

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

5:12-16

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

1:9-13, 17-19

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**You believe in me, Thomas,
because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me,
but still believe!
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Pastoral Associate: Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

St Agnes' Parish Highett

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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

'Divine Mercy Sunday'

23rd / 24th April, 2022



The problem for Thomas is the problem that all later Christians face. Can we believe the Easter Gospel when we do not see the body of the Risen One? There is a Thomas within all of us, wanting to believe but sometimes finding faith difficult. Thomas' response is not to reach out to touch Jesus, but rather to recognise now the fullness of Jesus' divinity; 'My Lord and my God.' Only in John's Gospel do we find such an absolute statement of Jesus' divinity. The final words of Jesus in this Gospel reach past Thomas to us, as Jesus pronounces a blessing for those who do not see and yet believe. The evangelist also reaches across time to us when he writes, 'These things are written that you may believe.' The presence of Jesus, his words, and the words of this Gospel writer live on in the Christian communities of our time. Whenever Christians gather, Jesus rises in our midst. Not even our fears and doubts are sufficient barriers, for Jesus comes to frightened and disbelieving disciples. The Easter gifts of peace and the Spirit are now available to all and blessed indeed are those who believe.

Mary Coloe PBVM

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year C
23rd / 24th April, 2022

PRAYING FOR:

Caryl Donohue, Chris Dadiras,
Damian West, Miranda Croft, Joan Frasier,
Marj Dermoud

...and all who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Elenda Bukasongo, Jack McHugh,
Lyn McHugh,

....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 #57: 11th March, 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>

ANZAC DAY MASS Please Note: there will be a Mass at St Agnes' Church on **Monday the 25th of April at 9.00am** to commemorate **ANZAC Day**. St Agnes' is an appropriate sacred space for Mass as St Agnes' church was built as a 'memorial church' dedicated to those who had fallen in war.

ANZAC PRAYER

Gracious and loving God,
the cross of Christ is the sign
of your desire for justice and peace for all.
Open our minds to your vision
as we remember all who suffered
through Australia and New Zealand's
involvement in wars, conflicts and
peacekeeping operations.
Grant all servicepersons
who sacrificed health and life
for the good of all,
the gift of your deep peace.
May we who inherit the freedom for which
they fought
become instruments of your peace
in our homes, workplaces and world.
We ask this prayer
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

 **ACU THE ACU CENTRE FOR LITURGY** is offering a new online training program for **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**, supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. These online classes start on the 27th April. For further information see our website

acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training

Alternatively, you can contact the Centre on (02) 9701 4751 or email the Centre:


CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au


OLA THANKSGIVING / STEWARDSHIP
Please note that those who contribute to the OLA Thanksgiving / Stewardship Programme via envelopes, are asked to collect their set of envelopes from the foyer of OLA church.

OLA KNITTING GROUP will next meet on Tuesday 26th April at 1pm in the Church Meeting Room. All are most welcome.




Calling All Seniors! **SENIORS SOCIAL** (formerly Seniors Group) The next Seniors Social meeting will take place on **Monday 2nd May from 10am - 1pm**, in the **Meeting Room at OLA Church**. Volunteer Drivers needed to assist with transportation. Enquiries: Jill: 0428 114 815 or Christine: 0415 150 688.

ST AGNES' PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS 
Wednesday 27th April and Wednesday 18th May.
Come along any time from **9am onwards** for a tour and a chat with our Principal: Lachie Foott.

 **MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR HEALTH & AGED CARE WORKERS** **11am on Sunday 1st May.** The last two years have impacted all of us, but especially on members of the aged and health-care service sectors. This Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne, will be offered in thanksgiving for their ongoing care and those working in these sectors are especially invited to attend.

MASS TO COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO HAVE DIED DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC **11am on Sunday 22nd May.** In recognition of the significant impact of COVID in our families and communities, Archbishop Peter Comensoli will celebrate a memorial Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral for all those who have died during the COVID pandemic and could not be mourned properly due to pandemic restrictions.