

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 11:19, 12:1-6, 10

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/: The queen stands at your right hand;
arrayed in gold.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having

done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Mary is taken up to heaven,
and the angels of God shout for joy.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy – according to the promise he made to our ancestors – of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 14th & 15th August, 2021



This week's gospel reading falls naturally into two parts: the account of Mary's visit to Elizabeth (vv.39-45); and Mary's prayer of praise (vv. 46-56). The response of the child in Elizabeth's womb is reminiscent of the joy that filled David as he leapt before the ark of the covenant, the symbol of God in the midst of the people (see 2 Sam 6:14-15). Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth proclaims her faith in the child that Mary is carrying. Mary's hymn of praise has strong parallels in the victory hymns of Miriam (Ex. 15:1-18), Hannah (1 Sam 2:1-10), and Judith (Jdt 16:1-17). This hymn suggests that the marvels accomplished in Mary are a final example of God's mercy. The salvation of God's people has finally come.

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On the Festival of Our Lady's Assumption it is important to get things in the right order. Christ is the first-born from the dead. In him all will be brought to life, but all in their proper order. Mary is the first after her Son, and raised by her Son because she is part of his Body, the Church. The perfection of the Mother of the Saviour is won for her by her Son. The declaration by the Church of the Assumption of Mary is an assertion of the saving value of all our activity, the healing touch, the conquest of pain, exhaustion, moodiness and physical temptation in all its forms. That is why Mary goes ahead of us all and leads the way to full resurrection.

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
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.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 14th & 15th August, 2021

PRAYING FOR:

Mary Mouritz, Kenneth Kelly,
Philomena Vella, Kathleen Funke,

...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Barry Jones,

....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 #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. OLA's First Eucharist Masses had been rescheduled to take place on 14th, 21st, & 28th August. Unfortunately, because the total duration of the current lockdown is not yet known, we've made the decision to reschedule these Masses, yet again. The Sacraments will now be celebrated on the following dates and times:

FIRST EUCHARIST MASSES for...

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish are now scheduled for **Tuesdays 7th & 14th September**, and **Thursday 16th September**, all at **6pm**.

St Agnes Parish remain scheduled, albeit with a good dose of hope and optimism, for **Friday 20th & Thursday 26th August**, at **7pm**.

CONFIRMATION MASSES for...

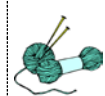
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish remain scheduled for **Wednesday 1st & Friday 3rd September** at **7pm**.

St Agnes Parish, remains scheduled for **Saturday 4th September**, within **6pm Mass**.

All the above dates are pending, as we await news surrounding what restrictions may be in place. We, of course, pray that these celebrations can go ahead, albeit with limitations on numbers, and so we're all asked to be patient, yet again!

– 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 24th August. All are most welcome.

ACTIVITIES AT OLA – EXODUS HALL



Gentle Exercises and Tai Chi: Covid Restrictions permitting, classes resume Wednesday 25th August at 10.00am. All are welcome.

...ON THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY
At the end of his 1995 encyclical, 'The Gospel of Life' (*Evangelium Vitae* §105), Pope St John Paul II wrote the following: 'Mary is a living word to console the Church in her struggle against death. By showing us her Son, she assures us that in him the powers of death have already been vanquished: Death and life were locked in a wondrous combat. The Lord of life was dead; but now he lives triumphant.'

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.

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.