

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Baruch

5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

1:3-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this

good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

4th / 5th December, 2021



That God keeps faith is also the message of Paul to the community of Philippi – the one who began this good work in you, will see that it is finished, or brought to completion, before the Day of Christ Jesus. In Paul, we also see the strong sense of 'End Time' hope that dominated early Christian theology. Paul is writing in a deeply personal manner, clearly knowing and loving this community. If you were a pastor away from your community, what type of letter would you write to them? Paul writes with joy and thanksgiving, readily expressing his feelings of wanting to be with the community and shares with them his prayer. It is a letter of great encouragement. The readings proclaim that God is coming to us. If we make preparations in our busy lives so that there is some room amidst the pre-Christmas shopping, the holiday plans, the office parties, we will know a God who is with us. God comes to those who want and wait, which is why it is the poor and the 'little ones' who first hear the news.

© Mary Coloe

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHTETT
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
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: lfoott@sahighett.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES – CHELTENHAM & HIGHTETT

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:

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

– YEAR C

4th & 5th December, 2021

PRAYING FOR:

Adam Madarevic, Emirn Moreira,

...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

John Smiles, Jean Wallis, Frank Devine,
Susan Duke, Frank Canny, Anthony Curtis,

....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>

'CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME'

PARISH UPDATE - DECEMBER 2021

Included with this bulletin is the 'Care for our
Common Home' group's latest newsletter,
with larger print copies also available on the
tables in both church foyers.



ST AGNES' - VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL – On Saturday 11th December 2021,

during the 6pm Mass at St Agnes', envelopes
will be available for the Vinnies Christmas
Appeal 2021. Your donation will go towards
assisting local families and singles, we visit
throughout the year.

'You Can Help End The Pain Of Poverty'

Please consider donating to the Vinnies
Christmas Appeal. If any parishioner is
interested in joining St Agnes' Conference,
please contact Tricia Hickey on Tel: 9589 2608.
St Agnes' St Vincent de Paul Conference meets
every 2nd & 4th Tuesday evening at St Agnes
church.



OLA KNITTING GROUP extends
a warm invitation to those who would
like to attend the group's Christmas
breakup at 1pm on Tuesday 7th December, in
Exodus Hall. New members are most welcome.



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL & CATHEDRAL BRASS present: 'Festive Music for Christmas' on Wednesday 15th December 2021 between 7–8pm, at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne (Corner

of Cathedral Place and Gisborne Street),
Performing many Christmas favourites,
including Gabrieli, Bach, Handel and
Mendelssohn. Conductor: Brett Kelly and
Organist: Anthony Halliday. Children under 15
are free. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can also be
purchased at the door. For full program details,
bookings & enquiries, please visit:

www.trybooking.com/BVJPD



ALL WELCOME! – Please
join us in the **Church Meeting
Room** after the **9am and 11am**

Masses for a 'cuppa'. Sylvester and Emma
will also attend the 9am Mass and stay for
morning tea. They would like to personally
thank all those parishioners that sent
messages of congratulations on their recent
engagement.



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.

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.



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.
Thank you for your amenability under these
quite challenging of circumstances.