

## FIRST READING

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

**22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18**

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans 8:31-34**

With God on our side who can be against us?  
Since God did not spare his own Son, but

gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**From the shining cloud**

**the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according  
to Mark 9:2-10**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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

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**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**

**Telephone:** 9532 1794

1 Locinda Street, Highett. 3190

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## **Second Sunday of Lent – Year B** **27<sup>th</sup> /28<sup>th</sup> February, 2021**

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In the biblical tradition, a mountain is often used as the setting for close encounters between God and his people. In this text, Jesus' appearance takes on the imagery of the divine. Those who join Jesus are significant: Moses was the receiver of the Law, and Elijah was the first prophet. Here the Law and the Prophets, the fullness of Scripture, meet Jesus transfigured. Understandably, the disciples are terrified, and Peter suggests they build three tents. This would allow them to remain on the mountain and contemplate the face of God. But this is to misunderstand the true call of the disciple. Gazing heavenwards is not enough; the disciple must also listen and act. The mystery of this response will only become clear when placed in the context of the death and resurrection of Jesus. There can be no side-stepping of the cross and its invitation to all who are followers of Jesus that they too must loose themselves for the sake of others. How do you understand the divinity of Jesus? When you contemplate the face of Christ, what do you see?

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**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.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B**  
**27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**PRAYING FOR:**

Frank Shanley, Margaretha Witticomber,  
K C Jacob  
...and all who died recently.

**We also remember:**

Helen Russo, John Monahan,  
Margaret Primmer, Domenica Carboni,  
Giuseppe Morabito, Jack Holloway,  
Kit Martin, Vincent and Nazha Dib,  
Deborah Demmler,  
Vincent and Helen Rosso,  
...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 ('til June 2021) from the Church.* Many thanks to parishioners who contribute via envelopes or direct debit credit card. The continued generosity of parishioners is amazing and very much appreciated.

**FUNERAL MASS:** for the repose of the soul of **Frank Shanley**: 10.30am Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, at OLA Church. *May his soul, and the souls of all our faithful departed, rest in peace.*

**OLA GENTLE EXERCISE / TAI CHI:**  
Gentle Exercise: 10am-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 9<sup>th</sup> March, at 1pm in the O.L.A. Church Meeting Room. All welcome. *Remember, those that knit stay fit!*  
**Upcoming event:** Our fabulous knitting stall, stay tuned! We welcome any St Agnes parishioners who would like to join our group.

**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, please contact the school office to make alternate arrangements.

**O.L.A. PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Tour Dates:** 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.

**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)

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.



‘It is wonderful for us to be here.’  
Is this how you feel?  
‘Listen to him’. When you hear the voice of God’s Son, what do you hear him say to you?

How do you visualise Jesus?  
Read the story of Elijah experiencing God in 1 Kings 19:11–14 and reflect on how you experience God.

Is God in the great wind, the earthquake, the fire or the gentle breeze and silence?  
Spend time alone reflecting on the majesty and mystery of God.

What have been the occasions when you experienced God in a special way?

What did they teach you about God?  
Share these ‘religious experiences’ with family/friends.

A prayer for this week:  
*O God, you have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son. Be pleased we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word.*

