

Ecclesiastical Origins of St Clements University

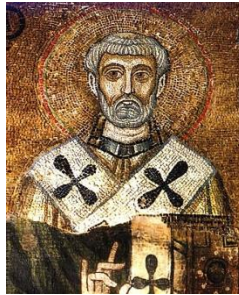
By

Roderick O. Ford, Litt.D.¹

St. Clements University is named in honor of the St. Clement Parish in Jersey, Channel Islands. The St. Clement Parish is the ancestral homeland of the Le Cornu Family, which is the primary benefactor of St. Clements University. The Le Cornu Family's family historical records are preserved in the Parish Church of St. Clement (Jersey, Channel Island) and may be found at: <https://stclementschurch.org.je/explore/outside-the-church/churchyard-records/>. Dr. David Le Cornu, who is a member of the Le Cornu Family, founded St Clements University in 1995 and currently serves as its President.

As a British crown dependency, St. Clement, Jersey (Channel Islands) is Anglican, and its official church, the Parish Church of St. Clement, became a parish church no later than 1067, because it is known that Duke William II of Normandy granted half the tithes of the church to Montivilliers Abbey in Upper Normandy, and only parish churches were permitted to collect tithes.

Hence, St Clements University has Anglican roots within the Channel Island of Jersey, a "crown dependency" of the United Kingdom, which oversees its military protection and international relations. The Saint Clement Parish, which is one of the twelve parishes of Jersey in the Channel Islands, is named for St. Clement I of Rome.



Church tradition holds that St Clement I was the second or third Pope after St. Peter. And he is listed by Irenaeus and Tertullian as Bishop of Rome, holding office from 88 to his death in 99. St Clement I is also considered to be the first Apostolic Father of the Church, one of the three chief Apostolic Fathers, together with Polycarp and Ignatius of Antioch. Legend has it that St. Clement was *martyred by being attached to an anchor* and thrown into the Black Sea.

For this reason, the parish flag of St. Clement, Jersey shows a yellow anchor on a blue background. A golden anchor on a blue background is the symbol for the martyred Saint

¹ Roderick Ford, Esq. is the **Chancellor of St. Clements University** and of the **St. Clements University Education Group**. He holds the degree of Doctor of Letters (Christian Theology: Law and Religion, '16) from St. Clements University. Currently, he is a practicing administrative lawyer in the United States of America.

Clement the First, Bishop of Rome:



The university crest for St Clements University also bears the same symbols as the parish flag of St Clement Parish (Jersey, Channel Islands), including the anchor on a blue and golden background:



The Parish Church of St. Clement is one of the twelve "*Ancient Parish Churches*" of Jersey, Channel Islands. In ancient Latin documents the church is referred to as *Ecclesia Sancti Clementis de Petravilla in Gersuis* which translates to "the Church of St. Clement on the estate of Peter in Jersey."



The current rector of the Parish Church of St. Clement is Canon David Shaw MBE; E-mail: stclementjersey@outlook.com; Tel: The Rectory 01534 851992 or the Church Office 01534 745260. Currently, St Clements University, under the leadership of its current Chancellor Dr. Roderick O. Ford, is seeking ways to affiliate and work with the Parish Church of St Clement (Jersey, Channel Islands) in carrying out charitable missionary work.

Founded in 1995 and registered in the Turks and Caicos Islands, St Clements University's global mission is to do the charitable work of bringing tertiary education to communities around the world that are in most need of receiving it. You may contact St Clements University, ATTN: Office of the Chancellor, at E-mail: admin@stclements.edu; or visit us online at www.stclements.edu.