome! Would be lovely to see you.



**Reign of Christ Sunday**

### The Christmas Bowl of Remembrance

Today is the first Sunday of the 2023 Christmas Bowl. Since it was founded by Rev. Frank Byatt in 1949, the Christmas Bowl has brought together committed Australian Christians with dedicated local partners around the world, to give hope to people uprooted by conflict and disaster. By joining together through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. **Thank you.**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](http://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 679 970 188

## Advent and Christmas Appeal 2023

This Advent and Christmas, AID seeks your support for Nungalinga and Wontulp-Bi-Buya colleges, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may receive the training they need to lead their churches and communities.



RECESSIONAL HYMN 93 Praise the Lord, you heavens adore him  
*(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)*

### BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

God stir up within you the gift of the Spirit that you may confess Jesus Christ as Lord and proclaim the joy of the everlasting gospel wherever you may be; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**



## *For our Prayers This Week*

### The world and nation:

We continue to pray for peace and humanity for all the people especially the children in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

### The Church:

*World Council of Churches:*  
Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore.

For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

*Anglican Church of Australia:* Christ Church Little River – pastoral visit (Bp Brad Billings) .

*Diocese of Melbourne:* St James the Great Anglican Church St Kilda East (Paul Bower).

### Agencies supported by our parish:

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre—providing material support, advocacy and employment for refugees and asylum seekers.

Our parish & community: For God's guidance, love and care of our people. Holding our incumbency committee in our prayers as they pray and meditate about our future parish needs.

### Those with particular needs at this time:

Denise, Stuart, Anthony, Carol, Toby, Lewis, Christopher, Maria, Kay, Shane, Michael, Anna, John.

### The communion of saints:

*Year's mind:*

Jean Cutting (28),  
Vic Wilson, priest (29),  
Frank Woods, bishop (29).



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

## *Parish Contact List*

**St Eanswythe's:** Cnr Bent & Queen St, Altona 3018 | PO Box 48, Altona VIC 3018

**St Clement's:** 85-95 Central Ave, Altona Meadows 3028

www.anglicanaltlav.org.au | T: 03 9398 1005 | E: parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au

**Locum:** The Rev'd Dave Thompson

M: 0431 041 555 | E: dthompson@melbourneanglican.org.au

**Assistant Priest and Maori Minister:** The Rev'd Danny McRoberts

M: 0448 841 196 | E: dann.mcroberts@gmail.com

**Church Wardens:** Lily Griffin, Soon Ghee Yap & Denis Lee

## *This Week in our Parish*

### **Sunday 26 November: St Clement's Patronal Festival**

9:30am Combined Service, St Clement's  
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's

### **Tuesday - Friday**

10:30am-2:30pm Op Shop open

### **Tuesday 28 November**

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's  
10am Tiddlers Playgroup, St Eanswythe's\*

### **Wednesday 29 November:**

9am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's

### **Thursday 30 November:**

10am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

### **Friday 1 December**

9:30am Clementines Playgroup,  
St Clement's\*

### **Sunday 3 December: First Sunday of Advent**

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's  
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's  
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's  
5pm Evening Eucharist, St Clement's

*\* During school term  
2 Oct—20 Dec*

## *Eucharist Readings for this Week*

*Take some time to prepare for worship together by exploring the readings for this week.*

### **Readings for Wednesday 29 November**

Daniel 5.1-6, 13-17, 25-28; Psalm A Song of Creation 1-4 (*APBA p 427*); Luke 21.12-19

### **Readings for Thursday 30 November: Andrew, Apostle & Martyr**

Deuteronomy 30.11-14; Psalm 19.1-6; Romans 10.8-18; Matthew 4.18-22

### **Readings for Sunday 3 December: First Sunday of Advent**

Isiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; Mark 13.24-37

### **MORNING PRAYER**

Morning Prayer is shared at St Eanswythe's on  
Tuesday and Friday morning at 9am. Everyone is welcome.

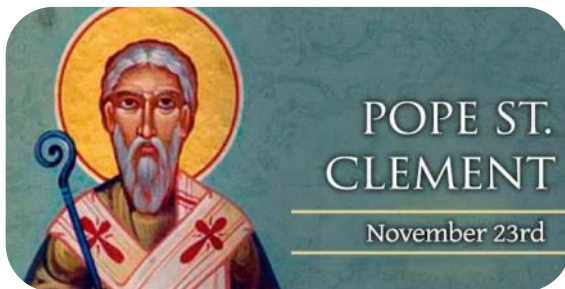


## *Keeping in Touch*

- ⇒ Please take this pew sheet with you, for your reference and prayers during the week.
- ⇒ If you are or have been away for a Sunday, you can see recent pew sheets 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 livestreamed services.
- ⇒ If you don't already receive our weekly email including news, changes of service times, and other updates, you can sign up at [anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets](http://anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets)

## *A Message from Rev'd Dave Thompson*

Good morning, afternoon and evening to you all! Today we celebrate the Feast of St Clements. For our parish, we therefore celebrate one of our parish patron saints on the nearest Sunday which is November the 26th. The actual day is November the 23rd. We draw together to reflect on st Clement as we did for St Eanswythe (the 17th of September) to reflect on the life of the parish and what we have gained and achieved and therefore celebrate as a church of Jesus Christ. Like the saints that go before us we reflect on the energy, focus and contribution that Clement and Easnwythe provided to the life of witness to the Lord. They found as we do still to this day many years later the sometimes unbelievable reality of the Lord's presence granted through the Holy Spirit when we call 'upon His name' and continue witnessing to His glory. What we do in His name is often varied and draws upon various gifts that people offer and use. This is the challenge that last week's Gospel reading of Matthew 25:14 – 30 and continued during the week with the reading from Luke in 19:11 -28 where the churches to whom Matthew and Luke respectively wrote to found themselves dealing with the long time between Jesus promise of His return and the delay in its arrival. Their communities were going through enormous challenge and in various cases some persecution and so the Gospel writers wrote remembering the stories of Jesus motivating their people to hang on in there....they like us some 20 centuries later find that when we act in His name, when we call upon His name and His power in the Spirit, enormous benefits and outcomes to ministry are found. Indeed, they find that they can do incredible things which led them see experience the reality of the Lord being present with them...the Lord was present just one step ahead of them! I remember a quote from Mother Teresa explaining why she was so motivated to minister to the poor, outcast and leprous people she attended to. She replied: in their eyes, I am drawn to compassion and I see in them the Lord's eyes looking back at me...with thanks and I feel His presence everywhere. (edit: DT) Clement, Easnwythe, all of us are drawn to the expression of faith in service to others...the act of loving our neighbour as ourselves. Today we celebrate all that we have received in Christ Jesus exemplified by these Parton Saints who gave so much to our Lord and His church. The miracles remain: of normal ordinary people doing extraordinary things empowered by the Holy Spirit to act their faith in ways that makes a difference to the people and communities. We give thanks to God for their life of witness. Amen. Grace & Blessings to you all!. *Regards: Dave*



*Pope St Clement  
the patron saint of  
mariners, sailors,  
marble-workers,  
stone-cutters, and  
sick children.*