## ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



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

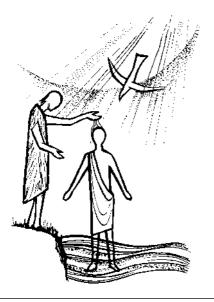


To proclaim God's love and life in Christ: growing in faith \$\psi\$ serving others \$\psi\$ nurturing a common life

# 8th January 2023 The Baptism of our Lord

9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement'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).

## **EPIPHANY**

## AND THE REVEALING OF THE CHRIST

*Epiphany* literally means "an appearance" or "manifestation", when someone or something is revealed and seen.

In the church calendar, the feast of the Epiphany marks the revealing of Jesus at the start of his life and ministry, and is celebrated on 6th January, at the end of the twelve days of Christmas. We hear the story, as told in Matthew's Gospel, of mysterious learned visitors from the east who come to worship Jesus (probably as a toddler rather than a baby). They can be seen as representing the best wisdom of the wider Gentile world, paying homage to the new king who is Emmanuel, God with us. Their story also introduces the Epiphany theme of light: the light of the star in Matthew's account, and then by extension Jesus as the light of the nations.

The feast of Epiphany originated in the Eastern (Orthodox) Church, where its focus was (and remains) the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist: the moment when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. When Epiphany began to be celebrated in the West from the 4th century, its emphasis shifted to the visit of the Magi; the Sunday immediately after Epiphany later became a separate feast of Jesus' baptism.

The third further episode traditionally associated with Epiphany is the wedding feast at Cana, where Jesus turned water into wine. John's Gospel tells that Jesus here "revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him."

In all of this, Epiphany carries the sense of an appearance, a revelation: of God appearing, being revealed, to Israel and all nations, and to us, in a new way. Jesus is God's extraordinary act of self-revelation, in his birth, baptism, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension.

We celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.
In the coming of the magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

(Prayer from the Church of England)

# 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 250 Christ, when for us you were baptized (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.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

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, vou 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)

Almighty God, who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son: inspire us, your children, who are born again of water and the Spirit, to surrender our lives to your service, that we may rejoice to be called your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

But here is my servant, the one I uphold; my chosen, who brings me delight. I've put my spirit upon him; he will bring justice to the nations.

He wan't are out or shout aloud

He won't cry out or shout aloud or make his voice heard in public.

He won't break a bruised reed;

he won't extinguish a faint wick, but he will surely bring justice.

He won't be extinguished or broken until he has established justice in the land.

The coastlands await his teaching.

God the LORD says-

the one who created the heavens, the one who stretched them out, the one who spread out the earth and its offspring, the one who gave breath to its people

and life to those who walk on it— I, the LORD, have called you for a good reason.

I will grasp your hand and guard you, and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations,

to open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison, and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

I am the LORD:

that is my name;

I don't hand out my glory to others

or my praise to idols.

The things announced in the past—look—they've already happened,

but I'm declaring new things. Before they even appear,

I tell you about them.

(42.1-9; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM**

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven: ascribe to the Lord glory and might.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name: O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thunders, the Lord upon the great waters.

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation: the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees: the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes them skip like a calf: Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash: the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert, the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees, and strips bare the forests: in his temple all cry 'Glory.'

The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood: the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.

The Lord will give strength to his people: the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.

(29)

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus travelled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

(10.34-43; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 240 Lord, your almighty word (found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

#### THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Alleluia.

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

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.

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?"

Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness."

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."

(3.13-17; 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

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.

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

- 1. When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptised by John, he did not come for pardon, but as his Father's Son. He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins, to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.
- 2. He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss, for us and our salvation to die upon the cross. So when the Dove descended on him, the Son of Man, the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make, this very day invade us, and every bondage break. Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most: to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

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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 Layerton Community Integrated Services and the Hobsons Bay Salvation Army.

#### 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:

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

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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 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 to receive a blessing. Children who have been baptised are welcome to share communion. All the communion bread will have wine added to it, but if you also wish to drink from the common cup then please remain and it will be brought to you. If you would prefer not to share communion but to receive a blessing, please indicate when the priest comes to you.

While communion is being shared, we sing:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; break me, melt me, mould me, fill me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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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 of the nations, we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament. Guide us by your presence, that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness, and establish your justice in the earth.

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.

HYMN 545 Shout for joy! The Lord has let us feast (found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

#### BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

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 Sunday 15th January (Second Sunday after Epiphany)

Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 40.1-4; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42

#### **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 people whose homes and livelihoods are already threatened by global warming.

## The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Iran, Iraq and Syria. For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Grafton (Bp Murray Harvey, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: Abp Philip Freier, Bp Kate Prowd; Anglican Parish of Banyule (Denise Nicholls, Jonathan Lopez).

## Agencies supported by our parish:

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

<u>Our parish & community:</u> For our next door neighbours, especially those who live alone.

<u>Those with particular needs at this time:</u> Stuart, Anthony, Carol, Hannah, James, Toby, Johnny, Peter.

## The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Elsie Sinclair (10), Richard Henshall (11), Ron Duckmanton (12), Robin Bingley (13), Cheryl Smith (13).

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.

## Looking ahead: dates for the diary

**19 & 21 January** Safe Ministry level 1 training, 10-12:30 at St Eanswythe's

**24 January** Op Shop reopens

**29 January** Blessing of school bags, and Rev'd Chris' final Sunday in the

parish

**5 February** Normal Sunday service times resume

## SHARING THE PATH OF FAITH

reflections from the clergy and our parish community

Dear pilgrims,

Earlier this week I was pointed to a picture of a mosaic made in around 650 AD, above the altar in the Oratory of San Vincenzo in the Lateran, Rome's Cathedral Church. It depicts Mary, Jesus' mother, in a striking way. Flanked by the apostles Peter and Paul, Mary is standing with her arms outstretched in the 'orans' position of prayer. She is wearing a dark blue cloak, a pectoral cross and a pallium.

"What on earth is a pallium?!" Well, I'm glad you asked...

The pallium is probably the church's oldest formally "liturgical" garment. It is an adornment woven from lamb's wool, where from the neck a long white band hangs in front and behind. In the sixth century it was worn only by bishops—the bishop of Rome and other metropolitan bishops on whom it was bestowed—and they only wore it when exercising particular priestly tasks, chiefly at the Eucharist. In the mosaic Mary is wearing the pallium and has her hands outstretched in prayer. She is, in other words, performing the priestly office of the bishop.

When you look around the worldwide church today, in the two largest communions—the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox—only men occupy the office of priest or bishop among the faithful. And, interestingly, the Lateran mosaic of Mary has been covered up since the fifteenth century by a marble structure, sporting a very different image of Mary: sans pallium, holding the infant Christ in her arms. A beautiful image, but in this instance, something of a 'cop out'.

In our Anglican Communion we are still an outlier in welcoming women into holy orders, and that only for the past thirty years. And yet, I don't think our Lord only started calling women into apostolic offices thirty years ago, after we had thoroughly debated the matter! The calling goes much deeper than that. In the seventh-century mosaic, the possibility of it is embodied in the very person of Mary herself, who accompanied Christ from the start. (And it is by no means the only image like this from the earlier centuries of the church.)

This is the thing about church tradition: it is not a question of whether or not you conserve it, it's a question of *what* you conserve—which parts you remember, which you forget or ignore. The debate over the ordination of women is alive among our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters: whether our Lord calls women to serve as deacons, priests and bishops. If you will, please join me in praying for them, and with them—Mary may well be doing the same!

With love, Kathryn

## **NOTES AND NEWS**

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

## Safe Ministry training

Many of us have now completed one or more levels of Safe Ministry training, as required by the diocese. This month there are two further opportunities to complete the level 1 module of this training:

Thursday 19th January, 10am-12:30pm at St Eanswythe's Saturday 21st January, 10am-12:30pm at St Eanswythe's Thank you to all as we continue to fulfil these important obligations.

## Blessing of school bags

On Sunday 29th January, school students and teachers are invited to bring along their school bag (or another symbol of returning to school) as we pray for them at the start of a new school year. This is another good opportunity to invite someone to come with you to church!

## Gift for Rev'd Chris

If you would like to contribute to an offering and gift for Rev'd Chris as he leaves the parish, please do place your contribution in a labelled envelope and put it in the offerings plate, or hand it to Rev'd Kathryn, Lily Griffin, or Sandra Hansen.

## 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

## www.anglicanaltlav.org.au

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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 Scott Pitcher Soon Ghee Yap

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

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse

## This week in our parish:

## Sunday 8th January BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 5pm Evening Worship, St Clement's

#### Monday 9th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

## Wednesday 11th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

## Thursday 12th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

## Friday 13th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

## Sunday 15th January Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 5pm Evening Worship, St Clement's

Services on following Sundays:

## Sunday 22nd

9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's 5pm Evening Worship, St Clement's

## Sunday 29th

Blessing of school bags, and Rev'd Chris' final Sunday in the parish 9:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 5pm Evening Worship, St Clement's

## **Sunday 5th February**

Normal service times resume 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am St Eanswythe's (resuming in February)
Groups meeting regularly in the parish:

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.

**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)