

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/: **The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

1:17-18, 21-22, 27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth  
by his message of truth,  
that we might be  
as the first fruits of his creation.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

## Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Pastoral Worker: Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

St Agnes' Parish  
Highett

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## TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021



*The gospel reading recounts an incident of conflict over ritual cleansing between Jesus and some of his opponents. Hand washing probably originated as a regulation observed by the priests when they were offering sacrifice. General hand washing was not mandated by the law itself, but was a custom included in the oral law, 'the tradition of the elders'. This public criticism was an attempt to shame Jesus so that he would be minimised before others and, having lost his reputation, would cease being a threat to those who opposed him. Jesus' rebuttal is swift and incisive. He explicitly draws a comparison between those whom Isaiah condemns and the scribes and Pharisees who condemn the disciples. Uncleanness or impurity are not determined by anything external. Defilement originates from the innermost recesses of the heart.*

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT  
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9555 3557  
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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](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

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 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021

##### PRAYING FOR:

Quilino Zanoria, Harry Hammon,  
Francis Gill,

...and all who died recently.

##### We also remember:

Antonia Razga, John Razga, Bernard Hoy,

....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: 21<sup>st</sup> August,  
2021) are available online at:  
<https://melbournecatholic.org/covid-19-guidelines>

**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> There's a humanitarian crisis unfolding in **Afghanistan** and **Lebanon**. In **Afghanistan**, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection. In **Lebanon**, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights. Please consider donating to Caritas Australia by visiting either:  
<https://www.caritas.org.au/lebanon>  
or <https://www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan>


**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! – Fr Alan

 **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, when we're able to gather for liturgical celebrations, 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.

**HEART OF LIFE – Pondering Grief.** This Reflection event via Zoom on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 10.00am–3.30pm provides the opportunity to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. This workshop will offer a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Facilitated by qualified Counsellor/Educator Linda Espie. Limited to 10 participants. Cost \$60. T: 9890 1101 or for Bookings & Payment via TryBooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BTONX> or Email: [secretary@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:secretary@heartoflife.melbourne)



**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.