

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2 Cor 5: 17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven
and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

...continued overleaf

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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St Agnes' Parish Highett

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C 26th / 27th March, 2022



Two groups are singled out in the gospel, tax-collectors and sinners. Tax-collectors were hated because they worked for the despised Roman occupiers and exacted their wages from their compatriots. People whose occupations prevented them from regular observance of the Law were considered sinners. These were the people who came to hear Jesus. The Pharisees and scribes, who dealt with the Law, criticised Jesus for the company he kept. The parable has a double focus. While it is clearly about the mercy God shows repentant sinners (the younger brother), it also contrasts God's openness with the closed-mindedness of those who consider themselves faithful (the older brother). The picture of the father shatters the traditional patriarchal image and offers us a radically different picture of fatherhood, a picture that was totally incomprehensible to both sons.

Dianne Bergant CSA

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
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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent– Year C
26th / 27th March, 2022

PRAYING FOR:

Clinton Biggins, Geraldine Rippon,
Fr Josip Vranješ,

...and all who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Frank Patterson, Gaby Tanzimat (40 days),
Michael Campion, Mary Cass, Mary Power,
Mildred Cass, Vera Grimma,
Antonino & Antonia Fucile,

....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>


PROJECT COMPASSION  **Caritas AUSTRALIA**



Rosalie 44, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community. With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society. 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.



Next Sunday 3rd April, you're invited to stay and join fellow parishioners for a cuppa **after the 9am & 11am Masses**, in the OLA Church Meeting Room.

 **ST AGNES' PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE** A massive thanks to all parishioners from both St Agnes' and OLA for supporting our Fete on Saturday 19th March. Thank you for purchasing raffle tickets, making donations, helping on the day; it certainly appreciated by the organising committee. With a large crowd in attendance, it was a very successful event for the community and great to be back together again. We look forward to supporting the OLA Fete later in the year. *Lachie Foott – Principal*

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 29th March 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.



Calling All Seniors!

SENIORS SOCIAL (formerly Seniors Group) The next Seniors Social meeting will take place on **Monday 4th April from 10am – 1pm**, in the **Meeting Room at OLA Church**. Enquiries: Jill: 0428 114 815 or Christine: 0415 150 688

OLA CHOIR The OLA Choir is looking for new people to help us lead the singing on Good Friday afternoon and Easter Sunday morning. We are meeting at 10am on Sunday 3rd of April for a practice in the Church. There will be other practices to be organised. Enquiries: Helen: 0432 866 039 or. Tony: 0468 453 156

This week's Gospel Reading continues...

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."