

## FIRST READING

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/. I will praise you, Lord, in the  
assembly of your people.**

## SECOND READING

### **A reading from the first letter of St John 3:18-24**

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Live in me and let me live in you, says  
the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

### **A reading from the holy gospel according to John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'



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

**Telephone:** 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**

**Telephone:** 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)



## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B**

**1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021**



Jesus continues to speak to the disciples through imagery that they understood from their everyday experience and with symbols that come from their Jewish tradition. The vine is a staple part of Israel's agricultural life. It carries the idea of the life that flows into the branches from the thick stalk of the vine. Jesus becomes that giver of life and prosperity, but behind his life-giving presence is the Father. Like the vinedresser, the Father must cut away anything that impedes that life or comes from a source that is not nourished from the 'true vine'. Jesus exists to make the Father known, and so it must be with disciples of Jesus. We must 'remain with' Jesus and thus make the Father known.

**PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT**

Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9555 3557

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

Parish 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 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

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

(in line with Covid-safe Protocols)

Please contact Fr Alan, or the Parish Office.

**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.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021**

**PRAYING FOR:**

*...all who died recently.*

**We also remember:**

John Wilson, Marjorie Southby,

Valma Curtis, Agnus Windsor,

Rosa Milicia, Anka Zgela.

*....and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.*

**We also keep in our prayers all who are sick.**



**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:  
[universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/Mass](http://universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/Mass)

**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 #30: 8<sup>th</sup> April 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>

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we're farewelling Mrs Lisa Harris from the OLA Parish Staff who, for the last 8 years worked in the Parish Office, admirably fulfilling her role as Parish Secretary.

This last year or so has asked a lot of many, and this too has been very true for Lisa, who, following the retirement of Ursula Hoey at the end of 2019, increased her commitment to the administration of the parish to four days a week. In the meantime Covid hit, and following my mid-year appointment to St Agnes', the administrative load broadened to include liturgical, administrative and communication matters across both parishes.

I wish to sincerely and publicly thank and acknowledge Lisa for all her hard work, not least of all the work she put into to these new and demanding arrangements, not only because they involved a transition to something new, but also because we were enduring quite an unprecedented time given the pandemic and its resultant lockdowns, restrictions, the advent of online bookings, sanitation requirements, etc., etc. I'm sure many of you would join me in expressing our enormous gratitude to Lisa, and wish her, and her family, every blessing for the future.

Lisa's decision to move on will have consequences for the operation of the Parish Office, at least in the short term, while we advertise and search for someone to fulfil the role. One of these obvious consequences will mean a temporary change to office hours. I'll elaborate on these changes at notices time during our Masses this weekend.

Particularly with such matters as Mass bookings over the phone and enquiries that need follow up, I am asking you to be patient. As they say, 'Rome wasn't built in a day!'

Hopefully you'll have your own opportunity to thank and farewell Lisa on Sunday morning between Masses, or at some other time.

Once again, thank you Lisa, and we wish you and your family well as you move on to your new place of employment.

God bless,  
Fr Alan

**ST AGNES SOCIAL LUNCHEES:** will resume this Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon at the Highett R.S.L. Parishioners from both OLA and St Agnes are most welcome. Please contact Sybil on 9555 8336 by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, to confirm your attendance.

**OLA KNITTING GROUP:** are you interested in joining our knitting group? Please come and join us in Exodus Hall, on the 4<sup>th</sup> May at 1pm. St Agnes' parishioners are warmly welcome to come along. Tea and coffee provided, and friendly chats.

**'PONDERING GRIEF':** Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021, 10am-3.30pm. This reflection day offers an invitation to reflect upon and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop offers a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Facilitator: Linda Espie Heart of Life, Kildara Centre. Cost \$80 (Materials provided, BYO lunch).  
T: 9890 1101 or E: [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne)

**POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE:** A list of job opportunities available across the parishes and agencies of the Melbourne Archdiocese are listed on the Archdiocese's website. Simply visit the following page:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Further information about any advertised vacancies can be obtained by emailing the Human Resources Office of the Archdiocese at: [hadmin@cam.org.au](mailto:hadmin@cam.org.au)



IT WAS JUST METHUSELAH'S BIRTHDAY CANDLES AGAIN!