

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*

22 December 2024 **Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)**

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1:00pm Te Hakari Tapu (Māori Service), St Eanswythe's
5:00pm Evening Service, 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.

Please join us
for refreshments at
the end of
the service.

*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.

INTROIT HYMN 265 O come, O come Emmanuel
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

THE COLLECT *(prayer of the day)*

Gracious God,
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son:
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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.**

FIRST READING

A reading from Micah (5.2-5a)

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (*Song of Mary*)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord: my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
**Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant: from this day all generations
will call me blessed.**

The Almighty has done great things for me: and holy is his name.

God has mercy on those who fear him: from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm: and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones: and lifting up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things: and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel: to remember the promise of mercy,

The promise made to our forebears: to Abraham and his children for ever.

SECOND READING

A reading from Hebrews (10.5-10)

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’ ⁸ When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

272 Come, thou long-expected Jesus
(*found in the red hymn book Together in Song*)



THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. **Alleluia.**

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke (1.39-45)
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

For the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

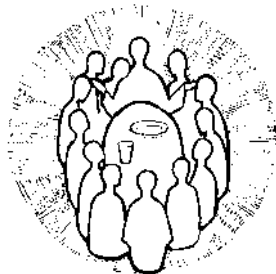
SERMON

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

*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:

**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
Words: John L. Bell (1949-)
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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.'

RECESSIONAL HYMN 268 Joy to the world

(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.



Looking Ahead to Christmas

*O Lord,
raise up your power and come among us,
and with great might succour us,
that, whereas through our sins and wickedness
we are sore let and hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*



Notices

Christmas Bowl: Envelopes are available to make a donation to share the peace this Christmas with those who need it most.

Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW) Program: As part of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne's Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW) Program, in their continuous efforts to monitor and evaluate the processes and impacts of the program, they have engaged with the University of Melbourne once again to undertake the program's second evaluation (for the period July 2021 to June 2024). Scan the QR code to access the survey.



This Week in our Parish

Sunday 22 December:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1:00pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's
5:00pm Evening Service, St Clement's

Tuesday 24 December: Christmas Eve

5:00pm Children's Christmas Service
St Clement's
11:00pm Christmas Eve Service,
St Eanswythe's

Wednesday 25 December:

Christmas Day

9:30am Christmas Day Service,
St Clement's

Sunday 29 December:

First Sunday after Christmas

9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1:00pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's

Giving: Deposits can be made to the parish Bendigo Bank account at any time (BSB 633 000, account number 157 594 722, account name "St Eanswythe's Altona with St Clement's Laverton Anglican Churches"). For pledge giving please include your name or envelope/reference number. For further details see anglicanaltlav.org.au/giving

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne is committed to churches being places where everyone is safe, especially children and vulnerable people. All church workers and volunteers are required to complete training and relevant checks. If you wish to raise any concerns about misconduct, past or present, please contact the independent Professional Standards body, Kooyoora (1800 135 246; www.kooyoora.org.au).

Our Prayers

The World and Nation:

- The people of Vanuatu as they recover and rebuild in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake.
- The family and friends of Aaron Goodman as they mourn his passing.
- Safety and enjoyment for those travelling during the Christmas and summer holiday season.

The Church:

World Council of Churches:

Japan, North Korea, and South Korea.

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

Anglican Church of Australia:

The Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn
(Bp Mark Short, Asst Bp Vanessa Bennett, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne:

The Parish of St Eanswythe's, Altona w.
St Clement's, Laverton (Kerry Davis).

Agencies supported by our parish:

Latitude Youth Services, Altona – supporting at-risk young people.

Our parish & community: For God's guidance, love and care of our people.

We pray for our Vicar Rev'd Kerry and his family.

Those with particular needs at this time:

Denise, Stuart, Carol, Lewis,
Christopher, Maria, Kay, Michael,
Anna, Toby, John, Margaret, Elisabeth,
Jennie, Brian, Enid, Joshua, Hayden,
Ashlee, Doris.

The communion of saints:

Recently Departed:

Les King (24th),
Peter Higginbottom (26th),
Bryce McKinnon (27th),
Ilija Strinic (28th).



*To add a name to the pew sheet prayer list
or to remember someone
on the anniversary of their death,
please contact the parish office.*

Readings for this Week

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

Tuesday 24 December, 11pm St Eanswythe's:

The Birth of our Lord

Isaiah 9.2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14

Wednesday 25 December, 9:30am St Clement's

The Birth of our Lord

Isaiah 62.6-12; Ps 97; Titus 3.4-8a; Luke 2.1-7

Sunday 29 December: First Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26; Ps 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52





Christmas and January Services

Please don't forget to pick up your copy of the services for
Christmas and January 2025.

It takes into account the various Christmas services and the combined
worship that will be taking place at either
St Eanswythe's or St Clement's.

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

Vicar: The Rev'd Kerry Davis [Tuesday to Sunday, Monday rest day]

M: 0425 163 063 | E: kdavis@anglicanaltlav.org.au

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

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

Churchwardens:

Anna Watts (0422 874 061), Denis Lee (03 9398 2993), Scott Pitcher.