

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*

14 December 2025 **Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)**

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 :: Welcome :: Haere mai



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

Please join us for refreshments following 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, present and emerging.
We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, justice and healing.*

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 596 Fill my whole life, O Lord my God
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

THE COLLECT *(prayer of the day)*

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love
on our journey to meet the One who is coming:
strengthen our weak hands,
make firm our feeble knees,
and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom,
so that our hearts may rejoice
as we behold the majesty of our God.
We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and 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 Isaiah (35.1-10)

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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 James (5.7-10)

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 269 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes
(found in the red hymn book *Together in Song*)

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia.

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ. (11.2-11)

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ ⁴ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’ ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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 745 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

Everyone is invited to receive communion or receive a blessing. Children who have been baptised are welcome to receive communion.

If you would prefer not to receive communion but to receive a personal blessing, please indicate when the minister comes to you.



AS COMMUNION IS RECEIVED, WE SING:

**Father, bless us as we go,
Jesus, walk beside us.
Holy Spirit, guide us.**

Hymn 781

Words: Robin Mann (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 105 Let al the world in every corner sing
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

DISMISSAL

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



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 anglicanaltav.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).

Notices

Children's Christmas Toys – Thank You!: Thank you to everyone who generously donated unwrapped children's toys over the past few weeks. These gifts were delivered to the Salvation Army this week as part of their annual Christmas outreach. The staff expressed their appreciation for the kindness shown by our Parish. Your support has helped bring joy and hope to many children this Christmas—thank you for your wonderful generosity. *Fred.*

St Eanswythe's Memorial Garden Plaque: The wall-mounted brass plaque in the St Eanswythe's Memorial Garden was recently stolen. We intend to have it replaced. It would be a great help if anyone has a photograph of the original wording. If you are able to assist, please contact Rev'd Kerry.

December, Christmas and January Services: Please see notice boards, website <https://anglicanaltlav.org.au> or Facebook page for all service dates and times.

Tearfund Useful Gifts: Tearfund Useful Gifts help lift people out of poverty with dignity by providing practical tools for better lives. Gifts start from just \$5. Your purchase can truly change lives. Please prayerfully consider supporting this ministry — your Gift of Love makes a real difference. Contact: Phillis Gregson – 0417 869 595.

Installation of the Archbishop: The installation of Bishop Ric Thorpe as the 14th Archbishop of Melbourne occurred on 30 November at St Paul's Cathedral. Highlights from the service can be viewed at the following link: <https://youtu.be/rY4cXzQayaQ?si=2ZxksEkP3h-YFMBq>

Act for Peace – Christmas Bowl Appeal: This Christmas, we invite you to share God's love through the *Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal*. Your gift will help bring hope, food, and support to people facing conflict and hardship around the world. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Fix & Fellowship: Come and help keep our churches and grounds neat and tidy.
St Clement's – 7 February, 7 March, 4 April.
(Monthly, 1st Saturday, 9:30am except in January).

St Eanswythe's – 20 December, 21 February, 21 March.
(Monthly, 3rd Saturday, 9:30am except in January).

Op Shop Summer Holiday Break: The Op Shop will close for the summer holiday break on Friday 12 December and will reopen on Tuesday 20 January. During this time, the Op Shop will be cleaned and donated items cannot be received.

Our Prayers

The World and Nation:

- The State government's apology and the signing of Victoria's First Peoples' Treaty will bring healing, justice, and hope for First Nations communities and all Victorians.
- We give thanks for the faithful service and dedication of all who have volunteered in our Op Shop this year.
- That our churches and communities are places where people with disabilities are supported, and empowered, reflecting God's grace.

The Church:

World Council of Churches:
Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

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

Anglican Church of Australia:
The Anglican Church of Australia (Primate Bp Mark Short, General Secretary Anne Hywood, the General Synod & the Standing Committee).

Diocese of Melbourne:
St Stephen's Anglican Congregation - Karen Community Werribee (Moe Win Tun Kin, Saw Htoo).

Agencies supported by our parish:

Anglican Overseas Aid – supporting health care and education in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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

We pray for our clergy and their families.

Those with particular needs at this time:

Peter Forni, Jennifer Joseph, Roger Prowd, Rev'd Dave Thompson, Mary Dugarte.

The communion of saints:

Anniversaries this Week:

Peter Elvin (15th),
Gordon Geering (15th),
Charlie Kearsley (16th),
Dot Kearsley (19th),
Grace Ngatai (19th),
Betty Duckmanton (19th),
Noel Landers (20th).



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.

Wednesday 17 December, 9:00am St Clement's

Genesis 49.2, 8-10; Ps 72.1-7; Matthew 1.1-17

Thursday 18 December, 10:00am St Eanswythe's

Jeremiah 23.5-8; Ps 72.15-21; Matthew 1.18-24

Sunday 21 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7.10-16; Ps 80.1-7, 17-19; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

Morning Prayer:

Tuesday and Friday, 9:00am at St Eanswythe's. Everyone is welcome.



Christmas Services

Wednesday 17 Dec - 6:00pm Children's Christmas Service (St Eanswythe's).

Sunday 21 Dec - Fourth Sunday of Advent (Normal Services and Times).

Wednesday 24 Dec Christmas Eve

5:00pm Children's Christmas Service (St Clement's).

11:00pm Christmas Eve Service (St Eanswythe's).

Thursday 25 Dec Christmas Day - 9:30 Holy Eucharist (St Clement's).

Sunday 28 Dec First Sunday after Christmas - 9:30am Combined Service

(St Eanswythe's).



This Week in our Parish

Sunday 14 December:

Third 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 - Friday

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

Tuesday 16 December

9:00am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's
10:00am Tiddler's Playgroup,
St Eanswythe's*

Wednesday 17 December

9:00am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's

Thursday 18 December

10:00am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

Friday 19 December

9:00am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's
9:30am Clementines Playgroup,
St Clement's*

Sunday 21 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 Worship, St Clement's

**During school term*

Parish Contact List

St Eanswythe's: Cnr Bent & Queen St, Altona 3018 | PO Box 48, Altona VIC 3018
Parish Administrator Office Hours [Wednesday & Thursday 8.30 to 2.30]

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

Assist. Curate: Rev'd Johnwerni Maryoe [Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday]

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

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

Churchwardens:

Anna Watts (042 874 061), Denis Lee (03 9398 2993), Lily Griffin (0413 065 705).