

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/: Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face
and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first

sort to replace it with the second. And this will be for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-45

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.'

Anniversaries of Death – Christmas 2021 through January 2022: In preparation for the Summer Bulletin, covering Christmas through to the end of January, you are invited to enter the names of those whose anniversaries occur during this period, and who you'd like remembered in prayer, into the Memorial Folder located in the foyer of OLA church or contact the OLA Office.

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

18th / 19th December, 2021



The response of the child in Elizabeth's womb is reminiscent of the joy that filled David as he leaped before the ark of the covenant. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaimed her faith in the child that Mary was carrying. In both cases, it was the realisation of being in the presence of God that caused them to rejoice. It is as if Mary is the ark and the child within her is the glory of God. There is a sequence of recognition that begins and ends with Mary. At the sound of Mary's greeting the child in Elizabeth leaped for joy, signalling to her the presence of her Lord in Mary's womb; at this, Elizabeth recognises the blessedness of Mary's unborn child and, through him, the blessedness of Mary.

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PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHTT
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9555 3557
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161
Mon., Tues. Thurs. & Fri. 9am – 3.30pm
Wednesday 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: tfoot@shighett.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES – CHELTENHAM & HIGHTT
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
Monday [OLA Church] 9.15 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
Wednesday 9:45 am
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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C 18th & 19th December, 2021

PRAYING FOR:

Bruce Hooper, Carmela Lanera,
William Renton-Power,
...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Jefuf L. Manahan, John Patrick Lynch, Marco Paoli, Liam Chadwick, Paul Chadwick, Gerard Chadwick, Fajic Mijo, Fajic Fraivjo, William John O'Reilly, William Joseph O'Reilly, Fedelina Chan, William Dean, Margaret Dean, Phillip Dunne, Joe Brennan, Veronica Francis
....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 #54: 15th December 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, Hightt** is:
<http://bit.ly/CDFpayHightt>

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2021

Friday 24th December - Christmas Masses

6pm Mass St Agnes' Church, Hightt
8pm Mass OLA Church Cheltenham
[Carols from 7.30pm]

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Masses

9am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham
11am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham
6pm Mass St Agnes' Church, Hightt

Sun. 26th December - Feast of the Holy Family

9am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham
11am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham

Please note: No morning Mass at St Agnes' on Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve) & that the Parish Office will close on Friday 24th December, and re-open on Monday 10th January, 2022. Should you need to get in touch please telephone the Presbytery on: 9555 3557

COMMUNION TO THE SICK – We are once again permitted to minister Holy 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.

HEART OF LIFE - Are you a Spiritual Leader? The Spiritual Leaders Program is an online (via Zoom) one-year, part-time program and will be a mix of selected **Thursday evenings, Saturdays, and a 3-day Intensive**. It is suitable for those in leadership within their faith community, such as priests, ministers, members of religious orders, lay ecclesial ministers, community and spiritual leaders, chaplains, pastoral carers, and those in health and education. The program, which commences in **March 2022**, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. **The closing date for applications is 28th January 2022**. Places are limited. Apply to Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation in Malvern, VIC. Fee-Help is available to qualifying participants. For more info visit: www.heartoflife.melbourne or T:03 9890 1101.



ST AGNES' PARISH - VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL – A big 'Thank you' to everyone for your support of the St Agnes' Vinnies Christmas Appeal, last week. We raised \$561.

A big 'Thank You' too, to St Agnes' Primary School, who raised an additional \$964.

"You can Help End the Pain of Poverty".

– Tricia Hickey (St Agnes' Conference)

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE is to host the second annual TV Carols Special, *Jesus is Christmas* to celebrate the Season of Advent and Christmas, airing on **Monday 20th December at 7pm** on Community TV Channel 31 (Digital TV – 44) and on the Archdiocese's YouTube channel. See: melbournecatholic.org/news/archdiocese-to-host-second-annual-tv-carols-special

HONOURING SUNDAY – The Bishops Conference of England and Wales in its plenary assembly on 18th November, 2021 released a beautiful, simple, pastoral statement on Sunday Mass. It invites people to reflect on their experience during the pandemic and recognises the on-going hesitations that some have in returning to Mass. The statement says in part: *'The central appeal of the Mass, its beauty, and its transcendence, raises our minds and hearts to God in an unambiguous and compelling manner. Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the preeminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist.'* To read more visit: cbcew.org.uk/plenary-november-2021-honouring-sunday/



QR CODES - Mandatory use of the Victorian Government QR Code Service continues: We are still

required to use this service. 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 a confirmation of one's check-in to our places of worship. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.