

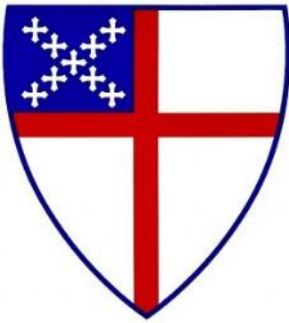


THE ANCHOR

DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020

St. Clement's by-the-Sea
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcoming all since 1929



**Member, Anglican
Communion
PARISH MISSION:**

*Follow Christ through the
way we live and love,
spreading the good news
of God in Christ, opening
our hearts to all, and
experience and spread
joy in the process.*



**“This Church of
Ours is Open To
All...There Will
Be No Outcasts.”**

-The Most Rev. Edmund
Browning *Emeritus*
Presiding Bishop



Light...

If ever there was a season of light, it is now. As the world outside grows increasingly darker, we speak increasingly of light in the Church. This light is manifested in our Advent candles, in our readings from Holy Scripture and even in our music. A hymn I discovered a few years ago is one that I have come to cherish and one we will be singing on the first Sunday in Advent. The first verse captures a real sense of Advent, Christmas and even Epiphany for me.

Longing for light we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

Christ be our light!

Shine in our hearts,

shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church

gathered today.¹



The Advent candles, which we will light progressively each week, increasing their number and therefore their illumination, are an outward sign of our inwardly growing hope and anticipation of the Savior. The single candle in the middle representing the very presence of Christ himself, and the realization of our hope, the fulfillment of our longing. At the “Midnight Mass” at 10pm on Christmas Eve, we welcome the news of the birth of Christ in the still darkness of the night, with little lit candles in our hands. Each a representative of that light that has broken into our world. Each is so delicate, seemingly easy to extinguish. And yet, these lights are symbols of *that* light, which we proclaim came into world, “and the darkness did not overcome it” (Jn. 1:5)

We are saying that this is the light which not even death could destroy, the one who has brought restoration and fullness (the forgiveness of our sins) and life everlasting. And yet, in our hands, these tapers seem so humble. In the face of the immensity of the darkness outside, what use are these lights? Would not the violent winds quickly blow them out? At times, to me, the Church feels like such a humble light in a darkened world. And yet, it is this light, this spark of hope, that has persevered to our present day in the face of much darkness throughout history. This is the lamp of God’s justice, a symbol that the Kingdom of God does in fact exist in this broken, self-absorbed, fearful, and violent world. That God has entered human history and is bringing about the reign of his beloved Son, in whom we hope.

...Continued on next page

Of course, we talk about light as more than just physical light, don't we? There is something about illumination, that suggest one has moved from one way of being to another. This is the sense we have of Epiphany. That we have been illumined in an interior way. That we have realized something. That we have come to a new understanding. We have been illuminated. This is of course what happens when Christ is revealed. First to his parents, then to shepherds, then to magi, then to the world (at his baptism), in his proclaiming, his healings, and his miracles. We come to see him, to realize, who he is and what he has come to do for us. This is the illumination that we hear about in that hymn above, "shine in our hearts!" We move from an outward fire to an inner fire.

We hear also of another image of light, a star that guided wise ones to seek out this child. Some have debated whether what the wise men saw was in fact a star, or a comet, or another astronomical event. But, I'm quite comfortable with star, because like those little candles we hold on Christmas that seem so small, there are those stars. Their light penetrating through the vast emptiness of space. Seemingly impossible that we should ever even see them, so very far away are they. Some are millions, others are hundreds of millions of times farther away from us than our own sun! And yet, we do see their light. They are tiny to our eyes, but they are in truth enormous. Perhaps they too represent a glimmer of hope, at least one seems to have had that effect on the magi. Each is a sun, a burning flame across that great sea of space that can be hostile to human life and at times seems random and uncaring. Yet, here is a light to guide us.

Throughout scripture we have images of light conquering darkness. This is the interior act of God's grace overcoming our inner darkness(es), our propensity to stray from his ways, or to become despondent, hopeless or uncaring. As we hear in some of the great Psalms, a sampling of which follows but is far from exhaustive, of the power of God's light in our lives.

"It is you who light my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness." (18:28)

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (27:1)

"For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light." (36:9)

"O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling." (43:3)

We hear in Luke's Gospel of Zechariah prophecy as he celebrates the almost unimaginable birth of his son, John the Baptist, in song, saying that this child of his will be who will prepare the way. He ends his proclamation by praising what God is doing, in bringing Christ into the world.

*By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace." (1:78-79).*

These words are echoed in the words of the faithful Simeon, who we hear later, as he looks upon the child Jesus, and calls him "a light for revelation."

*My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel." (2:30-32)*

I pray these holy seasons, of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, our seasons of light, be a time of inner illumination for you. I pray that we may indeed be bearers of the light of hope and peace and joy and love out to a world that is often despairing, anxious, suffering and hateful. Let us proclaim by our words and actions, that the light has come, and the darkness did not, and will not, overcome it!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick

¹ "Christ, be our Light," by Bernadette Farrell, (2000)



ST. JAMES
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH



Inclusivity
Technology
Doing Good

Handel's Messiah

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Dec. 8th at 5 p.m.

A holiday tradition!



Enjoy an evening with the combined choirs of St. James and the Laguna Beach Chorale, who will be performing **Handel's Christmas portion of "Messiah"** on **Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 5 p.m.** at St. James. All may sing along to the "Hallelujah" chorus at the end! Childcare is provided. All are welcome.

Concert donation, \$25.

St. James Episcopal Church • 3209 Via Lido, Newport Beach, CA 92663
www.stjamesnewport.org

YOU MAY PAY by using our EventBrite ticket page at <https://bit.ly/2PPQAJ3>

Tickets are also available at the door.

Questions? Call us at 949.675.0210 or email info@stjamesnewport.org

CELEBRACION EN HONOR DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE

“No se entristezca tu corazón... ¿Acaso no estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?”



Jueves, 12 de diciembre
6:00pm Misa
7:00pm Recepción

Iglesia Episcopal San Clemente del Mar
202 Avenida Aragón, San Clemente CA 92672

A few words

from your Senior Warden

Friends,

I want to thank all of you that have made donations to the parish's "gap". The year is not over, so if you're still thinking and praying about this, it's not too late.

I want to also remind everyone that one really effective way to give to the church is to give to the endowment, either in a direct donation, or in your will. The beauty of the endowment is that it is a pure endowment, and the principal is never touched, though the church benefits once a year from the interest and growth. As the principal grows, the amount of interest that can be used for mission and ministries also grows.

I encourage you to prayerfully consider a donation to the endowment.

Thanks,
Jim Prothero



amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



Holiday shopping is upon us , please consider Amazon Smile when making your purchases. Amazon Smile will donate to St. Clement's, if you have selected us as your charitable institution.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bless others, the church, and her mission.

For assistance, please contact: Spring info@scbythesea.org



Christmas Flower Offerings

Due: Sunday, December 15th

Envelopes and forms will be available in the bulletins, as well as during Coffee Hour.

Please place your Christmas Flower Offering, along with your dedication, in the Sunday offering or the office drop box. The drop box is located to the right of the church office door.



ST. CLEMENT'S BY-THE-SEA

Hangings of the Greens

Sunday, December 22nd

2:00pm

St. Clement's invites you to get into the holiday spirit by helping us transform the church.

All are welcome! Please sign up in the Parish Hall.

- *Christmas Services* -



Christmas Eve

December 24th

4:00pm - Children's Pageant & Family Eucharist

7:00pm - Misa de Nochebuena (Spanish)

9:30pm - Carol Sing-A-Long

10:00pm - Candlelight Service with Organ, Choir, & Harp

Christmas Day

December 25th

10:00am - Christmas Day Service



- *For the Children & Families* -

Children's Pageant & Family Eucharist

DECEMBER 24, 2019 | 4:00 PM



We invite you to join us for a Children's Liturgy for Christmas Eve.

In true Godly Play fashion, through story and beloved carols, the mystery and wonder that is Christmas Eve unfolds. All children are invited to be a part that night, of bringing this story to life.

We would love to have any children visiting with us that night join in as well.

The children will gather with Ms. Jamie, at the rear of the church, at the start of the Children's Liturgy.

Come... be a part of the Mystery of Christmas.

- *Outreach News* -

This month's news includes two sections. The first is about volunteer opportunities in the coming year. The second is information about homelessness in our community, in response to a request from a fellow parishioner.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sandwich-making - We need volunteers for our monthly sandwich-making activities in 2020! There are several ways to volunteer: 1) the coordinator is responsible for scheduling volunteers, making sure supplies are available, and working with the Parish Administrator to get the word out about which service will be making the sandwiches when; 2) volunteers are needed monthly to purchase food and supplies and organize the sandwich-making once a month; and 3) everyone can help make the sandwiches and put the bag lunches together!

Vestry Member for Outreach and Outreach Committee Convener – This is a fantastic opportunity for new leadership and new energy in helping St. Clement's carry out the commandment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Sound intriguing?

Please contact Father Patrick or Jan Genevro if you are interested in these opportunities.

Information about Homelessness in Our Community

This past summer, thanks to the generosity of Judy Johnson and her family and many others in the parish, we held a very successful Flamenco Fiesta to raise funds for St. Clement's outreach work.

As part of that event, we asked participants to let us know if they had questions, concerns, ideas, and/or suggestions about the outreach work we should be doing.

One of the questions that was submitted was about homelessness and how the parish could provide information that would help us respond to the many challenges involved, including:

- how to identify and address the root causes of homelessness in our community and larger society,
- how to respond compassionately to the immediate needs of people without places to sleep and live, and
- how to respond on an interpersonal level to people who are experiencing homelessness and who also might be highly distressed or suffer from medical or psychiatric illnesses.

These are very important questions that many of us share. I think there is also shared concern (and possibly even frustration) about what is being done, or not being done, to address needs that sometimes seem beyond our capacity to respond to or resolve.

Here are some resources I've found that I hope will lead us, as a parish community, to increased awareness and knowledge, prayerful discussion, and perhaps new ways of thinking and acting. If you know of any additional resources, please share them and we will get them into another Anchor article in the future.

Everyone Counts

The Everyone Counts report provides information about homelessness in Orange County, including who is homeless, who is sheltered (or not), and a wide variety of other data. The latest report, based on a "point in time" count in July 2019 is available at <http://www.ocgov.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=92093>. This report provides a comprehensive picture of homelessness in Orange County.

- *Outreach News* -

United to End Homelessness

United to End Homelessness (<https://www.unitedtoendhomelessness.org/>), an initiative of the United Way, is committed to ending homelessness in Orange County by March 2024. It involves a collaboration among Orange County's top business, philanthropic, governmental, faith-based, and non-profit leaders. It also relies on individual volunteers.

To end homelessness, United to End Homelessness is using the recommendations that were made in the 2017 study by UC Irvine "[Homelessness in Orange County: The Costs to Our Community](#)." An executive summary of the report can be found by clicking [here](#).

United to End Homelessness also offers "**Homelessness 101**" classes. These classes cover questions such as: What is homelessness? Key factors that lead to homelessness? What is the current state of homelessness in Orange County? How can homelessness be solved? Monthly classes are held at the United Way offices and classes also are held in other locations around the county. Go to <https://www.unitedtoendhomelessness.org/learn-more> to sign up to receive updates on upcoming classes.

Volunteer opportunities are listed on the United to End Homelessness web site (URL above).

2-1-1 Orange County

2-1-1 Orange County (211OC) is a local, private, non-profit organization (the CEO is parishioner Karen Williams) that is committed to improving the lives of people in our county. 211 OC is a gateway to information and services related to a wide range of concerns, including homelessness. The organization envisions an Orange County where no one is homeless. To help make this a reality, 211 OC offers a single point of entry into network of homelessness-related services. The organization will help secure housing for people who are chronically homeless. More information is available at www.211oc.org or by dialing 211.

League of Women Voters of Orange Coast

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan political organization. LWV "encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy." The LWV does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The local chapter of the LWV has information on homelessness and potential solutions at <https://my.lwv.org/california/orange-coast/explore-homelessness>.

The Episcopal Church's Response to Homelessness

Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

Bishop Taylor has convened a Housing Justice Task Force "to address the 'moral crisis of unaffordable housing' across Southern California." The Task Force includes 55 participants and brings together representatives of developers, bankers, architects, government, non-profit organizations, and faith communities. The Task Forces is "united in achieving solutions for people without housing." More information is available at <https://diocesela.org/come-home/>.

The Episcopal Church

Homelessness resources, including articles and information about actions parishes across the US are taking to care for people without housing and end homelessness, are available at <https://episcopalchurch.org/library/topics/homelessness>.

- December Events -



Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, December 17th

7:00 pm

We will meet in the Library



Sandwich Making for the Welcome Inn

Please join us in the Parish Hall on

Sunday, December 15th at 9:00am

to help make sandwiches and sack lunches for those in need!



Social Justice Book Club

Money & Faith

Edited by Michael Schut

Thursday, December 12, at 7:00pm

Home of Hilary & Francis Viscount

24386 Antilles Way - Dana Point 92629

Questions? Please contact Jan Genevro at outreach@scbythesea.org.



When: December 18th from 2:00pm-5:00pm

Where: Laundry Basket-South

2405 S. El Camino Real in San Clemente

New volunteers are welcome and should arrive at 1:30pm for a brief orientation.

Contact Tina English for more information on this ministry: ringleish@cox.net



The Anchors Potluck Supper Club
will NOT be meeting in December.

- *January Events* -



Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, January 21st

7:00 pm

We will meet in the Library



Sandwich Making for the Welcome Inn

Please join us in the Parish Hall on

Sunday, January 19th at 11:00am

to help make sandwiches and sack lunches for those in need!

Holy Eucharist with Healing

Wednesdays at 6pm



We offer a service of Holy Communion with healing prayers!

held in the sanctuary and led by the Rev. Jay Young and,

on occasion, by the Rev. Brad Karelius



When: January 15th from 2:00pm-5:00pm

Where: Laundry Basket-South

2405 S. El Camino Real in San Clemente

New volunteers are welcome and should arrive at 1:30pm for a brief orientation.

Contact Tina Inglish for more information on this ministry: ringlish@cox.net



The Anchors Potluck Supper Club

will NOT be meeting in January.

Join us in February!

- *Annual Meeting of the Parish* -

ST. CLEMENT'S BY-THE-SEA

ANNUAL MEETING 2020

Sunday, January 26th

Combined Service at 9:00am
Followed by brunch in the Parish Hall
and the 2020 Annual Meeting
All reports are due by January 10th!



- *Dec. Birthdays* -

- *Jan. Birthdays* -

- 1-Colin Casey
- 2-Jose Carrillo
- 4-Celia Lovell
- 7-Don Morgan
- 7-Georgina Williams
- 8-Will Wallett
- 12-Bill Loftus
- 13-Joe Silva
- 16-Ken Hite
- 19-Leticia DeLeon
- 19-Susie Spencer
- 22-Iridiana Farias
- 25-Rocco Carbonara
- 25-Julia Darde-Lentz
- 26-Jean Hattem
- 27-Isabel Grigg
- 28-Claus Beneker
- 30-Andrea Morris
- 31-Molly Granado

- 5-Mary Miranda
- 11-Barbara Fox
- 11-Dale Zeh
- 13-Roland Daigle
- 15-Gerry Beegan
- 16-Patty Clarke
- 18-Tom Card
- 23-Katie Baxter
- 23-Lauri Zeh



- *Dec. Anniveraries* -

- *Jan. Anniveraries* -

27-Larry & Pat Sawyer

25-Kevin & Michelle Higgins



Bible Studies



Every Wednesday
in the Library

11:00am (English)
6:00pm (Spanish)

ON HIATUS 12/25/-1/1/2020

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer Group

Every Monday at 6:00pm in the Library

For more information,
please contact Matt Duncan:
morphix1@cox.net

St. Clement's by-the-Sea EPISCOPAL CHURCH

San Clemente's First Church

Welcoming all since 1929



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00am Holy Communion Rite I, Nursery

10:00am Holy Communion Rite II with Choir, Nursery, Sunday School

12:00pm La Misa en Español

202 Avenida Aragon
San Clemente, CA 92672

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—9:00am-1:00pm

Tuesday-Friday—8:00am-1:00pm

Phone: 949.492.3401

E-mail: info@scbythesea.org

Website: www.scbythesea.org

The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Rector