

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: ‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name of the city will be called: ‘The Lord-our-integrity.’

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/: To you, O Lord,
I lift my soul.**

SECOND READING

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. ‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

27th / 28th November, 2021



While the basic message is one of comfort and reassurance, the second part of the gospel adopts a more admonitory tone. Believers must be like people expecting visitors but unsure as to when exactly they will arrive. The time of waiting requires attentiveness and a sharp spiritual sense. Anything that dulls the spirit (debauchery and drunkenness) or causes it to be distracted (absorption in the cares of life) must be avoided. Advent is a time for examination in such areas. It is also a time for exploring our deepest longings and desires and allowing them to surface. They can ride up, so to speak, on the rich Scripture texts that the Church puts before us at this time. God’s only wish in our regard is to communicate to us the life and love for which we long. Each Advent should expand both our longing and our capacity to receive the gift of God.

© Brendan Byrne SJ

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9555 3557
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161
Mon., Tues. Thurs. & Fri. 9am – 3.30pm
Wed. 9.45am – 12 noon
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:

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 SERVICE (resumes 6th Dec.)

Monday [OLA Church] 9.15 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 9.30 am
i.e. following Mass (COVID-safe protocols apply)

BAPTISMS:

Contact the Parish 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

– YEAR C

27th & 28th November, 2021

PRAYING FOR:

Lucia Liberatori, Violeta Remulla,
Corazon Legaspi, Tony Tomasovic,
Norm Dixon,

...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Aleyamma Jacob, Cecil D'Souza,
Aloysius De Silva, Kathleen Devine,
Beryl Holloway, Margaret Keane,

*....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 2021 to Christ the King 2022 are taken from Year C in the Lectionary cycle

Should you wish to view the Scripture
Readings for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical
Calendar) please visit:

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.

UPDATE ON COVID RESTRICTIONS:

General Guidelines from the Archdiocese (Update
#53: 18th November 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>

PLEASE NOTE: With the easing of
COVID restrictions, i.e. the removal of both
density quotients and caps on numbers,
bookings for Masses are no longer necessary.

FATHERS DAY APPEAL 2021 As COVID
restrictions prevented us from gathering for
Masses on the first Sunday of September,
'Fathers Day', the annual appeal in support of
the Priests Retirement Foundation did not take
place. Support for our retired priests remains
crucial and so all parishes have been asked to
reschedule this collection a.s.a.p. We have
rescheduled the appeal for this weekend,
27th/28th November. Envelopes are available,
and all donations of \$2+ are tax-deductable.
Thank you to those who have already donated
via the appeal envelope included with the sets of
Thanksgiving envelopes.

Volunteers are giving some of their time in
tidying up the grounds of OLA Church on
Saturday 4th December from 10am. With
no opportunity to do this work over the last
couple of months, I am asking if any
available parishioners could consider giving
an hour of their time to help out please.
John Tetteroo (co-ordinator) – T: 9583 4628



THANK YOU! On behalf of the
Knitting group, we would like to thank
parishioners for their ongoing support and
generous donations of wool, knitting needles etc.
Last weekend our Knitting Stall raised **\$1,240**
and the Plant Stall raised **\$445**. All proceeds going to
St Vincent de Paul.



**QR CODES - Mandatory use of the
Victorian Government QR Code**
Service continues: We are still required
to use this service. As we gather for our liturgical
celebrations, you're asked to use the **Service
Victoria App** on a capable digital device, to
register your attendance This app, once
configured correctly, will display both a
confirmation of one's check-in to our places of
worship, and a link to a person's COVID-19
Digital Certificate, as proof of vaccination.



BAPTISM: We pray for **Grace
Imperator**, who is being formally
received into God's Church through
the Sacrament of Baptism, this weekend.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

AT OLA: We continue to keep in our prayers our
final group of candidates who'll celebrate their First
Eucharist this coming Tuesday, 30th November.

COMMUNION – We are now permitted to
minister Communion to parishioners in their
homes, so if you know of anyone who would
like to receive Communion, please contact
Chris at the Parish Office, or on: 0415 150 688.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS "GIVING TREE"

This weekend you will see our
'Giving Tree' as you enter the Church.
Although we can provide Food Hampers to
needy families in a COVID-safe manner,
collecting and distributing toys for the children
involves greater risk and will be avoided.
Instead, we will be adding Retailers' Gift Cards
to help parents purchase toys of their choice.
This week, if you wish to help, there will be
envelopes (not stars) to collect, showing the
age/gender of each child. Your generosity will
be much appreciated.

THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF THE

PLENARY COUNCIL – 'Can the Plenary

Council achieve real change?' On **Wednesday,
1st December 2021 between 7.30pm-9pm**, St
Kevin's Parish in Templestowe (26-44 Herlihy
Rd, Templestowe Lower), is holding an
information session on what happened at the first
session of the Plenary Council, and a 'where to
now' for the second session. Join us for a Q & A
evening with guest presenters, Rev. Dr Kevin
Lenehan, the Master of Catholic Theological
College, Melbourne, and a member of the
Plenary Council 'Instrumentum Laboris' Team,
and Dr Nimmi Candappa, a Melbourne writer,
Plenary Council member and academic.
Bookings can be made via Trybooking at
www.trybooking.com/BVTHF