

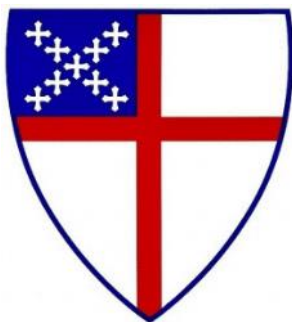


THE ANCHOR

DECEMBER 2018 / JANUARY 2019

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



Bethlehem...

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.¹*

I wonder if there is a Christmas hymn more comforting and evocative as this one. The Episcopal priest, Phillip Brooks (1835-1893), who wrote it captured something when he composed those lines. He had returned a few years earlier from a visit to Bethlehem and wanted these words to be put to music for the Sunday school class for Christmas 1868.

The story of how the tune was joined to those words is inspiring, as told by his organist, Lewis Redner.



As Christmas of 1868 approached, Mr. Brooks told me that he had written a simple little carol for the Christmas Sunday-school service, and he asked me to write the tune to it. The simple music was written in great haste and under great pressure. We were to practice it on the following Sunday. Mr. Brooks came to me on Friday, and said, 'Redner, have you ground out that music yet to "O Little Town of Bethlehem"? I replied, 'No,' but that he should have it by Sunday. On the Saturday night previous my brain was all confused about the tune. I thought more about my Sunday-school lesson than I did about the music. But I was roused from sleep late in the night hearing an angel-strain whispering in my ear, and seizing a piece of music paper I jotted down the treble of the tune as we now have it, and on Sunday morning before going to church I filled in the harmony. Neither Mr. Brooks nor I ever thought the carol or the music to it would live beyond that Christmas of 1868.²

It has become surely one of the most beloved carols of all time.

Bethlehem is an inspiring place. Its name in Hebrew is "House of Bread" and is fitting for the birthplace of the one who is the "Bread that comes down from Heaven to give life to the world" (Jn 6:33). But modern Bethlehem is also a place with real challenges. It is beyond the Israeli wall of separation, and experiences the difficulties that entails, including high unemployment. I encountered Palestinian Christians there who were reduced to begging. Regular electricity and reliable running water are not a given. That's hard to witness. It seems that our Lord was likewise born into difficult circumstances, in the Bethlehem of his time, as St. Luke tells us.

...Continued on next page

“While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (2:6-7)

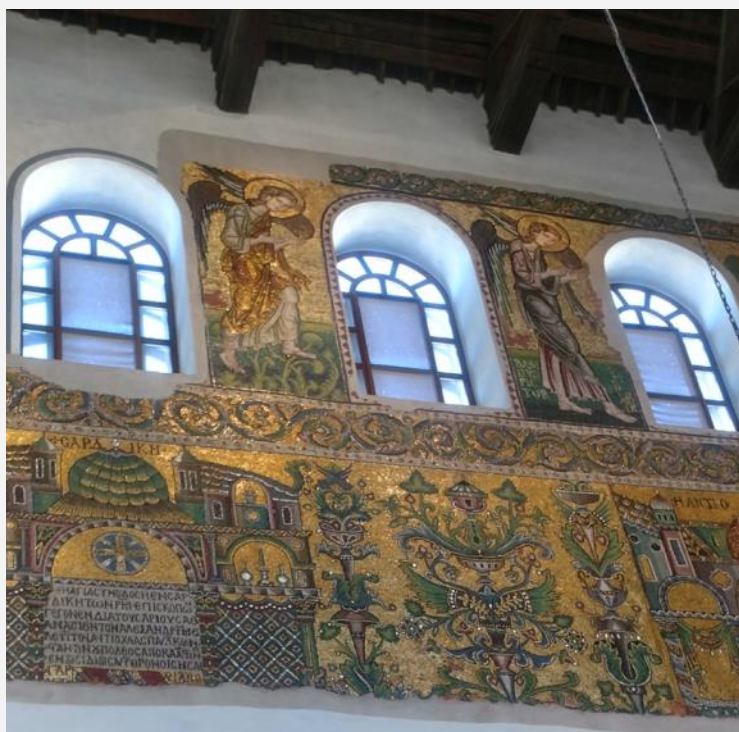
St. Luke makes clear, more so than the other gospel accounts, that Jesus was born into very modest means, even poverty. And that he has come to save those whose daily life is a daily struggle for mere survival. This is elaborated upon in numerous points in the Gospel, but just consider the words to Mary’s song, the “Magnificat,” that she sings before Jesus’ birth.

As I think back on my time in Bethlehem, among the teeming crowds of pilgrims there, I wonder, “What kind of Savior do we all come to find in Bethlehem? Who is it that so many have come seeking in this cave? Surely, He is the one who sets things aright, the way that God would have them be. I’m reminded of the words of another hymn, which suggests an answer, “He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, to take away transgression and rule in equity.”³ And I am convinced Jesus came to save both the oppressed and the oppressor, each of whom has lost something of his or her God-given humanity, in a world that rejects God’s ways.

Back in Bethlehem, the ruins of the church, which Constantine first had created above the cave where it is said that the miraculous birth took place, are still evident. That first holy site was completed in 339 and had an octagonal end over the cave itself. That church was destroyed in the sixth century, but Justinian rebuilt the present church above it those ruins. And this remains the oldest church of continual use in all Christendom. Of course, a place where pilgrims have been going for 1700 years is going to need occasional upkeep and sometimes that didn’t happen. The Church of the Nativity has seen good years and not so good years.

This is a very good year. In recent decades, the structure suffered from a leaky roof and neglect. However, in 2013, the Palestinian Authority hired an Italian company with expertise in restoring holy places to begin multi-million-dollar repairs on this beloved church. They discovered something unexpected. A mosaic of a seventh angel (see photo) hidden beneath plaster that had been hidden for centuries.

This angel, like the others, points toward the grotto, directing pilgrims to the birthplace of Christ. These mosaics are splendid, having been cleaned of the soot (from candles), dust and other detritus that kept them from gleaming. Here are more details.



“Commissioned in the 12th century by the Crusader king Almaric I and Byzantine emperor Manuel Comnenus, the mosaics were made with tiles of glass, mother-of-pearl, and local stones, with gold and silver leaf-pressed under clear glass. The tiles were tilted to maximize their impact on pilgrims peering up from below...The mosaics are signed, in Latin and Syriac, by an artist named Basilius. Historians suspect he is the same Basilius who illustrated the Melisende Psalter, a landmark manuscript created in the 12th century for Jerusalem Crusader Queen Melisende.”⁴

The restoration to the Church of the Nativity required the three Christian denominations that share it to agree to the construction. These are the Franciscans, Armenian Orthodox and Greek Orthodox. Relations haven’t always been that great between these groups.⁵ But, when I visited things seemed very cordial. The apse is very typically Armenian, with their abundant lamps, iconostasis and crucifix. Some Armenian monks were involved in worship in the apse as we pilgrims stood in a long line four people wide, inching our way toward the grotto. Occasionally, one of the bothers would bellow “Sssiiiiilleennnccceee!!!!”

Everything would get quite for about five seconds, a holy peace, and then the low murmuring of the crowd would start up again, eventually growing to talking level and then louder. To access the grotto, you go down a few rounded steps, through the small door, and into the cave. I make that sound easy, it isn't. The crush of the crowd can make those steps perilous. But once you are inside, you have space and a moment to be in that holy place. There is an altar with a brilliant silver star under it, following the Greek (I believe) legend that the star fell to the earth, guiding the magi to the exact spot where Jesus was born. And a few feet away is a manger.

Perhaps you're asking yourself, "What's all this business about a cave? Wasn't Jesus born in a stable? This is perhaps the most surprising part of Bethlehem for those from the West. It is a matter of translation and tradition and the way we live. In Jesus' time, homes in Bethlehem would have been hewn in the rock (as you'll also see in Nazareth). Further, animals weren't kept out in some barn out in the field generally, but rather in a lower section of one end of the home. The family, and guests, lived and slept in an upper space, and the animals lower and near the door to be led out by their owner in the morning.⁶

Perhaps the conversation when the holy family arrived in Bethlehem went something like this, "well, all the space up here is already taken. But you can sleep down there, if you want." "But, we've traveled all the way from Nazareth, and look at Mary, the baby could come at any time. We're family, don't you have any space upstairs?" "I'm sorry, only down here. You are welcome to it." You'll remember Joseph is from Bethlehem originally, so he surely went to a relative's house (or inn) to find lodging. Humbly, they take what shelter they can get. And no sooner than that does Jesus arrive. The light of the world, born into this place. Soon to be adored by shepherds and kings, angels and us.

A blessed Advent, Christmas and Epiphany to all.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick

¹ Brooks, Phillip, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," in *Hymnal 1982* (New York: Church Publishing, 1985), #78 & 79.

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O_Little_Town_of_Bethlehem

³ Montgomery, James, "Hail to the Lord's Anointed," in *Hymnal 1982* (New York: Church Publishing, 1985), #616

⁴ <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/05/Greeks-Geographic-exhibit-ancient-treasure-Agamemnon-Alexander-archaeology-museum/church-of-nativity-bethlehem-restoration-mosaics-angel/>

⁵ <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/07/08/italians-restore-900-year-old-mosaics-at-bethlehem-church/>

⁶ See, Kenneth E. Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels*

- Mary's Feast -

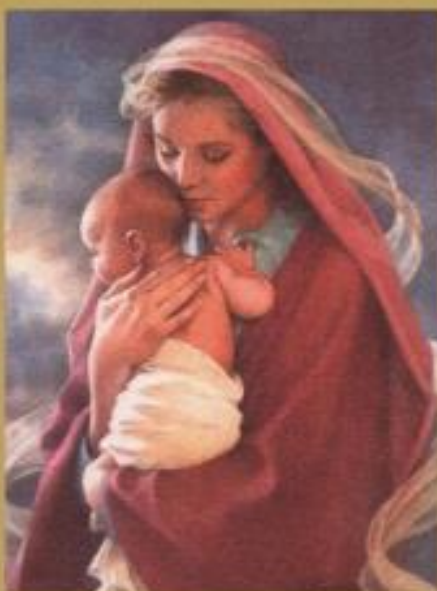
Mary's Feast

DINNER & BABY SHOWER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

6:00pm

Bella Collina Towne & Golf Club



- Mary's Feast -

About Mary's Feast

Each year, women from San Clemente gather for a fundraising event in support of San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO) called Mary's Feast. Money raised from ticket sales, as well as baby items and monetary gifts, are distributed to under-resourced Marine families via an annual "baby shower" given by SCMFO. Last year, Mary's Feast contributed:

- \$5,000 used to purchase school supplies for the San Onofre Elementary School at the north end of Camp Pendleton.
- 45 donation packages containing infant clothing, diapers, blankets, bottles, etc. given to under resourced military families in January at the annual SCMFO baby shower.
- Invitations for 20 Marine wives to attend Mary's Feast (we actually had 16 and are hoping to invite 20 this year).

How to Participate

1. Purchase a dinner ticket for \$50.00 and attend the Mary's Feast Event on December 5th. When you come to the event, bring a new, unwrapped baby article (clothing, diapers, blankets, bottles, gift cards, etc.) for an infant or child up to 12 months.

2. If you are unable to attend the event, you can bring to church a new, unwrapped baby article (clothing, diapers, blankets, bottles, gift cards, etc.) for an infant or child up to 12. Your items will be delivered to the dinner.

- Items will be collected after all services on November 25th & December 2nd, and you can deliver your items to the parish office Monday - Friday no later than December 2nd.
- If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please send your tax deductible donation to St. Andrew's by-the-Sea UMC ("SABTS"), and note "Mary's Feast" in the memo field:

Mary's Feast
Attn: Chris McCann, Planning Team Leader
2307 Via Zafiro
San Clemente, CA 92673

If you would like to attend the dinner, please contact Jayne Lane to make your reservation. Jayne can be reached at 774.722.4644 or jaynelane05@hotmail.com



Christmas Flower Offerings

Due: Sunday, December 16th

Envelopes and forms will be available in each bulletin, as well as during Coffee Hour, beginning Sunday, November 25th.

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

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 22nd

9:00am

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



- Christmas Cards -



Dear friends,

To thank you for your generosity and support of our church and her mission, we'd like to offer you an early Christmas gift! We've purchased Christmas cards so all our wonderful parishioners can invite their friends and family to share in worship during our upcoming Christmas services. These beautiful embossed cards include an invitation flyer to the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services at St. Clement's.

If you would like to accept our gift to you, please email us at: info@scbythesea.org with the following information:

1. First & Last Name
2. Phone Number
3. The number of local friends and family you wish to send Christmas greetings to!

Christmas cards are also available at Coffee Hour for you to pick up and send!

- Share the Love -

In the words of an old Irish blessing,

*The light of the Christmas star to you
The warmth of a home and hearth to you
The cheer and good will of friends to you
The hope of a childlike heart to you
The joy of a thousand angels to you
The love of the Son and
God's peace to you*

As St. Clement's prepares to celebrate the joy of Christ's coming, we are reminded of the gifts of God's love for us and our love for each other. Out of this loving abundance, we also are called to remember our neighbors. The Outreach Committee offers these suggestions of ways we can share with others this Christmas:

* Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots

The primary goal of Marine Toys for Tots "is to help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children through the gift of new toys." St. Clement's will be serving as a toy drop-off point for the San Clemente community again this year. Please bring new, unwrapped toys to donate from November 25th through December 16th.

San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO)

The mission of San Clemente Military Family Outreach "is to provide emergency assistance to qualifying military families in Camp Pendleton, responding promptly to requests for financial or material aid, as well as conducting seasonal morale projects for military families within the community served." If you and your family are interested in 'adopting' a military family at Camp Pendleton to brighten their Christmas celebration, please contact SCMFO at <https://militaryfamilyoutreach.com/index.html> or 949-388-2812.

Bicycle Project

Between now and Dec. 25th you can make a donation to the church office, with "Bicycles" written in the memo line. These funds will be sent to the Diocese of Mara in Tanzania, where they will be used to purchase bicycles for priests who have to travel between parishes and to serve their parishioners.

Family Assistance Ministries (FAM)

The Outreach Committee voted to donate \$250 to FAM to support their Annual Children's Christmas Party, which provides hundreds of children with the opportunity to celebrate. Family Assistance Ministries "is a faith-based charitable non-profit organization assisting those in need in Orange County with resources for food, shelter, and personalized supportive counsel and aid," working to help families and individuals become self-sufficient.

Questions about these opportunities? Want to become more involved in St. Clement's Outreach activities? Please contact Jan Genevro at outreach@scbythesea.org.

- Stewardship -

PLEDGE DRIVE 2019

Transforming Generosity

Pledge Cards due December 16th

Hopefully, you have received your pledge card for 2019. If not, please watch your mailboxes for a letter from Fr. Patrick and a pledge card for 2019.

Please prayerfully discern your level of support for this parish and the important ministry we do every day and return your pledge card as soon as possible, so the vestry can formulate the budget for next year. Many thanks to you and those who have already submitted their 2019 pledge cards!



- December Events -

A Gentleman in Moscow

by Amor Towles

Tuesday, December 4th

5:00pm at Rocco's in San Clemente



For more information, please contact: Mary Ann Morrison at (949) 361-0031



Sandwich Making for the Welcome Inn

Please join us in the Parish Hall on

Sunday, December 16th at 9:00am

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



Social Justice Book Club

When Helping Hurts

By Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

Thursday, January 17th, at 7:00pm

in the St. Clement's Library

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



When: December 19th 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: ringlish@cox.net



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

- January Events -

Not My Daughter
by Barbara Delinsky

Tuesday, January 8th
5:00pm at Rocco's in San Clemente



For more information, please contact: Mary Ann Morrison at (949) 361-0031



Sandwich Making for the Welcome Inn

Please join us in the Parish Hall on

Sunday, January 20th at 11:00am

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



Social Justice Book Club

When Helping Hurts

By Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

Thursday, January 17th, at 7:00pm
in the St. Clement's Library

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



When: January 16th 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



When: Friday, January 18th at

Hosted By: Mark & Judy Johnson

264 Avenida Vista Del Oceana, San Clemente, CA

NOTE: Please RSVP. Your name needs to be registered with the guard gate to ensure you can attend!

- Annual Meeting of the Parish -

ANNUAL MEETING *2019*

Sunday, January 27th

Combined Service at 9:00am
Followed by brunch in the Parish Hall
and the 2019 Annual Meeting



PLEASE NOTE:

All reports are due by January 10th!



- Dec. Birthdays - - Jan. Birthdays -

1-Colin Casey	19-Kelly Counsellor	25-Norah Feeney	5-Mary Miranda	18-Tom Card
4-Celia Lovell	19-Leticia DeLeon	26-Gus Carrillo	11-Barbara Fox	23-Kathleen Baxter
7-Don Morgan	20-Neal Harrison	26-Jean Hattem	11-Dale Zeh	23-Lauri Zeh
7-Georgina Williams	21-Jason Feeney	27-Isabel Grigg	13-Roland Daigle	25-James Merriman
8-Will Walleit	22-Iridiana Farias	28-Claus Beneker	15-Gerry Beegan	30-Reese Golay
12-Bill Loftus	25-Rocco Carbonara	30-Andrea Morris	16-Patty Clarke	
13-Joe Silva	25-Julia Darden Lentz			
16-Ken Hite				



- Dec. Anniveraries - - Jan. Anniveraries -

27-Larry & Pat Sawyer
28-DJ & Marjorie Atkinson
29-Jack & Patty Clarke

25-Kevin & Michelle Higgins



Bible Studies



Every Wednesday
in the Library

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

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