

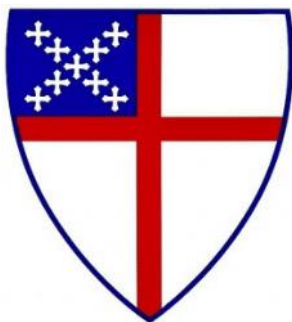


THE ANCHOR

MARCH 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



Contagion...

Unless you have sworn off the News as a Lenten discipline, you've surely heard about the Coronavirus (or COVID-19). To paraphrase one of the great Psalms, "Fear is all around" (31:13). And there are calls for the Church to take action, to protect our parishioners and neighbors. There is something to that but also something to showing that in the face of such worldwide panic and fear, we remain resilient and faithful. There have been suggestions, for example, that we don't pass the Peace, at least in the way that we presently do, but rather greet one

another in the love of Christ with a nod or friendly wave. I've heard of churches that "pass the Purell," after passing the Peace, and most everyone takes a squirt.

Some churches have also elected to change the way that they distribute Communion. For example, the priests will either exit just before the Eucharistic Prayer and wash their hands or there may be sani-wipes on the altar itself for them to use before touching the host or vessels. I'll admit my challenges with some of these suggestions. I recall earlier epidemics and the fear that surrounded them. I remember the Roman Catholics, during flu season, removing the chalice at Communion. When I said, "wait a minute, you all believe in Transubstantiation, and the Blood of Christ cannot hurt you!" I remember someone I love responding, "Yes, but it isn't the Blood that is the problem, it is the cup!"

When I was a seminarian and served in a continuing-care facility, where they were experiencing a MRSA outbreak, we distributed the Communion without the faithful having the ability to touch either the bread or the chalice before we put it in their mouths. In that case, almost everyone in the congregation was immunocompromised. In that setting, it made sense to me. Of course, in our own congregations, we don't always know who is immunocompromised and who is not. What I do know is that those who are especially compromised already tend to take actions to protect themselves. They bring hand sanitizer and discretely do their own ablution after the Peace.

When I've gone to visit people in the hospital, I'm very often asked to "gown up," which involves a gown, gloves and a mask. This is for the benefit of the patient (who knows what this priest has!). And, I'm on board with that. There have been times when the reverse was true also, and I hope that I never hesitate to show loving care to anyone out of fear for my personal safety.

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Of course, nothing causes panic like a contagion. It has always been so. In that same Psalm quoted above, the Psalmist describes his own experience with what seems a physical illness. “my strength fails me...my bones are consumed.” and then the isolation that accompanies sickness, “when they see me in the street, they avoid me” (31:10-11).

So, what should we do? What would most evidence Christ’ love in the world? What would be an approach that demonstrates our faithfulness while still making good use of our God-given reason? We certainly don’t want anyone to become ill, especially out of an encounter here. But we also follow the one who was willing to lay hands upon lepers, who everyone else shunned. Do we dramatically change the way we’ve always done things here, through prior epidemics or flu seasons? What do you think? Personally, I can’t image the Peace here ever being less exuberant than it presently is. I don’t want to imagine it so. We touch! And often embrace. And to me that is an integral part of our Christian witness.

Nonetheless, we are not anti-scientific, nor do we bury our heads in the sand. We also don’t give into our fears, because we trust in the Lord. I think of another Psalm, “You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day; of the plague that stalks in the darkness, nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day... Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation, There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling” (91:5-6, 9-10). So, we live by faith, and we do not allow our fears to overwhelm us. But we do act responsibly and take appropriate actions where warranted. We are faithful and rational.

To that end, if you are not feeling well, know that you have a “pass” on worship that Sunday. Christ understands your need to rest and get better. Also, I am willing to bring you Communion. Please let us know, so we can pray and care for you. Know, if you are ill and unable to come to church, that even the desire for Communion is sufficient, for God knows the true desires of our hearts. I understand the urge to be in church. There have been times when I’ve been ill, and gone to church, needing the healing power of the Word and the Eucharist. I isolated myself, sitting apart and “waving the peace.” If I coughed, I did so into my sleeve or a tissue. These are reasonable precautions hopefully that everyone takes.

However, for now, if I’m sick, I’ll stay home. If you are sick, you can stay home.

In this world-wide conversation, some have argued that being a “Purell congregation” is even evangelistic. It shows those who may be church-shopping or are new to the church that we take these matters seriously. I learned that a former rector here kept a large bottle of hand sanitizer next to the statue of St. Clement at the front doors. I’ve put one there. If you want to use it after the Peace, please don’t hesitate. No one is judging you. We all make our own decisions about these matters, and what is the right balance between self-protection and being fully present to others. For your comfort, I and other St. Clement’s ministers, will cleanse our hands with hand sanitizing wipes before the Eucharist.

The Episcopal Church office recently suspended travel by staff to six places most affected by the Coronavirus (48 countries have reported cases as of this writing). The Chief Operating Officer for the Episcopal Church said, “While we don’t want to overreact, we do not want to underestimate the potential of this situation either.” That seemed like a balanced view, even while I was surprised by the moratorium on the travel. Staff that were traveling to any of those six countries were also asked to “self-quarantine” for 14 days upon their return.¹ Is that something that the rest of us should do as well? If you are travelling to China, Japan, Korea, Iran, Italy or Hong Kong, do you plan to self-quarantine upon your return?

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We are a people of hope, not of fear. I do not believe that Coronavirus will be the end of us. I do not think you need to be overly anxious about this contagion. Being well-informed is always good.² Being responsible to yourself and others is always right, even while you live into the reckless, inclusive love of Jesus Christ. Know also that, while there is no evidence that the chalice is problematic, if you have any anxiety about receiving the consecrated wine at Communion, then you should feel free to self-exclude. Communion received in one form (i.e. the consecrated bread) is still Full Communion. We'll follow the guidance of St. Paul, "whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31). I will say more on these matters on Sunday.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick

¹ https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2020/02/27/episcopal-church-limits-global-travel-over-coronavirus-spread-as-dioceses-urge-precautions/?utm_source=ENS+English&utm_campaign=7c678535da-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_02_27_10_08&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d473cad2d8-7c678535da-136018621

² This site had the most rational advice that I had seen as yet, <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/us-disaster-program/faith-based-response-to-epidemics/>



Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, March 17th

7:00 pm

We will meet in the Library

- *Men's Fellowship*

Join us for our March Madness Men's Fellowship Event!



We will have many of your favorite Final Four foods: chips, salsa, guacamole, wings, and a few other surprises!

**Saturday March 28th
@ around 5:00pm**

There will be plenty of food & fellowship.
Just bring your own beer, wine, soda, water...

At the home of Beto & Laura Casellas
34300 Lantern Bay Drive Unit 34
Dana Point, CA

Please RSVP:
Betolaura@mac.com
or

Text to Beto at 704-661-6994

- *Annual Lenten Women's Retreat*



Bishop Diane's Annual Lenten Women's Retreat **Pray, Play and Praise!**

A series of workshops that encourage the expansion of the way we relate and connect with each other and God.

Saturday, March 21, 2020

8:30am to 2:00pm Childcare provided

Hosted by the Women of Emmanuel Fullerton

1145 W. Valencia Mesa Dr. Fullerton, CA 92833

The retreat will be "a day to relax, refresh spiritually and enjoy a series of workshops that encourage expansion of the way we relate and connect with each other and God," according to the event announcement

Registration \$40 includes all workshop materials, continental breakfast, snacks, and lunch.

Register at <https://www.emmanuelfullerton.org/register>

- *United Thank Offering*

One way to show our gratitude for our blessings is to help others not so fortunate. Our UTO Ministry allows us to show our appreciation by placing coins in a Little Blue Box each time we are thankful. Twice a year the Episcopal Church collects these “Little Blue Boxes” and uses the funds to support projects worldwide that were “not in the budget”. Thanks to your gratitude and generosity St Clements By-The-Sea collected 47 boxes and a total of \$847.51 last year. When combined with other Episcopal Church’s the total for 2019 was \$1,535,740.55.

Some of the projects funded in 2019 with collections in 2018 were as follows.

Episcopal Migration Ministries. Builds refugee skills and understanding of the community

Faith and Grace Green Houses in Iowa. Allowing neighbors who are food insecure to plant and grow foods to share.

Building a birthing and prenatal center in South Sudan.

Renovate basement at St. Peters so the soup kitchen guests can shower and do laundry.

These are just a few examples of the 33 grants awarded in 2019.

Our first collection of those little blue boxes will occur in May 2020 and a second ingathering in November. Boxes are always available in the church office and in a basket at the coffee hour signup table. Please take one and keep it on your desk, dresser, or in your kitchen. Then when you notice the good things in your life, make an offering, in thanksgiving, to the box. If one gets filled, take another. Give thanks to God for your blessings, and though your blue box blessings, you give blessings to others.

Mary Ann Morrison

UTO coordinator

- *Mary's Feast Baby Shower Report*



The San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO) hosted a luncheon baby shower on January 25th for 42 military wives from Camp Pendleton. Each mother-to-be, and their guest, were treated to a delicious lunch, played baby bingo, and left with baby clothes, diapers, and other baby needs wrapped in a beautiful handmade quilt. In addition, each mother was able to choose an additional gift from a selection of car seats, high chairs, play mats, etc.

In early January, St. Clement's collected new baby clothes for this event. As always, our congregation was very generous, and we collected enough baby outfits to help fill the quilts with these much needed, and appreciated, baby outfits.

The Board of Directors of SCMFO, and the volunteers from Mary's Feast send a big thank-you for making this annual event so successful.



March 6 & March 27
5pm-7pm

Cost: \$10.00

St. Clement's will be hosting a Fish Fry on March 6th! Bring a friend and stop by for a delicious fried fish dinner.

Each Dinner Includes:

Fried Fish	Peas
Cole Slaw	Bread
Cookie	Drink

ST. CLEMENT'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH
202 AVENIDA ARAGON, SAN CLEMENTE CA 92672

St. Clement's by-the-Sea

CELTIC ☘️BRUNCH☘️

in honor of St. Patrick

MARCH 15TH

sign up during coffee hour

- Godly Play

Godly Play, I Wonder...Join Us

Sundays at 10 in the Education Wing - Children Ages 4 - 9

Godly Play is a Montessori –style curriculum that invites children into the world of wonder as they explore what it means to come closer to God through Biblical stories, prayer and creative response. Each week we follow the same format, as we introduce a new story. Our morning looks like this:

Join the Circle - on the rug to share about our week

Circle of the Church Year – Church Year Calendar and liturgical colors get updated and their meaning highlighted each week

The Story – Each week we hear a new story about people coming close to God, and wonder about how we are a part of that story

Prayer Circle – We conclude our Story Circle by praying our way around the Circle together

Our Work – This is the children's time to respond to the story through art, building structures, or perhaps using the time to get out the pieces and tell a story themselves

Eucharist – We rejoin our families in the sanctuary for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Story Schedule – See our schedule for March below.

Mar. 1	Faces of Easter I
Mar. 8	Faces of Easter II
Mar. 15	St. Patrick
Mar. 22	Faces of Easter III/IV
Mar. 29	Faces of Easter V



- *Mark Your Calendars*

CIVIL DISCOURSE



'Make Me an Instrument of Peace: A Guide to Civil Discourse' online course debuts ahead of 2020 engagement

The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations and Department of Faith Formation, in partnership with ChurchNext, a ministry of Forward Movement, has released "Make Me an Instrument of Peace: A Guide to Civil Discourse." This five-part online curriculum covers the following topics: civil discourse in context, tenets for civil discourse, values-based conversations, the complexities of policy, and sacred space for debate. Read more at www.episcopalchurch.org



Echo Park exhibit features paintings by veteran priest Warner Traynham

"Abstractions in Oil," an exhibit of paintings by the Rev. Canon Warner Traynham, retired rector of St. John's, Los Angeles, will be on view at St. Paul's Commons **through March 31**. Selected paintings are available for purchase from the artist. St. Paul's Commons is located at 840 Echo Park Ave., Los Angeles 90026, with two levels of free secured parking.

For further information, email media@ladiocese.org or call 213.482.2040, ext. 240. Read more at www.episcopalchurch.org

- *March Events* -



Sandwich Making for the Welcome Inn

Please join us in the Parish Hall on

Sunday, March 15th at 8:00am

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

social justice book club

Everyday Justice: The Global Impact of our Daily Choices

By Julie Clawson

Thursday, March 19th at 7pm

Home of Hilary & Francis Viscount

24386 Antilles Way - Dana Point 92629

Questions? Please contact :

Jan Geneviro at outreach@scbythesea.org.

Laura Casellas at laura.casellas@yahoo.com

Hilary Vicounty at hviscount@gmail.com



When: March 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.

Laundry will be done in two hour shifts between 2:00pm-6:00pm

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

- *March Events* -



The Memory Club

Learn memory-enhancing strategies and skill building exercises for yourself or loved one.
Group discussion and humor included!

NOW AT A LATER TIME

Wednesday March 25, 2019

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Please **RSVP by March 20** to:
secretary@clcsancllemente.org or (949) 496-2621
so we have enough food for everyone!

Yummy lunch provided



With Dr. Jane Mahakian

Dr. Mahakian is a Gerontologist who has worked and advocated for 30 years in the "realm of forgetfulness" and specializes in helping adults with cognitive care.



Christ Lutheran Church
35522 Camino Capistrano
San Clemente CA 92672

SAVE THE DATE

Called to the Wall 2020 planned for March 28

Called to the Wall, the annual pilgrimage to the U.S. – Mexico border in support of immigrants' rights sponsored by the dioceses of Los Angeles and San Diego, will be held this year on Saturday, March 28. Plans are being finalized; watch for more information in the weeks ahead.



Ministry Fair



Opportunities to learn about a wide variety of church-related topics, plus community worship and fellowship, will be offered at the diocesan **Ministry Fair on Saturday, March 7 at Campbell Hall in Studio City.**

All lay and clergy members of the diocesan community are invited to the fair, which will begin at 8 a.m. with coffee and registration. Two morning workshop sessions will be followed by Eucharist. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the noon break.

The fair will continue with two additional workshop sessions in the afternoon. Some workshops will be offered in Spanish.

Among the workshops planned for the event are:

- Social Enterprise, led by the Rev. Canon Jaime Edward-Acton
- Words & Worship, led by the Rev. Canon Susan Russell and the Rev. Norma Guerra
- Refugees and asylum-seekers, led by Meghan Taylor, executive director of IRIS (Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Service)
- Spiritual Direction, led by the Rev. Elizabeth Rechter and others from Stillpoint: The Center for Christian Spirituality
- The ministry of deacons (presenters to be announced)
- Latino Ministry (presenters to be announced)
- Communication strategies and photography for congregations (presented by members of the diocesan office of communications and public affairs).

More detailed information about workshop offerings will be published as it becomes available. Applications for additional workshop presenters may be submitted in English or Spanish. Exhibitors from diocesan ministries are also invited to take part in the fair; cost is \$25, which includes a table. Because the exhibit area will be in the courtyard, exhibitors will be encouraged to bring a pop-up shelter.

There is no charge to attend the Ministry Fair or take part in the workshops. (The offering during Eucharist will go toward offsetting costs.) Pre-registration is required. For security purposes, attendees will need to print the confirmation page to be admitted to the parking area (in Campbell Hall's north lot). Complimentary coffee and snacks will be available during registration in the morning, but attendees will need to bring a sack or picnic lunch.

Campbell Hall is located at 4533 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Studio City 91607. For additional information, contact the Rev. Laurel Coote at laurelcoote@pacbell.net or Samantha Wylie at swylie@ladiocese.org.

March

Birthdays

1– Carolyn Ferreira

2– Bill Green

7-Teresa Hite

10 –Jack Hattem

11-Jane Fladd

15-Olga Harris

20-Robert Kensler

22– Pam Kerr

25-Thomas Faheny

27-Cheryl Knapp

29-Audrey Daigle

29-Janice Genevro

30-Gloria Jean Rodriguez

31-Leo Gibbins



March

Anniversaries

10-Jay & Cindy Young

26-Russ & Tina Inglish

26– Juvenal Delgado & Diana Olmedo

27-Russ & Pam Kerr



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