

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Kings 17:7-16

And then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, 'Up and go to Zarephath, a Sidonian town, and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to give you food.' So he went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. Addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please,' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel: "Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."'" The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/: My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:12-17

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of

Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Many women were there by the cross,
watching from a distance,
the same women who had followed Jesus
and looked after him.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 6:25-34

Jesus said to his disciples: I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin: yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you have so little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?" It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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ST MARY OF THE CROSS

7th & 8th August, 2021



The passage from Colossians, chosen for this Feast, expresses the Christian virtues that were obvious in Mary MacKillop's life – compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Above all, Mary exemplified the virtue of patient forbearance and forgiveness in her dealings with Church authorities. She suffered through excommunication with dignity and faithfulness to the church, while also being a woman of courage and single-minded determination to provide education for those in need. There is much in her life to celebrate and give thanks for – and much to emulate.

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
Bookkeeper: Ann Fitzgerald
Parish Secretary: Fatima De Ponte-Gill

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.

ST MARY OF THE CROSS

7th & 8th August, 2021

PRAYING FOR:

Janette Jones, Maria Purcell,
Anteles Esquivel, Jorge Chacon,
Marco Paoli
...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Ruby Holloway, Maureen Noonan, Dorothy George, Sophia Lang, Maria Dib, Pina Gori, Patrick Melia, John Borg, Sr Paola Borg, Anthony Borg, Andrew Borg

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

...and we keep in our prayers all who are 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 #42: 5th 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>

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS AT OLA & ST AGNES': AN UPDATE – With all the upheaval and restrictions this year's lockdowns have brought about, the scheduling of the Sacramental celebrations of First Eucharist and Confirmation has had to be quite fluid: e.g. ordinarily our First Eucharist Masses would be celebrated within Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. However with the limitation on numbers it has been decided, given our multiple efforts to reschedule dates this year, that these Sacraments will now be celebrated, please God, on the following dates and times:

FIRST EUCHARIST MASSES for:

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish are now scheduled for three consecutive Saturdays in August: 14th, 21st, & 28th at 9am.

St Agnes' Parish are now scheduled for Friday 20th & Thursday 26th August, at 7pm.

CONFIRMATION MASSES for:

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish are scheduled for Wednesday 1st & Friday 3rd September at 7pm.

St Agnes' Parish's celebration is scheduled for Saturday 4th September, within 6pm Mass.

Due to limitations on numbers, logistics have been put in place where both our parishes' schools, in conjunction with the Parish Office, will manage the lists of attendees. We pray that these celebrations can go ahead, albeit with restrictions, and for the need for patience, yet again, for all concerned.

– Fr Alan

OLA KNITTING GROUP meets at Exodus



Hall fortnightly on Tuesdays at 1pm.
Due to the current lockdown the next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday 17th August. All are most welcome.

ACTIVITIES AT OLA – EXODUS HALL



Gentle Exercises and Tai Chi:
Covid Restrictions permitting, classes resume Wednesday 18th August at 10.00am. All are welcome.

CATHOLIC CARE SUNDAY APPEAL

Due to the current lockdown this appeal has been postponed. We will advise once a new date has been determined.

CATHOLIC CHURCH URGES ACTION TO CARE FOR THE EARTH, THE POOR

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has made an historic commitment to work towards a more sustainable Church in its annual statement promoting social justice, released on 5th August, 2021. In their **Social Justice Statement 2021-22: 'Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor'**, the bishops commit to a seven-year journey towards the seven goals put forward by Pope Francis' in his Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si'* on 'Care For Our Common Home'. Links:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/catholic-church-urges-action-to-care-for-the-earth-the-poor>
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html


JOB VACANCIES – across the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Series of short sessions: online via Zoom
Engaging Your Faith Choose one, choose all, choose what interests you and all for just \$20 per session, running 21st Aug to 16th Sept. Booking, payment and further information:

<https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith>

 **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.