

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Leviticus
13:1-2, 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons. 'The man is leprosy: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
10:31-11:1

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox
Pastoral Worker: Christine Dunne
Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

St Agnes' Parish Highett

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B **13th /14th February, 2021**



This is yet another confrontation between Jesus and evil. In recent gospels, we have seen Jesus overcome possessing demons, sickness and social taboos; many of the themes merge in this text. The leper takes an audacious step in approaching Jesus, defying all the rules and conventions of his society. Despite his exclusion and isolation, he has not lost hope. Jesus reacts in exactly the opposite way from that which may be expected. He is moved by pity not revulsion. Instead of sending the man away, he responds with immense compassion to the man's courage and faith. He reaches out and touches him. This is not only an act of ritual impurity but of human foolhardiness! Not wanting to be known only as a miracle worker, Jesus orders the leper not to speak of his cure but to undergo the necessary rituals to enable him to re-enter the people of Israel. The priest should be able to recognise that in the cure of the leper, the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled and the Messiah is among them. The great irony is that by curing the leper and allowing his re-entry into the community, Jesus places himself in a position where he is forced to go out into isolation in places where no one lived.

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
Bookkeeper: Ann Fitzgerald

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:

Please book in via : <https://www.trybooking.com/BNADH>
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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

13th / 14th February 2021

PRAYING FOR:

Don Glifford, Paolina Vanzo, Ryan Kisby

...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Brian Bluett, Nita Sundberg,
Bill Wilson Snr,
Noel Antas, Franko Fode Ursa,
(Michael) Bernard Dwyer, Franca Natoli.

...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 #25: 18th January 2021) are available online at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/covid-19>

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.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:

To save on postage could you please collect your envelopes for 2021 from the Church. Many thanks to all parishioners who contribute via direct debit / credit card. The continuing generosity of parishioners is amazing and appreciated.

OLA GENTLE EXERCISE / TAI CHI:

Gentle Exercise: 10.15am - 11am, Tai Chi: 11.15am -12.15pm. Come along to Exodus Hall. Call Anastasia on: 0422 652 866. **All welcome**

OLA KNITTING GROUP: Come join the fun on Tuesday the 23rd February, at 1pm in the O.L.A. Church Meeting Room. All welcome.

Upcoming event: Our fabulous knitting stall, stay tuned! We welcome any St Agnes parishioners who would like to join our group.

SENIORS GROUP: We are looking for OLA volunteers to help run the Seniors group in 2021. The Seniors group has been at OLA for over 25 years, and we would love the group to continue. If you are free on a Thursday from 9am-12noon please contact the OLA Parish office for more details. All volunteers must hold a current WWCC and have signed the Code of Conduct Declaration.



Sincere thanks to Helen Mangan, Leonie Ryan, Cath Drury, Barb Ryan, Helen Morgan, Kevin Kelly and Anne Burke for ministering Communion to the Sick for many years. We thank them for their service as volunteers at OLA. If anyone would like to minister the Eucharist to the sick and/or housebound, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the Parish office if you are able to assist on: 9583 6161.

Readings for this liturgical year from Advent 2020 to Christ the King 2021 are taken from Year B in the Lectionary cycle

Should you wish to view the Scripture Readings for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) please visit:
<https://www.universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/>
Navigate the texts of the week ahead via the right-hand column index.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

Are there ways in which you are a 'leper'—marginalised in some way, on the outer, in pain, disfigured, not able to fit in?

Can you make the first move towards your 'cure' as the leper did?

'People from all around would come to him.' How have you experienced this drawing power of faith?

Reflect on a time when you may have felt excluded or isolated. Share your story with others.

How did you overcome the isolation or exclusion? Is it still with you? Who helped to draw you back in?

This week, reach out and speak to someone who needs a sign of acceptance or a gift of compassion.

Repeat this prayer of trust often this week:
I turn to you Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

