

## FIRST READING

### **A reading from the book of Genesis**

**9:8-15**

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/ Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

## SECOND READING

### **A reading from the First Letter of St Peter**

**3:18-22**

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe.

That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing

off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL READING

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

**1:12-15**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'



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

**Parish Office:** 9583 6161

9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192

**Email:** [Cheltenham@cam.org.au](mailto:Cheltenham@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.olacheltenham.org.au](http://www.olacheltenham.org.au)



**Parish Priest:** Fr Alan Fox

**Pastoral Worker:** Christine Dunne

**Psychologist:** AnneMaree Eddy

## **St Agnes' Parish Highett**

**Parish Office:** 9532 1794

1 Locinda Street, Highett. 3190

**Email:** [Highett@cam.org.au](mailto:Highett@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.sahighett.org.au](http://www.sahighett.org.au)



## **First Sunday of Lent – Year B** **20<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup> February, 2021**



The Baptist had promised that Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit, and at his baptism the Holy Spirit had descended on him. Now that same Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness. He is not the master of his own destiny. He is the object of the action of God. There is no murmur of opposition to this. Jesus accepts God's Spirit and God's will. As a consequence, the harmony of creation is restored and Jesus 'is with' the wild beasts. It is a fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah that 'the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and fatling together' (Isaiah 11:6-7). The new creation has begun in the person of Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. Indeed, he proclaims that the Kingdom of God is close at hand. But Jesus also summons his followers to repent and believe the Good News. Lent is a time to listen attentively to the Gospel and to turn back to the ways of the Father. It is a time for us to consider how close we are to the Kingdom of God. What is 'good' for you at this point about the Good News of Jesus Christ? Jesus heralds the new creation. What would be the perfect world for you? Describe what might be different from our present reality in the Kingdom of God. How can you help to bring this about? What tempts you away from the Good News?

**PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT**

Fr Alan Fox 9583 6161 / 9532 1794  
Email: [Alan.Fox@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au)

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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B**

**20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

**PRAYING FOR:**

Monica Crowe, Leo Gamble, May Connolly  
*...and all who died recently.*

**We also remember:**

Tom Duke, Brian Forrest.  
Liliane Tranquille, Michelle Brennan  
*...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: 18<sup>th</sup> 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 till June 2021 from the Church.* Many thanks to all parishioners who contribute via direct debit / credit card. The continued 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.



**ST BEDE'S COLLEGE OPEN**

**DAYS:** Mentone Campus – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021; East Bentleigh Campus – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Enrolments now open to all Year 5 students entering Year 7 in 2023. Website: [stbedes.catholic.edu.au](http://stbedes.catholic.edu.au)

**'LET THE HEART LISTEN'** is a 15-week formation program on Thursday mornings for people involved in listening to and supporting others. The program includes: the principles of listening and discernment, facilitated group participation, guided reflection etc. Facilitated by Sr Carole Carmody rsm, the program begins on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at Heart of Life, Rear of 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern, or online. Cost \$680. For more information or application form, contact: [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or Phone: 9890 1101.

**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**

What comforts and distractions make it difficult for you to follow Jesus' way?  
Could you dispense with these for the forty days of Lent?

Could you, instead, take on additional tasks or disciplines to assist you in walking with God?  
The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness. Share stories of times when you felt 'driven' to do a particular thing. How did you respond to this urge?

What were the consequences?  
How do you experience 'the wilderness' in your life?

What are the 'wild beasts' for you in this place?  
Who or what looks after you?  
Many catechumens are on the final approach to saying 'the time has come'. How do you feel about 'the Kingdom of God being close at hand' for you?

What extra steps can you take to prepare for full entry into the Church?  
The response to today's psalm makes a wonderful prayer for this week:  
*Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant.*

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**St Agnes' Parish Primary School** will be holding **Open Days in 2021** (in line with Covid Safe Protocols) on the following dates: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Come along anytime from 9am on these days for a guided school tour, with the school principal, Mr Lachlan Foott. If you are unable to make one of these Open Days, contact the school office to make alternate arrangements.

**O.L.A. Parish Primary School Tour Dates:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 9.15am, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 9.15am & 6pm, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 9.15am, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 9.15am, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 9.15am, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 10am, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 9.15am, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 9.15am. Applications close for Prep 2022 on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021.