

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of
Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!



SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to
the Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year B **13th /14th March, 2021**



Nicodemus comes in search of truth but has difficulty in accepting who Jesus is. He struggles to reach beyond the understandings of his upbringing within Judaism. In a sense, Jesus' words to him are a reassurance that if he publicly embraces faith in Jesus, his life will be saved. Condemnation only comes to those who have had the opportunity to embrace faith but have refused it. In John's Gospel, the greatest moment in Jesus' life is the moment of his death on the cross. This is not simply a moment of suffering and death but a spiritual exultation because it is at that moment that God's love for the world is made manifest. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son' so that we could have life. The only proper response to this great love and gift of life is to choose light and not darkness. What have been some of the moments of exultation in your life? What have been the periods of darkness? Is there a struggle in coming into the light?

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 Church] 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 LENT

YEAR B

13th / 14th March 2021

PRAYING FOR:

Lorraine Moore, Joyce Hooper,
Murray Costello
...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Pat Harrington, Thelma Connolly,
Maureen Varney, Peter Morris,
Debbie Corbett, Doris Sheard,
Robert O'Brien,
Ana Maria Van De Wyngard,
Gus Valent, Paul Ruzyla, Grazia Cincotta,
Mary McGannon, Concetta Cincotta,
A.S Fratta, Charles Dib, Kevin Linehan,
Jack Roth and Elsie Roth,
...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.

PLANNING FOR HOLY WEEK AT OLA & ST AGNES:

Thank you to those parishioners who have volunteered to assist with the planning for Holy Week and Easter 2021. We are hoping to have a **choir** as well. If you are interested in joining the choir for Holy Week, please contact the Parish Office on 9583 6161, or speak to Fr Alan after Mass.

OLA KNITTING GROUP: Our fabulous knitting stall, will be on the this weekend before and after 9am and 11am Masses. There will also be plants for sale. All money raised will be donated to our StVDP Conference.

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 24th March, Wednesday 21st 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: Tuesday 16th March 9.15am, Wednesday 24th March 9.15am, Sunday 28th March 10am, Wednesday 21st April 9.15am, Tuesday 28th April 9.15am. Applications close for Prep 2022 on 7th May 2021.

ST BEDE'S COLLEGE OPEN DAYS: East Bentleigh Campus – Wednesday 17th March 2021, Enrolments now open to all Year 5 students entering Year 7 in 2023. Website: 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/>



To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop. we invite you to order your free copy of

Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer. The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world. To order your exclusive copy please go to: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer
Contact: 02 8912 2777



This week we focus on Arsad, an Indonesian farmer. Arsad had no toilet in his home, so he had to walk into the forest to the open defecation area, even at night or in the rain. Around 17 percent of Indonesia's rural population practice open defecation, with many unaware that it contributes to spreading diseases. Arsad's family was often sick and open defecation caused neighbourhood disputes. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, he took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. Learn more of Arsad's story: go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dqWelbMCF0>

Thank you for being more! You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting:

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.