

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Joshua
24:1-2, 15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but

holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine, many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

Telephone: 9583 6161

9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192

Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

Website: 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

Website: www.sahighett.org.au



TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

21st / 22nd August 2021



In today's gospel, Jesus' words or deeds are met with disbelief by some of his own disciples. They were scandalised by what he said. Rather than soften the hardness of his message, Jesus responds to their challenge with one of his own. If they were troubled by the thought of him descending from heaven, what would they think about him ascending back to where he had been originally? Jesus further insists that the flesh (the human way of living) cannot give life, which the spirit can. Faith in Jesus does not come easily or naturally. It is a grace given by God. While some of Jesus' followers have turned away, others have been convinced of the trustworthiness of his claims.

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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 – Friday 9am – 3.30pm
Parish Secretary: Fatima De Ponte-Gill
Accountant: Maureen Ryan

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: currently suspended

Please direct all enquiries for the Sacrament of Baptism to the Office: 9583 6161

WEDDINGS:

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.

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B 21st & 22nd August 2021

PRAYING FOR:

Domenica Algeri, John Goodman,
Bernadette Munro,

...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Marie Burgess, Peter Home,
Richard Calleja, Sophia Lang,
Sarah Christensen, Fr John Carnie,

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

...and we keep in our prayers all who are currently unwell.

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/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 #45: 21st August, 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>

CARITAS AUSTRALIA – Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of the **Haiti** who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in which over 1,400 people have died, and thousands injured. There is urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid. If you'd like to support the appeal, call **toll free 1800 024 413** or donate to the Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal at: <http://www.caritas.org.au>

THANKYOU – Ann Fitzgerald, who over recent years worked in both St Agnes' and OLA offices, overseeing the day to day accounts as Parish Bookkeeper, last Monday concluded her time on staff. Ann also works at St Mary of the Cross Parish, Mordialloc and Aspendale, and was offered the opportunity to work her extra day there. We wish Ann all the best and sincerely thank her for her commitment to the mission of our two parishes. Maureen Ryan, who for the majority of the last year, has looked after accounts at St Agnes' will also now look after OLA's accounts. We're most grateful to Maureen, for her willingness to take on the additional work.


SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS AT OLA & ST AGNES': AN UPDATE – The upheaval and restrictions these lockdowns have brought about, continues! We have had to again look at dates and sadly, it's difficult to set particular dates given we're so uncertain about what restrictions may or may not be in place. We, of course, pray that these celebrations can go ahead in the not too distant future, albeit I'm sure, with some limitations on numbers, and so yet again, we're asked to be patient!

OLA KNITTING GROUP ordinarily meets at Exodus Hall fortnightly on Tuesdays at 1pm. Due to the lockdown meetings are currently suspended.

ACTIVITIES AT OLA – EXODUS HALL
Gentle Exercises and Tai Chi: Due to the lockdown meetings are currently suspended.



HEART OF LIFE – Reflection Event on **Saturday 28th August 2021 10am–4pm via Zoom** – invites you to participate in a self-paced personal journey of sensitively and privately opening your heart to your inner feelings. Participants will use their own simple art or creative materials and journal. A suggestion list will be provided to help you choose a few play elements. Led by Margaret Trainor, qualified in spiritual direction and Art Therapy. Cost \$60. To book and pay, go to: <http://www.heartoflife.melbourne>, T: 9890 1101 or Email: secretary@heartoflife.melbourne.

 **QR Codes - Mandatory use of the Victorian Government QR Code Service:** We are required to use this service. Wherever possible, to assist with the management of numbers, given the current restrictions in place, you are strongly encouraged to utilise the **TryBooking platform:** <https://www.trybooking.com/BNADH> and, if you have a capable digital device, to utilise the **Service Victoria App** to register your attendance via our **QR code**, just as you're asked to do at other venues. Digital record keeping is proving vital to efficient contact tracing.