

FIRST READING

A reading from Exodus 3:1-8 13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same

spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?"' "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C 19th / 20th March, 2022



Two incidents stand behind the Gospel. The first is an atrocity brought about by human cruelty. Orders from Pilate have instigated a massacre of a number of Galileans who were sacrificing in the Temple. The second incident, again involving large-scale loss of life, is due to natural causes. It is, in legal terms, an 'act of God': the fall of a tower in Siloam, occasioning the death of eighteen persons. Jesus is told of the first and himself recalls the second. He does so for two reasons. First he wards off something to which the religious instinct is ever prone when faced with episodes of this kind: to conclude that the victims were being punished for a sinfulness from which others – specifically themselves – were exempt. Jesus heads off all thinking of this kind. He mentions the second incident and goes on to tell the parable about the fig tree to make the point that, far from attempting to judge the sinfulness of others, everyone should interpret such events as a warning to take stock of their own lives lest far greater disaster – eternal ruin – befall them. Without speculating in any way about punishment (see John 9:1-3), he simply makes the prophetic point: these examples of sudden, unforeseen death serve as a warning that the time, the space, left for conversion, may be short.

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161

Monday - Friday 9am – 3.30pm

Secretary: Vinotha Krishnan

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: foott@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

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 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.

Third Sunday of Lent– Year C

19th / 20th March, 2022

PRAYING FOR:

Br Kevin Moloney fsc, Michael Nicholls,

Aliette d'Offay, Tonia Casey, Ian Fry,

Greg Phillips, Joanne Clifford,

...and all who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Fr John McGannon, M. De Gregorio,

Peter Treadwell, Carlos Bianor Vilauba, Emir

Nunes Moreira, Pat Harrington, Charles Dib,

Hazel & Frank Sweeney,

Ana Hitschfeld, Armando Millar, Joanne

Sharpe, Ken Holloway.

....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 #56: 24th February, 2022) are available online at: 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>



ST AGNES' PARISH PRIMARY

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS Wednesdays

30th March, 27th April or 18th May,

Come along any time from 9am onwards for a tour and a chat with our Principal: Lachie Foott.



OLA KNITTING GROUP will next

meet on Tuesday 30th April at 1pm in the Church Meeting Room. All are most welcome. Our Stall is coming up on Sunday 3rd April before & after 9am & 11am Masses. Usual items, plus some Easter gifts for children, will be available. All proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul – Cheltenham Conference.

PROJECT COMPASSION 



Janice 44, is a proud Wagilak woman, a

traditional dancer, who tells stories through movements handed down over generations. With your support, Janice and the Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation support the community to generate income and employment, while keeping culture alive. Please consider donating to **Project Compassion 2022** and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **'For All Future Generations'**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from the church foyers, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

PARISH CENSUS 2022 across St Agnes' and

OLA. If you missed out over the last three weekends, please fill in a census card and put the card in the box near the exits of our churches. This will enable us to update both parishes' records – adding new members of our communities, and noting changes to addresses, emails, and phone numbers. Thank you for your support. - Fr Alan



SENIORS SOCIAL

(formerly Seniors Group)

...the New Normal ...a New

Name! A cordial invitation

is extended to all seniors at

Calling All Seniors! OLA & St Agnes'.

The next Seniors Social meeting will take place on

Monday, 21st March, 2022 from 10am – 1pm,

in the Meeting Room at OLA Church. There are

still places left for those interested to join. **New**

seniors need to find their own transport as we

do not have transport volunteers. Consider

Carpooling if you have 2-3 interested seniors.

Volunteers are needed: Seniors Social needs 2-3

volunteers to assist with the functions of the day

every second Monday – Enquiries and enrolments:

contact **Jill on: 0428 114 815** or **Christine on:**

0415 150 688

REFLECTION ON THE WORD THIS WEEK

One major theme emerges from this week's readings: incomprehensibility of God. We see it in the mysterious divine name, which distinguishes the God of Israel from all others and yet leaves us in the dark as to its meaning. We see it as God communicates with us through inanimate objects and the people in our lives. Finally, we see that God both pardons iniquities and decides to root out unfruitful branches, and we are confused by such inconsistency.

In the midst of this ambiguity we have one sure source of stability – Christ. It is Christ who reveals the nature and meaning of the divine name; it is Christ who intercedes for us before God. Christ, the one who set his face toward Jerusalem, there to suffer and die, is the great messenger through whom God is revealed. He is the one who reveals majesty through the simplicity of a bush; he is the one who judges with the patience of a gardener. However, the limits of the experience and mercy of God in our lives are defined by our own openness. Despite the blessings that we receive in the wildernesses of our lives, it could happen that God is not pleased with us. We must not take God's goodness for granted.

These readings close on a note of caution. Take care! We might be able to rest secure in the knowledge of the love and mercy of God, but these readings tell us that we should not dare to rest passively or complacently.