

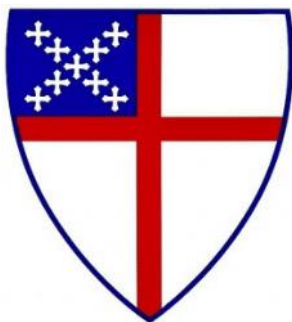


THE ANCHOR

DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021

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



New Year....

My dear friends, as we approach the end of the 2020, I imagine many of you are saying, “good riddance!” And that would be understandable. This issue of the *Anchor* - as we do every year - spans both December and January, so I guess we’ll see if January starts off better at least than the present year ends. 2020 has certainly been a tough one for many of us. At the end of January, we’ll have our Annual Meeting when we reflect upon the year just finished. In anticipation of the report I’ll give at that time, I’m looking back over this year, the blessings and the curses, the weeds and the wheat. There have been both for sure.

Things to celebrate and things to lament. But, I think we can agree, there hasn’t been a lot of fun in 2020, and I sure hope that will change in 2021.



The year started off quite good! We completed the construction of our pergola, with help from many parishioners. Do you remember the weekend staining party for all the beams and boards? The project took several years of hard work, but it was realized. And, as it turns out, praise God, just in time! Maybe we’d heard about this virus that had come out of China and that was causing sickness and deaths in Europe, but really didn’t have any idea of what it would mean for us at that point. Personally, I had just returned from studying religious art and visiting holy sites in Venice, Florence and Rome. This experience expanded my thinking considerably and continues to inform my ministry. Again, it seems, just in time, as most of Northern Italy went into lockdown soon thereafter.

In February, we were still pretty excited about the year ahead, with plans for our Celtic celebration around St. Patrick’s Day, our Lamb Supper during Holy Week, and another combined service with Christ Lutheran at North Beach for the Easter Vigil. We did have our Ash Wednesday Services and welcomed Pastor Steve from Christ Lutheran here for a combined service. Not long after that though, the world changed! We talked about how we were going to continue to worship, by sanitizing our hands after the Peace, or refraining from passing the Peace. We began distribution of the Sacrament in just one kind, no consecrated wine except for the priest. At that time, these seemed like monumental changes, and they were. But then we suspended in-person worship altogether.

This was a sea change and quite unsettling for those of us who anchor our lives in part through the rhythm of worship. To not gather as the people of God was, until then, unthinkable. Not many believed it would last very long. We guessed that by Easter we’d be back together again. Then it was by Pentecost. Then it was by June and then it was by...who knows?

...Continued on next page

We adapted. We began to offer our worship online for the first time. Initially, this was done on our website. We continued to use the readings and prayers from our Communion service, even while we didn't offer Communion. But this kept us moored to the flow of liturgical seasons. We augmented our online worship with occasional gathering by Zoom.

We installed our columbaria, realizing a multi-year effort. And they look so right you can almost not believe they weren't there all along. But then during Holy Week, we experienced one of the worst rain events in recent memory. Regrettably, that rain overwhelmed our sump pumps and flooded our downstairs while simultaneously finding two holes in our roof, wreaking havoc upstairs. The damage totaled about \$100K. Insurance covered about half of that. You contributed \$35K. Your generosity and faithfulness was a great blessing. While we never would have wanted this, obviously, given that the building was not in use due to the stay at home order, there was probably no better time for it to happen. Work continues. The downstairs has been dried out, but is not yet restored to pre-flood condition.

At the start of the year, we had plans to send our youth to Navajoland on a combined mission experience with the youth of St. Wilfrid's, in Huntington Beach. Plans had already been made and deposits paid. The youth were planning fundraisers. Of course, we had to change these plans, as we learned of the terrible suffering that Coronavirus was afflicting upon the Navajo people. Through prayer and conversation, the Spirit inspired others to become involved, and together with the Latter Day Saints' stake in San Clemente and St. Wilfrid's, we raised funds totaling over \$20K to help alleviate that suffering. That was inspiring and made a big difference. New relationships and connections were formed, and our youth are looking to June 2021 for their journey. A great blessing amid a pandemic.

During all of the above, we continued to plan and contemplate how and when we would come together again for worship, albeit differently, using the best of what we'd learned over the preceding months. We began to plan for restored services, offered outside under our pergola. That pergola had only been completed at the start of the year, and without its existence these services surely would not have been possible. We learned how to offer those services, allowing for both those present and those at home to experience the service in its fullness (e.g. with music). This was no small undertaking. It was substantial and a big learning curve for us. But by God's grace, we did it! We even started a Saturday evening service. And all these weekend services lasted for four months, from July 18th through November 22nd.

As we got into Autumn, we even started a new ministry, to meet the needs of those suffering food shortages, during these trying times. We had to reimagine a few of our traditional celebrations, like Founders' Day. In lieu of our coming together for a great feast, we instead did some reflecting on the things of our past for which we were grateful and considered the faithfulness of those generations who came before us. I sent you a historical piece that contemplated the question, "how did we get here." So, in all, we'd have to say that it was a pretty great way for us to mark the annual celebration of our founding, even if it was different. We did however have to postpone or cancel some events, like our St. Francis' Day Blessing of the Animals.

I believe we all realize that our virtual experiences will never live up to our fully in person experiences. Nonetheless, we persevered. We could not have our annual luncheon for Marine Corps Birthday, but we did remember our Veterans' in our worship service. We also had a delightful virtual concert fundraiser in November, another first for us. But as the month went on, it became clear that the number of Coronavirus infections in our county would continue to rise. Hospitalization were going up, as were mortalities, and the responsible thing for us to do was to suspend in person gatherings, even with all our well-considered precautions. As of this writing, these numbers continue to soar, and it seems that things will probably get worse before they get better, requiring even further adaptation.

Yet, I remain optimistic about our future. Through all these changes and challenges, you have proven yourselves faithful. You have prayed more deeply during these times than perhaps you ever have. You've cared for one another in remarkable ways. You have continued to support the ministry of this parish, and many of you have even increased your pledges for the coming year. In one of the most bitterly fought presidential election cycles, you did not allow your friendships to fray or fail despite political differences. You knew better! You knew these are the ones with whom you will share eternity! If we can survive, even thrive, in the midst of all these things, we can face anything (with God's help!). So, we go into the new year tested and true, resilient.

We have learned many new ways of being church. Some of these things will surely continue. I think we recognize that we must continue to offer our services online, for those who simply cannot be with us in person, or at least not all the time. As a recent book I read said it, "we need to put it where people can get it." We've learned a lot about how to keep people safe. We've learned deep spiritual things that we will carry within us always. God is faithful, in that we rejoice. We can depend upon his strength to get us through times we could scarcely imagine. We have been blessed and we will continue to be blessed. God has sent us amazing people to serve with us, and for them we give great thanks, even if we cannot hang on to them forever (see Mo. Norma's letter later in this newsletter), which breaks our hearts. But, they are all a blessing to us and we to them. We look with hope toward our future, and with gratitude.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick

ST. CLEMENT'S BY-THE-SEA

ANNUAL MEETING 2021

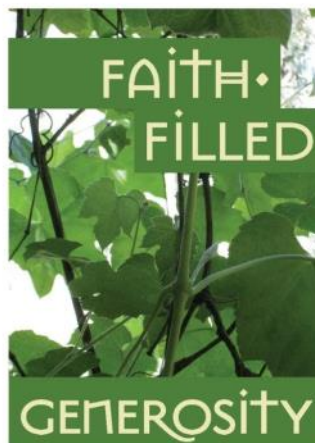
Sunday, January 31st

Meeting will be hosted via Zoom at 10am.

Meeting ID: 882 5845 8517

Passcode: 560942

All reports are due by January 15th!.



Click the link below to join the Annual Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88258458517?pwd=OU94bC9DMVUxNnhtOU1Tazk0eU1ZUT09>

Some articles are easy to write others as in this case of this one, you just keep leaving it to the last minute, giving excuses to yourself for not starting, and even though some of the excuses are valid, you just know deep down in your heart that the reason you are taking forever to even start is because this is an article that you don't want to write. I don't like good-byes.

As you may already know through the different communications that have been sent from Fr. Patrick or the Diocese, on December 1st, I will start a new journey which takes me away from St. Clement's and Messiah, as I have accepted a position in the Diocesan Staff as the Associate for Formation and Transition Ministry. Among some of the tasks that I will perform is working closely with the people that are going through the discernment process for the ordained ministry as well as the churches that sponsor them and the Commission of Ministry. I am humbled and excited and I must admit, a little terrified for the journey I am about to start and I am profoundly grateful to God for the opportunity and the blessing of serving you, St. Clement's by-the-Sea.

I remember the first time I met you. It was a Trinity Sunday back in 2017, when Fr. Patrick invited me to preach at all services. It was the first time that I had visited the city of San Clemente and our beautiful church, I was in awe of its beauty. I also remember vividly how welcoming you were at the moment of the peace, at the moment of leaving our sanctuary and of course at the coffee hour.

Some months after that Sunday, the conversation started about me coming to serve you in a more official way, as your part-time Associate Priest. Thank you, Fr. Patrick for trusting me and for always pushing me to try on new things, you have been a wonderful mentor! I remember the first year was a bit challenging as my schedule was a little bit strange. I was to be at St. Clement's for 15 hours a week and always the fourth Sunday of the month. Then the following year things got better, I was assigned to be with you for two weeks in a row and two weeks at Messiah.

It has been almost three years now. There are so many memories I am taking with me. The conversations I have had with many of you, sometimes at your home, or in the office or in the parish hall or on the phone, thank you for your trust and your love. I will always treasure my pastoral visits and the privilege of bringing communion to you at home or at the hospital or simply accompanying you in your journey of faith.

I also enjoyed the opportunity of teaching Bible Study both in English and Spanish, many times I was impressed by your insights and comments. The conversations were always enlightening and empowering. The Spirit was always very palpable among you. I was also given the opportunity to prepare some children from the Spanish Service for First Communion and Confirmation Class, what a gift and joy that was! I will deeply miss the meetings with the women from the Spanish Service who gathered on Friday evenings, even now with the social distancing restrictions, the group has remained faithful and has met every Friday through Zoom. Everyone has learned



things they never thought they would regarding technology and we should all be proud of that.

I also enjoyed attending the Anchor's Potluck Supper Club events which helped me at the beginning to get to know you better and of course I enjoyed the delicious food prepared by many of you. I have missed those dinners and community time during the pandemic.

And my friends, the truth is that I could keep going as memories flow in my mind and my heart. The *Quinceañeras*, the Memorial Services, the Guadalupe Services, the Call to the Wall, Holy Week with you and these are just a few. And of course, I have to mention the music program led by Larry. Sunday after Sunday, I felt inspired, lifted and transformed by hearing the choir and the soloists sing. Thank you for that!

One of my regrets is that this is happening while in the pandemic. I wish I could say good bye to you in person. I wish I could hug you and look into your eyes and tell you how much you all mean to me and how much I love you. But this is not a "good bye" but a "see you soon." One of these Sundays, when our churches are allowed to be back in the sanctuaries, I may surprise you by sitting right next to you in the pews, after all I will stay in Orange County for the time being.

Thank you for giving me this gift of being your priest.

Yours in Christ,

Mo. Norma



California's Newly Passed Proposition 19

TIME SENSITIVE NEWS!

The passage of Prop 19 means huge changes for the reassessment of properties passing from parents to children and grandchildren. At this moment, the value of the parent's residence is currently unlimited and protected from reassessment when passing to a child however under the new law there is now a \$1 million limit and a requirement that the child live in the home. Also any "other" property such as a vacation home, commercial property or rental property will no longer have a \$1million protection from reassessment. These other properties will be completely reassessed when passing on to a child. If you have questions about whether you should take action now to protect your low property taxes before the new law takes effect in February 2021, please call us today while there is still time to discuss options.

From Jennifer Elliott,
Attorney at Law

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Jennifer Elliott is an estate planning and probate lawyer in San Clemente. The firm, San Clemente Estate Law, provides estate planning to clients throughout California. Call us to register for our FREE estate planning WEBINAR at (949) 420-0025.

With the proposed changes to lower the estate tax exemption under the new administration, now is the perfect time to consider making a contribution to St. Clement's By-the-Sea.

If it has been some time since you reviewed your estate planning documents such as wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and healthcare directives, now is a great time to do so. Reviewing these important aspects of your estate planning can go a long way toward creating peace and security for you and your loved ones in these uncertain times.

We Are Here to Help

No one knows for sure what the future holds for our country. However, what is certain is that we will continue to monitor the latest legal developments closely and keep you updated as they unfold. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here for you.

This newsletter is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be construed as written advice about a Federal tax matter. Readers should consult with their own professional advisors to evaluate or pursue tax, accounting, financial, or legal planning strategies.



FAM Food Distribution...

Join us for our Friday food distribution with FAM. Many are facing economic hardship right now, and FAM has been blessed with food donations from farmers (who formerly sold to restaurateurs). A crew of volunteers has been here on Fridays, putting the food which FAM provides into bags and then placing those bags in the trunks of people's cars as they drive through our parking lot. **Our distributions take place from 2:00 pm - 4:00pm, with volunteers turning up at 1:30 pm. Upcoming distribution dates are: December 4th & December 18th.** Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers that have been serving. If this is a ministry that would appeal to you, please let us know that you can serve. We'll need volunteers to set up our tables in the parking lot every other week, help to unload the food and sort it into boxes, to distribute it, and to clean up afterwards. Please sign up today (info@scbythesea.org)!

CELEBRACION EN HONOR DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE

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



Online Service

Saturday,

December 12th

6:00pm

with Mo. Norma

Click the link below to view the service.

[St. Clement's by-the-sea YouTube](#)



Online Christmas Services

Christmas Eve - December 24th

4:00 pm - Holy Eucharist and Carols

6:00 pm - Misa de Nochebuena (*Spanish*)

Christmas Day- December 25th

10:00 am - English Eucharist

Click the link below to view these services.

[St. Clement's by-the-sea YouTube](#)



Covenant Groups begin the 2nd week of Advent

Facilitators, whose information is listed below, are trained and ready to provide you with any information you need.

During this season of Advent, as we prepare for the arrival of Jesus, we hope and pray, that you will join us in this small group ministry, with the goal of not only studying together, to strengthen our faith and understanding of the gospel readings that usher in our new church year, but also to deepen our relationship with one another as members of the St. Clement's family.

The groups, with contact information, are listed below.

WOMEN'S COVENANT GROUP: MONDAY evenings, 7pm, December 7 and 14th. Contact Laura Casellas for the zoom link: Laura.casellas@yahoo.com
(203) 451-7598

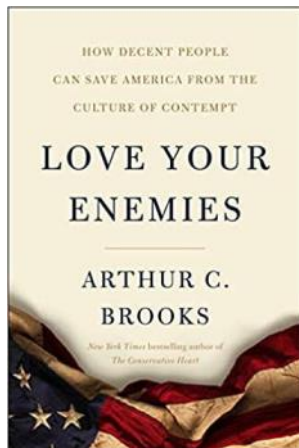
MEN'S COVENANT GROUP: WEDNESDAY evenings, 7pm, December 2, 9 and 16th. Contact Beto Casellas for the zoom link: betolaura@mac.com,
(704) 661-6994

CO-ED COVENANT GROUP: THURSDAY evenings, 7pm, December 3, 10 and 17th. Contact Ken and Laurie Baxter for the zoom link: kbaxter@choc.org,
(630) 674-5017

All the groups are open and ready to welcome you. We are encouraging those who think they might be interested in joining a group, to try it out for the three weeks we will meet in Advent. Our desire and goal is for these groups to continue meeting weekly, beginning again the week of December 28. As time goes on, and numbers of interested folk increase, we plan to add more groups in 2021, so please contact us if none of the above times fit your schedule, but you are interested in possibly participating. All groups will meet via Zoom until we conquer Covid!

Laura Casellas – Laura.casellas@yahoo.com (206) 451-7598

Hilary Viscount – hviscount@gmail.com (714) 932-2210



The Social Justice Book Club will not be meeting in December. We will reconvene, via Zoom, on January 21 2021.

We will be reading Love Your Enemies by Arthur C Brooks.

If you are interested in joining our discussion please contact Francis Viscount (fviscount@gmail.com) or Laura Casellas (laura.casellas@yahoo.com) for Zoom link.

Everyone gets time to share their thoughts and also help choose the books we read.

Do make 2021 a year when you expand your reading list!



Join us on Wednesday's at 11am for our weekly Bible Study. We presently meet by Zoom. You need not be a biblical scholar to participate. Just come with a desire to learn more.

Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765551451?pwd=UXdNYUxtT29FNU1YRolkNFdPQmxqdzo9>

Meeting ID: 847 6555 1451
Passcode: 823922



Vestry Meetings

Tuesday, December 15th &

January 19th

7:00 pm

Currently meeting via Zoom.

- *Dec. Birthdays* -

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

- *Jan. Birthdays* -

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

- *Dec. Anniversaries* -

27-Larry & Pat Sawyer

- *Jan. Anniversaries* -

25-Kevin & Michelle Higgins



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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.

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

San Clemente's First Church

Welcoming all since 1929



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Currently being hosted on our FB page and YouTube channel

202 Avenida Aragon
San Clemente, CA 92672

OFFICE HOURS
Vary during these times.

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E-mail: info@scbythesea.org
Website: www.scbythesea.org
The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Rector