

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

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 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of

a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

19th / 20th December, 2020



Annunciation stories are an established literary form. There are a number of such stories in the Hebrew Scriptures—for example, the births of Isaac, Samson and Samuel—and, of course, Luke has already recorded the annunciation of John the Baptist. The purpose of the annunciation story is to let the reader know what role the person whose birth is announced will play in salvation history. In this sense, they are a literary device rather than a strictly historical narrative, although clearly based on ancient memory. In the annunciation of the birth of Jesus, however, there are elements that surpass all other annunciation stories. The emphasis is on the creative action of the Holy Spirit and on Mary's cooperation with God's will, and it establishes Jesus' transcendental origins. The role that the child to be born is to play in salvation history is defined in terms of Davidic messiahship, and on this last Sunday of Advent, we stand on the brink of the fulfilment of the promise made to Mary of messianic hope for the world. The tension of the waiting of Advent is almost over. Do you ever wonder why God has chosen you and set you on this journey of the catechumenate? Where do you think this journey will ultimately lead you?

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT

Fr Alan Fox 9583 6161 / 9532 1794
 Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161
 Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm
 Secretary: Lisa Harris

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

19th / 20th December, 2020

PRAYING FOR:

Robert Jelleff, Win Jolly
...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Peter Hoey, Sarah Jackson,
 Veronica Francis

...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:
<http://bit.ly/CDFpayCheltenham>

The **CDF Pay** link for **St Agnes, Highett** is:
<http://bit.ly/CDFpayHighett>

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:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/mass-online>



MASSES: Masses indoors may now be celebrated for up to '2 people per square metre', subject to quotient densities & electronic check-in.

RECONCILIATION: Fr Alan will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation outside in the Memorial Garden area at OLA: **5pm Tuesday 22/12 & 9.45am Wednesday 23/12**

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

Tuesday	22/12	9.00am	(St Agnes)
Tuesday	22/12	6.00pm	(OLA)
Wednesday	23/12	9.15am	(OLA)

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve 24/12	9.15am	(OLA)
	6.00pm	(OLA)
	8.00pm	(St Agnes)
Christmas Day: 25/12	8.00am	(OLA)
	9.30am	(OLA)
	11.00am	(St Agnes)
Boxing Day (Sat)	26/12	6.00pm (St Agnes)
Sunday	27/12	9.00am (OLA)
	27/12	11.00am (OLA)

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

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

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

Please note: There will be no 9.00am Mass on Saturday 26th December (Boxing Day).

SCRIPTURE READINGS

for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) online:

www.universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/mass.htm

Navigate the daily Scripture readings for the week ahead using the right-hand columns.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

The power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.' Do you feel this presence? Mary's perfect 'yes' to God's will establishes her as a model of discipleship. What are you called to say 'yes' to, to enable God to live within you? How are we called to practise discipleship in our world today? • Recall an experience of receiving a total surprise—or perhaps a shock! Was it a welcome or unwelcome experience? How did you respond? Share your stories. The 'Hail Mary' is one of the best known prayers of the church. It echoes the words of today's gospel

Hail Mary, full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Recite this prayer often this week.

Like Mary, who called on her elderly kinswoman when she was in need, call on someone this week who may be in need of company or support.

VOLUNTEERING: A reminder to all parishioners from OLA and St Agnes. In order for our parishes to comply with Child Safety Standards, it is important that **every volunteer** has a current working with children check. When updating your details on the website, please indicate which parish you are volunteering for. You can visit the site at:

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

Thank you once again for your continued support.