## 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 \$\psi\$ serving others \$\psi\$ nurturing a common life

## 18th December 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 10:30am Sung Eucharist, 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).

## ADVENT

The season of Advent (the four Sundays before Christmas) is a time of preparation and prayer. It is a wilderness time, perhaps best represented by the figure of John the Baptist who announced the coming of the Holy One, and who called upon God's people to repent. As Christmas draws closer, our attention is also drawn to Mary, who followed God's call to a vital role in the Word becoming flesh.

There are two horizons to the waiting and longing which are characteristic of Advent (which simply means 'coming'). Most obviously, we look towards Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child at Bethlehem. But we also look towards Jesus' future coming in glory, the time when all things will be gathered into God's kingdom of love, justice and peace.

The liturgical colour of Advent is purple, reflecting the note of expectancy. We are invited to a deeper awareness of our dependence on God for the healing and redemption of all nations and the whole creation. The fundamental Advent prayer is expressed in the Aramaic word *Maranatha* — 'Our Lord, come'.

The tradition of lighting candles on an Advent wreath, week by week, originated in northern Europe in the nineteenth century and has been widely adopted by Christian churches around the world. In the northern hemisphere, Advent falls at the darkest time of year and so the symbolism of light in darkness has a particular resonance. In Australia, the season of Advent leads us towards the longest, brightest days of the year, a different but equally powerful image.

Lord Jesus, come!

As the days grow longer and the sun's heat increases, increase our faith, and bring us to worship you by your cradle, at your cross, in your resurrection, and at your glorious coming again with judgement and with mercy. Amen.

(Prayer from Anglican Church of Australia Liturgical Commission)

## 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.

HYMN 173 My soul gives glory to the Lord (at 10:30am only, 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.

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

#### PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND PREPARATION

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A candle is lit on the Advent wreath.

#### The priest says

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

# **Opening the Scriptures**

The readings come from different parts of the Bible: different perspectives on the great story of God's presence and purpose among us. In the psalm we respond with the ancient words of prayer of God's people.

The sermon adds to our own reflections on the readings, and then we respond by affirming the faith as handed to us from previous generations.

We bring our prayers for the world and the Church, trusting that all things and all people are in God's hands.

#### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign from the LORD your God. Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven."

But Ahaz said, "I won't ask; I won't test the LORD."

Then Isaiah said, "Listen, house of David! Isn't it enough for you to be tiresome for people that you are also tiresome before my God? Therefore, the LORD will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel. He will eat butter and honey, and learn to reject evil and choose good. Before the boy learns to reject evil and choose good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned."

(7.10-16; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock: you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;

Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh: stir up your power, and come to save us.

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts: how long will you be angry at your people's prayer? You have fed them with the bread of tears: and given them tears to drink in good measure.

You have made us the victim of our neighbours: and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your power rest on the man at your right hand: on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.

And so we shall not turn back from you: give us life, and we will call upon your name.

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

(80.1-7, 17-19)

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

From Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for God's good news. God promised this good news about his Son ahead of time through his prophets in the holy scriptures. His Son was descended from David. He was publicly identified as God's Son with power through his resurrection from the dead, which was based on the Spirit of holiness. This Son is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received God's grace and our appointment to be apostles. This was to bring all Gentiles to faithful obedience for his name's sake. You who are called by Jesus Christ are also included among these Gentiles.

To those in Rome who are dearly loved by God and called to be God's people.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(1.1-7; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 288 Not the powerful, not the privileged (found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

#### THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Alleluia.

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God with us. **Alleluia.** 

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, And they will call him. Emmanuel.

(Emmanuel means "God with us.")

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

(1.18-25 CEB)

For the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON



#### NICENE CREED

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church: 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, who with the Father and the Son 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 response to the prayers is 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.

## Celebrating at the Lord's table

At the greeting of peace, we recognise that God's gift of peace constantly renews our human relationships and forms us as the Body of Christ.

Our offerings of money and groceries remind us that we are called to participate with our lives and livelihoods in the coming of God's kingdom of justice, healing and peace.

In the Great Thanksgiving, the priest voices the prayer of the whole assembly, recalling the mighty acts of God, Jesus' saving death and resurrection, and his last meal with his friends. The prayer calls on the Holy Spirit to make Christ present in our sharing of bread and wine, and to remake us as Christ's body in the world. We respond with the Lord's Prayer, as the crucified and risen Jesus prays anew through us.

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.

#### THE GREETING OF PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

# HYMN 259 Among us and before us, Lord, you stand (found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

Offerings of money or groceries can be placed in the bowl/basket provided.

The ministry of the parish is sustained by our financial giving, either through the offering plate or by direct bank deposit. Groceries are shared in the community in partnership with Laverton Community Integrated Services and the Hobsons Bay Salvation Army.

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

#### 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:

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:

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. All join in affirming:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words that Jesus taught us:

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread and says

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 gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

This is the Lord's table. All who seek God's mercy are welcome.

Everyone is invited to share communion or receive a blessing: please come forward as indicated and stand at one of the places marked in white. Children who have been baptised are welcome to share communion. If you would prefer not to share communion, please indicate when the minister comes to you.

While communion is being shared, we sing:

He became poor that we may be rich, loving the world and leaving his throne; King of all kings, and Lord of all lords, flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone.

(Hymn 721)

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## Going into the world

The Eucharist is food for the journey of faith, whatever awaits us as we go out to the rest of our lives. We have been 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.'

#### NOTICES

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God for whom we wait, we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. As we joyfully await your Son, keep us ever watchful that we may be ready to stand before him on the day of his coming.

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.

#### BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

#### HYMN 265 O come, O come Emmanuel

(found in the red hymn book Together in Song; the last four verses of this hymn are sung unaccompanied)

#### DISMISSAL.

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ, Amen.

Material for this service is taken from A Prayer Book for Australia (1995) and Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000) and is reproduced by permission.

## WORSHIP THROUGH THE WEEK

Praying together and at home

#### READINGS

Take some time to prepare for worship together by exploring the readings beforehand:

#### **Readings for weekday Eucharists:**

(During Advent our weekday readings are exploring some of the traditional "O" Antiphons, calling on the longed-for Messiah in terms drawn from the scriptures. They have been used in Advent since the 8th century and are familiar to us in the hymn "O come, o come Emmanuel". This week: **O Morning Star/O Dayspring**)

Revelation 22.16-21; Psalm 27.1-8; John 1.1-14

#### **Readings for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**

Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Hebrews 1.1-4; Luke 1.1-20

## Readings for Sunday 1st January (The Epiphany)

Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

#### **DAILY PRAYER**

Morning and Evening Prayer is shared at St Eanswythe's during the week: see the back page for times this week. Anyone is welcome to these short services.

## For our prayers:

<u>The world and nation:</u> For peace and justice for all living in Bethlehem and the Holy Land.

#### The Church:

(Shannon Lee).

World Council of Churches: For the Church in China, Hong Kong and Macau. For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, especially those for whom Christmas gatherings are dangerous. Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Tasmania (Bp Richard Condie, Missioner Bp Chris Jones, Clergy & People). Diocese of Melbourne: Abp Philip Freier, Bp Kate Prowd; St John's Upper Beaconsfield

#### Agencies supported by our parish:

Welcome West Wagon – providing support to asylum seekers in the western suburbs.

<u>Our parish & community:</u> For police and emergency service personnel, and all who face danger in their line of duty.

#### Those with particular needs at this time:

Stuart, Anthony, Carol, Hannah, James, Toby, Johnny Moore.

#### The communion of saints:

Those who have died recently: Robert Ducrow, George Smith.

Year's mind: Dot Kearsley (19), Grace Ngatai (19), Betty Duckmanton (19), Noel Landers (20) and Les King (24).

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 one of the clergy.

If you have a prayer request to be included as

we gather for prayer throughout the week, please find the prayer box near the church entrance and fill out a card, or contact one of the clergy.



## SHARING THE PATH OF FAITH

reflections from the clergy and our parish community

Dear friends,

As Christmas approaches, we find ourselves in the midst of all sorts of traditions: things that we do year after year. There are the liturgical traditions of Christmas which we will revisit in coming days. Then there our family traditions, which often become deeply ingrained: how and where we spend Christmas Day, and in particular what food we share. For many, there are other traditions in our local communities, schools, workplaces and elsewhere: rituals which mark out this particular time of year.

In churches of different denominations across Australia, a long-standing tradition is the Christmas Bowl Appeal. Since it was founded 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.

The origin of the Christmas Bowl Appeal is a simple story of care and generosity. When the Rev'd Frank Byatt sat down to his Christmas dinner, he knew millions of people were starving in war-ravaged Europe—and he was compelled to offer help. He put a Bowl of Remembrance on his Christmas dinner table and asked his family to place a gift in it to 'share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands'. That simple act of compassion has grown into the Christmas Bowl tradition, now celebrated in thousands of churches across Australia.

Much has changed since 1949 (including that we now have an online "bowl" for donations—see next page), but the needs in our world are as great as ever. Meanwhile the lead-up to Christmas has become intensely commercialised, urging us to buy more and more.

But might it be possible to give more (generously) while buying less? What if we each reckoned to donate to charity an amount at least as much as we spend on Christmas presents and celebrations? How might that change us?

More important, though, is to recognise that whatever we spend and give are simply ways of seeking to be people of compassion and love: people called to love God by loving family, friends, neighbours, enemies and strangers. The story of the Christmas Bowl Appeal brings us back to that simple call to love.

And that story, in turn, takes us back to God's love for us, revealed in the child born at Bethlehem. May there be deep joy in your hearts as you prepare to welcome the Christ Child in these days.

Chris

## **NOTES AND NEWS**

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

## Empty Christmas tree

Donations of non-perishable food and new unwrapped toys may be placed under our empty Christmas Tree for distribution to local charity. Today (18th December) is the last day for collecting these donations. For queries contact Fred or Alta (St Eanswythe's) or Sandra (St Clement's).

## Tearfund's Useful Gifts

"Buying a gift from Tearfund's Useful Gifts catalogue, helps to fight poverty and build a more just and compassionate world (Tearfund 2022)". Interested? For more information please contact Phillis during morning tea who is partnering with Tearfund by running a shop for the next 2 months.

### Op Shop

Our parish Op Shop has closed for the summer break, re-opening on Tuesday 24 January. Thank you to Zoya Davies and the whole op shop team for their ministry of welcome through the year.

## Praying together in Advent

The last of our weekly Advent ecumenical prayer gatherings is this Wednesday evening, 7-7:30pm at St Eanswythe's—all are welcome.

## Looking ahead: dates for the diary

**24 January** Op Shop reopens

**29 January** Rev'd Chris' final Sunday as vicar of the parish

**5 February** Normal Sunday service times resume



Use the QR code to donate using our parish's Christmas Bowl page



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Tue 20th 6pm Nativity service for all ages, St Eanswythe's

Sat 24th 5pm Nativity service for all ages, St Clement's

(Christmas Eve) 10:30pm Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

Sun 25th 8am Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

(Christmas Day) 9:30am Christmas Eucharist, St Clement's

## SUNDAY SUMMER SERVICES IN JANUARY

Sun 1st 9:30am St Eanswythe's

Sun 8th 9:30am and 5pm St Clement's

Sun 15th 9:30am St Eanswythe's

5pm St Clement's

Sun 22nd 9:30am and 5pm St Clement's

1pm St Eanswythe's (Maori service)

Sun 29th 9:30am St Eanswythe's

5pm St Clement's

#### SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY: NORMAL SERVICE TIMES RESUME

#### Keeping in touch...

- $\Rightarrow$  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 anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets
- ⇒ Visit www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav for photos, links, news and 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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## The Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

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#### Vicar:

The Rev'd Chris Lancaster (Wed-Mon) 0423 199 850 chris.lancaster@anglicanaltlav.org.au

#### **Assistant Curate:**

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse (Sun-Fri) 0416 378 748 kathryn.bellhouse@anglicanaltlav.org.au

#### **Assistant Priest & Maori Minister:**

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

#### **Parish Administrator:**

Edita Abram (Mon & Thu)

#### **Churchwardens:**

Lily Griffin Anita McAnda Scott Pitcher

#### **Child Safe Officer:**

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse

## This week in our parish:

#### Sunday 18th December Fourth 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 Worship, St Clement's

#### Monday 19th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

### Tuesday 20th

6pm Nativity Service, St Eanswythe's

## Wednesday 21st

9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 5pm Evening Prayer, St Eanswythe's 7pm Ecumenical Advent prayers, St Eanswythe's

#### Thursday 22nd

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's 10am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

## Friday 23rd

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

# Saturday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Nativity Service, St Clement's 10.30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

# Sunday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 9.30am Christmas Eucharist, St Clement's

### Friday 30th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

#### Sunday 1st January THE EPIPHANY

9:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am St Eanswythe's (resuming in February)

Groups meeting regularly in the parish:

Youth Group: Fridays fortnightly in term time, at St Clement's. Contact Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse.

Altona Tiddlers Playgroup: Tuesdays in term time, 10am at St Eanswythe's. Contact Jan Lee (9398 2993) Clementines Playgroup: Fridays in term time, 9:30am at St Clement's. Contact Louise (9395 5472)

**Small group:** Tuesday evenings, online or in person. Contact Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse. **Reflective Bible Study:** monthly at the Vicarage, first Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.

Mothers' Union: monthly at St Eanswythe's, 2nd Thursday at 11am. Contact Sandra Hansen (0410 040 661)

Caritas: monthly at St Eanswythe's, 2nd Tuesday evening at 7pm. Contact Joan Meiers (9398 1906)