

FIRST READING

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48**

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/.: The Lord has revealed to the nations
his saving power.**

SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St John
4:7-10**

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy gospel according
to John 15:9-17**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

8th / 9th May, 2021

***Lord God,
Bless all our mothers,
that their love may be deep and tender,
and that their prayer for us,
their children will help us
to know and do what is good,
encouraging us to love You,
and one another.***

Amen.



The heart of today's gospel lies in Jesus' command: 'Love one another'. The model for this love is the love that Jesus showed towards all those who follow him. Jesus has changed the way in which God relates to human beings. We are no longer servants of God but are drawn into deep intimacy and friendship through the Son. This new relationship is not dependent on our choice or will. God has chosen us and we are now commissioned to bear fruit, fruit that will last. The Christian command to love is not a vague feeling of good will; it is a love which suffers all and may demand great sacrifice. The command to love as Jesus loved may be the most difficult test of our Christianity. This is how the presence of Jesus is experienced even in his absence.

Jesus wants to emphasise the closeness and intimacy between himself and his disciples. He speaks of this relationship in a radical way when he names them friends. Friendship implies equality, an openness and sharing of life and experience, a mutual concern and interest. We are typically more comfortable imagining our relationship with God as with a superior being, rather than a friend.

- *How does this image of friendship and intimacy challenge you?*
- *How are we called to 'lay down our life for our friends' in our daily existence?*

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT

Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9555 3557
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161
Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm
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 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

COMMUNION SERVICES – OLA / St Agnes:
- currently suspended

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: (in line with Covid-safe Protocols) By appointment. 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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8th / 9th May, 2021

PRAYING FOR:

Lucy Molony, Judith Ennis, Frank Barrett,
Kathleen Roche, Laurina Andrews,
...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Kathleen Corbett, Elenoa Bukasongo,
Francesca Piccolo, Frank & Edith Sharpe,
Lorelle Walker, Thelma Webster,
....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

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 #31: 4th May, 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>

ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY APPEAL: Next
weekend the **2021 Chaplaincy Appeal** will be
made across all parishes of the Archdiocese of
Melbourne. This annual special collection
supports the vital work of our Catholic
chaplains. The chaplains support thousands of
Victorians every year in hospitals, prisons and
youth justice centres, and those living with
HIV/AIDS. Chaplains provide a listening ear, a
compassionate presence, along with assistance
to cope with emotional pain and loneliness.
Please consider supporting this important
outreach work of the Church of Melbourne.
Donations may be made using the envelopes
available, or you may wish to donate online at:
www.ccam.org.au or Tel.: (03) 9287 5513.

'PONDERING GRIEF': Sat. 22nd 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). Tel.: (03) 9890 1101
or Email: info@heartoflife.melbourne

ENGAGING YOUR FAITH is a series of
short online sessions offering an opportunity
to explore your faith through a variety of
topics including: **Spirituality, Women in the
Early Church, Church History, Reading
the Church Classics, The Eucharist, and
Science & Religion.** All topics are presented
by lecturers of Catholic Theological College,
Melbourne. Choose one, choose all, choose
what interests you and all for just \$20 per
session, running 11th to 31st May. For further
information, as well as the details about times
and the content of each online session, go to:
ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/

THE FUNERAL MASS for Lucy Molony
will be held here at OLA church, on Tuesday
11th May, at 1.00pm.

**POSITION VACANT: PARISH SECRETARY
Our Lady of the Assumption & St Agnes'
Parishes.** There is an opportunity for an
experienced Parish Secretary to undertake
office administrative duties associated with
the partnered parishes of OLA, Cheltenham
and St Agnes', Highett. This permanent part-
time position is based at the Cheltenham
Parish Office, and entails approx. 22 hours per
week, worked across four days, (Tuesday-
Friday). Hours and days can be flexible. Terms
and conditions are governed by the
Archdiocese of Melbourne. Information about
the position, including a more detailed role
description, as well as other job opportunities
available across the parishes and agencies of the
Archdiocese, are listed on the following page:

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

Further information about the vacant positions
can be obtained by emailing the Human
Resources Office: Archdiocese of Melbourne
at: hadmin@cam.org.au

Prayer for Mothers' Day

All Loving God,
We give You thanks and praise for our mothers,
and ask that You...

- Bless young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need. May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.
- Bless our own mothers, who have nurtured and cared for us. May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.
- Bless and console mothers whose children have died, and those who are separated from their children because of war, poverty or family conflict. May they feel Your loving embrace, wiping away every tear.
- Bless those women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.
- Bless mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers whom You have welcomed to eternal life, but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.