

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/: Praise the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Happy
Father's
Day

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

4th / 5th September 2021



Though Jesus is depicted as a miracle worker like others, each detail in the account points to a feature exclusive to Jesus. When he lays hands on people, he is also overturning the purity prohibition against touching what is unclean and contaminating oneself in doing so. His use of saliva reflects the belief that it contained some of his own personal power. He looks up to heaven and groans, but it is considered by many to be a form of prayer. The healing may have been surrounded by familiar miracle elements, but the miracle itself is accomplished by Jesus' command: Be opened! At the heart of Jesus' ministry is his teaching about the reign of God. Here he unstops the man's ears so that now he can hear and be open to the message of this reign.

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B 4th & 5th September 2021

PRAYING FOR:

Margaret Gamble,

...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Fr Frank Martin, Mary Meyer,
Mollie Taylor, Sr Sue Shannon,

....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-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>

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION



Caring for those who cared

**PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION
FATHER'S DAY APPEAL 2021** - Due to the
ongoing COVID restrictions and our inability to
gather in our churches, this year's Father's Day
Appeal for our retired and sick priests has
necessarily moved to an online appeal.
Donations to the Priests' Retirement
Foundation's Father's Day Appeal can be made
through the Foundation's website via direct
debit, credit card, or PayPal. Please consider
supporting this appeal in so far as you're able to
do so, so that as the broader Church of
Melbourne, we go on 'Caring for those who
cared'. To donate visit:
www.cam1.org.au/foundation/Donate

CARITAS AUSTRALIA – The humanitarian
crisis continues to unfold 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>

**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 permitted 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.

A Prayer for Fathers on Father's Day

Heavenly Father,
you entrusted your Son Jesus,
the child of Mary,
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.
Bless all fathers this day
as they endeavour to care for their families.
Give them strength and wisdom,
tenderness and patience;
support them in the work they do,
give Your protection to those who look to
them for strength,
as we look to you for love and salvation,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS AT OLA & ST AGNES': AN UPDATE –

The extension to the current lockdown continues to
play havoc with our capacity to gather as faith
communities, and therefore to the scheduling of
the Sacraments, notably Baptisms, First
Eucharist and Confirmations! Having postponed
and rescheduled some of these liturgical
celebrations, 2 or even 3 times, sadly we have
little clarity around when these celebrations may
be able to go ahead. Let's continue to pray for all
the children and their families, who continue to
wait for these celebrations. – Fr Alan