

## FIRST READING

### **A reading from the second book of the Kings 4:8-11,13-16**

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.' One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. He said to his servant Gehazi, 'Call our Shunammitess. Tell her this: "Look, you have gone to all this trouble for us, what can we do for you? Is there anything you would like said for you to the king or to the commander of the army?"' But she replied, 'I live with my own people about me.' 'What can be done for her then?' he asked. Gehazi answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. This time next year,' he said 'you will hold a son in your arms.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/:** Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord

## SECOND READING

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3-4, 8-11**

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him anymore. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.**

**Praise God who call you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.**

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL READING

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:37-42**

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'



**Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham**

**Parish House/Office: 9583 6161**

**Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au**

**Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au**

**Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox**

**Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne**

**Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy**

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## **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2020**

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Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of the Assumption, Please God we're all okay, living with these re-imposed restrictions, in addition to the many safety measures in place, designed to see us through these extraordinary days, ...or should I say, months!

I'm writing to you on this occasion to inform you of an imminent change to my priestly responsibilities. On Thursday of this week (25<sup>th</sup> June) I received confirmation of my pending appointment as Parish Priest of St Agnes Highett, which formally commences on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2020. This appointment will be in addition to my current appointment here as Parish Priest of OLA. Archbishop Comensoli's letter to all parishioners within both parish communities, which is included in this week's digital mail out, will provide you with important and greater detail. Suffice to say this will mean some change for all concerned. Our historical link to St Agnes' Parish as our mother parish, and the uncertainty the St Agnes community has lived with for just over twelve months, has meant that the partnership of our two parishes was within the realm of possibility, not least of all due to the shortage of priests. What was considered a possibility will now be our shared reality, and I hope and pray that I, along with your support and assistance, can continue to meet the pastoral, liturgical and administrative needs, as they present within both communities.

As this news is so fresh, there has been little time to address many of the logistics, however I hope that in the coming weeks, we can explore what may be possible alongside any changes that may be unavoidable. Mass timetabling, Sacramental celebrations, pastoral planning and finance meetings, school responsibilities, administration and maintenance, as well as the broader pastoral outreach to both communities, will undoubtedly require careful and sensitive consideration and consultation. We'll need to proceed gently, with wisdom and resolve. Much more will no doubt come to light in the days and weeks ahead, and so I ask that we pray for one another, asking both Mary, the Mother of God - Our Lady of the Assumption, and St Agnes to put a good word in for us and all concerned.

Do take care, and I again commend to you the Archbishop's letter, and ask for your prayerful support, particularly in this transitional time ahead.

Yours sincerely in Christ, Fr Alan Fox

**PARISH PRIEST:**

Fr Alan Fox 9583 6161  
 Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:**

Frances North 9583 6161  
 Email: Frances.North@cam.org.au  
 Christine Dunne 9583 6161

**PSYCHOLOGIST:**

AnneMaree Eddy 0403 284 536

**PARISH OFFICE:**

9583 6161  
 Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm  
 Secretary: Lisa Harris  
 Bookkeeper: Ann Fitzgerald  
 Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

**PARISH SCHOOL:**

**Our Lady of the Assumption** 9584 9488  
 Principal: Mr Richard Jacques  
 Email: principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

**MASS TIMES:**

Saturday (Suspended) 6:30 pm  
 Sunday (Suspended) 9:00 am, 11:00 am  
 Tuesday 6.00 pm  
 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.15 am  
 Saturday 9.00 am

**A limit of 20 people may attend each Mass. In order to meet our legal obligations, we ask you please phone the Parish Office to book in.**

**COMMUNION SERVICE:**

Monday (Suspended) 9.15 am

**RECONCILIATION:**

Saturdays: (Suspended) 9.30am & 6pm

**BAPTISMS: (Contact the office for more info)**

Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. 6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism and Application Form available on our parish website.

**WEDDINGS: (Contact the office for more info)**

By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: 9583 6161

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year A**  
**27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2020**

**PRAYING FOR:**

Margaret Lanigan, Iris Nankivell,  
 Joanne Dib.....

**We also remember:**

Jesse Bird, Maureen Bahen,  
 Louise Fennessy, Algy Buck.....

*...and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.*

**Focus on the Readings...**

To follow Jesus means putting other important relationships second. It means taking up the cross and perhaps facing the same fate that Jesus met—persecution, suffering, death—but remaining faithful leads to eternal life. In ancient times, a person's agent was seen to be the person themselves, and here Jesus is giving great dignity to the apostolate of following him by saying it derives from the Father himself through Jesus. In the Scriptures, a prophet is a person who speaks for God. To be a prophet, one must have a very clear understanding of what God wants, and the task is to transmit that message to the people. There are many instances of the people rejecting the message of the prophets. Some scholars translate 'holy man' as 'just man' or someone who does the will of God. To recognise and welcome the truth is to be a disciple. The cost of discipleship may be high but the rewards are great.



The Archdiocese of Melbourne provides a **Coronavirus Update** on its website where you can download the latest information and guidelines:

<https://cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19/>

**BOOKING IN FOR WEEKDAY**

**MASSES:** It is wonderful to be able to celebrate the Eucharist as a community of faith. The numbers permitted are 20 at all the moment, so please ensure you ring the parish office as soon as possible to book in.

**COUNSELLING:** All counselling will now be over the phone or video consultations due to COVID-19. please contact AnneMaree Eddy directly on: 0403 284 536, and leave a message indicating you are a parishioner.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) are accessible online:

[www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass](http://www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass)  
 Navigate the daily Scripture readings for the week ahead using the right-hand column.

**ONLINE RESOURCES FOR FAITH FORMATION & INFORMATION:**

**The Christian Classics Ethereal Library** is a digital library of hundreds of classic Christian books: <https://ccel.org/>

**Lectio Divina June 2020** for daily prayer: <https://ocarm.org/en/carmel/lectio-divina-june-2020>

**The Holy See** to view the written works of Pope Francis and news from the Vatican: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

Unmasking God: Revealing God in the ordinary is a book of reflections where Daniel O'Leary puts us in touch with the beauty of relationship with God through the seasons, events and experiences of everyday life. It has particular relevance today, as we navigate this very different winter.

**WINTER: THE GRACE OF BELIEVING**

**When the soul dances** - Instead of being drugged and drained by relentless routine, we should sway to the present music of each new day and reconnect with the essence that we all share together.

**Everywhere and nowhere** - It is communication that absorbs so much time in modern life. Periods of stillness are considered a luxury, yet those times of silent contemplation connect us with the earth and with God.

**Safe haven for the lost** - We are all wounded human beings, and the church is there to tell us that it is possible to start over again. But its message of the Saviour is not the preserve of the privileged, it is a beacon of love for all those struggling in the obscurity

**Leap in the dark** - Many of us shy away from the challenge of opening our minds and our hearts to God but unless we can surrender to him fully, we will never complete our final journey.



"I can't go out because of the virus" sounds weak, whiny and boring.

Try this instead:

*"I've sworn an oath of solitude until the pestilence is purged from the lands."*

That sounds more principled, valiant and heroic - and people might even think you are carrying a sword.