

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

40:1-5, 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/: Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Peter **3:8-14**

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with

a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark **1:1-8**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

St Agnes' Parish Highett

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

5th / 6th December, 2020



The prophet Isaiah brought a message of hope and comfort to the people of Israel who were in exile in Babylon. Despite their failings, God is ever merciful and has promised them a new beginning. John the Baptist appears in the line of the great prophet, and again promises Israel the chance of a new beginning if they repent and turn again towards God. The emphasis in Mark's portrait of John the Baptist is very much that of the subordinate. John's self-effacing manner makes it clear that he is not the one who is promised, but the one who is to prepare the way. The emphasis in John's preaching is on judgment; for Jesus it is on the reign of God and salvation. Advent is also a time of new beginnings, and John the Baptist's 'voice in the wilderness' is a personal invitation to each of us to prepare a way for the Lord into our lives now. What special preparation for Christmas will you undertake this year? How may this be different from what you have done in the past?

PARISH PRIEST: HIGHETT / CHELTENHAM
Fr Alan Fox 9532 1794
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161
Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm
Secretaries: Lisa Harris / Elizabeth Sebastian

OUR SCHOOLS:

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

St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott
Email: lfoott@sahighett.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES – CHELTENHAM & HIGHETT

SATURDAY VIGIL & SUNDAY MASSES:

Limitations on the No. of attendees apply – please book in.

Saturday [St Agnes] 6:00 pm
Sunday [OLA] 9:00 am, 11:00 am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Tuesday [St Agnes Church] 9.00 am
Tuesday [OLA Church] 6.00 pm
Wednesday [OLA Church] 9.15 am
Thursday [OLA Church] 9.15 am
Friday [St Agnes Church] 9.00 am
Saturday [OLA Church] 9.00 am

The following remain suspended

COMMUNION SERVICES – OLA / St Agnes:
Monday 9.15 am / 9.00 am

RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: 9.30am

BAPTISMS: *limitations on the No. of attendees apply*
Please direct all enquiries for the Sacrament of Baptism to the Office: 9583 6161

WEDDINGS: *limitations on the No. of attendees apply*
By appointment, 6 months' notice required.
Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays).

The clergy, employees and volunteers of our two parishes are committed to upholding a duty of care to all children, young people and vulnerable adults, taking all reasonable steps to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse and harm and commit to safeguard their health and well-being.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B 5th / 6th December, 2020

PRAYING FOR:

Joseph Burke
...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Kevin Fennessy, John Smiles, Jean Wallis,
Frank Canny, Merna Monaghan
*...and all whose anniversaries
occur about this time*

We also keep in our prayers all who are sick.

VOLUNTEERS: Please make sure that your WWCC/POLICE CHECK documents are current, that is, have not expired, and copies made available to the Parish Office.

UPDATED COVID RESTRICTIONS: Stage Four restrictions now apply. General Guidelines from the Archdiocese (Update #22: 24th November, 2020) are available online at:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/covid-19>

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Please consider putting your Thanksgiving Offerings into one envelope with your number written on it and the amount. Please do the same for your presbytery offerings. This will reduce unnecessary work for the counters. Thank you for your understanding and assistance. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: Thank you to all parishioners who continue to support both the Thanksgiving and Presbytery collections through your generous contributions. Both OLA & St Agnes are now registered for online contributions.

The **CDF Pay** link for **OLA, Cheltenham** is:
<https://melbourne.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=222>

The **CDF Pay** link for **St Agnes, Highett** is:
<https://melbourne.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=190>

Thank you most sincerely to all who support the mission of both parishes.

Broadcast & Online Masses: 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral continues to be **televised live (free to air) on Channel 31** (Ch. 44 Digital TV). This Mass is also live-streamed on the Melbourne Catholic website:
melbournecatholic.org/connect/mass-online

THE CELEBRATION OF MASSES: Masses indoors may now be celebrated for up to **150** people, subject to quotient densities.

This week's Mass Timetable across the two parishes...

Tuesday	08/12	9.00am (St Agnes)
Wednesday	09/12	9.15am (OLA)
Thursday	10/12	9.15am (OLA)
Friday	11/12	9.00am (St Agnes)
Saturday	12/12	9.00am (OLA)

Saturday	12/12	6.00pm (St Agnes)
Sunday	13/12	9.00am (OLA)
	13/12	11.00am (OLA)

Please note: Due to Fr Alan's attendance at the Ordination of the new Bishop for the Diocese of Sale, there will be **no 6pm Mass at OLA on Tuesday 8th December.**

Bookings for Weekend Masses are essential, and can be made via the TryBooking.com platform:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNADH>

There is no need to book in for **Weekday Masses,** however a record of attendees must still be taken.

2020 COLUMBIAN CHRISTMAS

APPEAL: The pandemic has caused devastation in countries where Columbians work. We ask you to support the Christmas Appeal that fulfils the Gospel message *'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in'. Matt 35:36.* If you wish to donate to the Columbian Christmas Appeal go to:
www.columbian.org.au/donate/mission-appeals/

SCRIPTURE READINGS for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) online:
www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass Navigate the daily Scripture readings for the week ahead using the right-hand column

R.C.I.A.: Are you aware of anyone who's seeking to learn about the Catholic Faith? Are they interested in becoming a Catholic? Are you interested in supporting people on their journey of Faith? Next year the team at OLA will be beginning a *Journey of Faith* for any person interested in becoming a Catholic. It is a journey with a group and typically reception next Easter. We are open to all needs! The 'process' is called - The RCIA ~ *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. If you are curious or interested in participating in the group or wishing to be involved in a supportive capacity, please contact Moira 9583 4628. It is early days at this stage and we'll keep you informed.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Who are the people who have helped you to come to the way of the Lord? Who are the people who act as God's messengers for you?

- Are there obstacles that need to be removed to make a straight path for the Lord? What stops you from focusing on God?

- To repent is to have a change of heart or mind. Have you ever had a change of heart or mind over a significant person, issue or task that has led to a new approach or new way of thinking?

- The wilderness or the desert can be a silent and frightening place—and yet it is into this silence that both John and Jesus withdraw to pray. For them it became a place of deep intimacy with God. Is Advent a time to retreat into the wilderness within and listen for the voice whose cries are often missed in the busyness of life?

- Think about the times or places when you are most attuned to God's presence and God's voice. Make time this week to spend a while in this wilderness within, listening to the voice that is there.

- Repeat these words often this week and act on them in a small way each day:

*Prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight his paths.*