

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Amos 8:4-7

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.' The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy 2:1-8

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans. In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes." Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty." The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light. 'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own? 'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

Parish Office: 9583 6161

9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192

Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

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Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Pastoral Associate: Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

St Agnes' Parish Highett

Parish Office: 9532 1794

1 Locinda Street, Highett. 3190

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TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C – 17th / 18th SEPTEMBER, 2022



The Burning Bush

Ex 3:1-12

Listen to the Voice of creation SEASON OF CREATION 2022

In the gospel, the steward is praised for his prudence because he recognises that his future will not be secured by gathering up his commissions [or more], his part of the rich man's wealth. He uses the wealth to make friends who will welcome him and support him in the future. Jesus taught, and Catholic social teaching has long emphasized, that a successful human life is not measured by the accumulation of wealth or power. The 'good life' is the fruit of strong and loving relationships, bonds of friendship and justice, and commitment to community wellbeing. 'Mammon' means 'what we trust in'. Jesus is uncompromising: we cannot put our trust in both God and money. The severe socioecological crisis in these times makes very clear how pursuing and valuing a practical idolatry of wealth, above all else, threatens and destroys God's gifts in creation. It betrays our sacred mission to care for creation and share it in gratitude and love.

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: Vino Krishnan
Accountant: Maureen Ryan

OUR SCHOOLS:
Our Lady of the Assumption 9584 9488
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques
Email: rjacques@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 (except Public Holidays)
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.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME – Yr. C
17th/18th September, 2022

PRAYING FOR:

Mary Fitzgibbon, Carmen Vassallo,
Mark McLennan, Tom Velten, Freda Martin,
Russell Cramer
...and all those who have died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Fr John Rate MSC, Rosalia Nombrado,
Helen Ingles, Fausta Saguimpa, Hilda Zammit,
P.J. McNamara, Bob Wilkie, Diane Smiles,
Eduvino Birke, James McCarthy, Bill King,
Jack Stiglitz, Zachary Gleeson,
....and all who we remember 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**
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 #60: 20th July, 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>



THE SEASON OF CREATION.

True 'progress' and authentic human 'development', as understood in Pope Francis's teaching on integral ecology, are characterized by rich and growing personal, social, and ecological relationships, reciprocity, and harmony. This understanding of authentic human development is a vision of the New Creation inviting us to change, to a holistic conversion that includes cultural changes in how we think about life on Earth, and value it as well as structural changes in social habits, laws, and corresponding economic programs. Our teaching and preaching must contribute to this.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND We welcome with joy through the sacrament of Baptism this weekend, **Jude Levy** and **Emilio Monotti**.

THE BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT (BASP) Trivia Night Friday 7th October: 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the BASP food and cleaning products appeal, it was a great result. St Mary's Parish, Hampton is organising another Trivia Night by Zoom on 7 October to raise funds for asylum seekers and refugees supported by BASP. You can join in the quiz from your own home, or catch up with friends to play together. You can register your own team, or join the 'OLA Cheltenham' team when you register. There is a suggested minimum donation of \$30 per team member. To register, go to cohdig.au/trivia or contact Adrian Foley at ade.foley@gmail.com or mobile 0497 780 233 for more information.



OLA KNITTING GROUP will next meet on Tuesday 27th September at 1pm, in the Church Meeting Room. All are most welcome. The **Knitting Stall** will be held at OLA on Sunday 2nd October after the 9am and 11am Masses. All proceeds will go to St Vincent De Paul Cheltenham Conference.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

CatholicCare Victoria The amount raised across both OLA & St Agnes' parishes was **\$1897.50**.

Priests Retirement Foundation The amount raised across both OLA & St Agnes' parishes for the annual Fathers' Day Appeal, totalled **\$2187.20**.

Thank you most sincerely on behalf of both agencies of the Archdiocese, for your continuing and most generous support.

PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM 2022

Due to the reconfiguration of dates for the Program, as those who give to Thanksgiving via envelopes will be aware, we have a gap (of sorts) between the supply of existing Thanksgiving envelopes, and the upcoming provision of envelopes to be distributed as part of the current program. To manage the gap over the next two weekends, contributors are invited to collect their envelopes from our respective church foyers.

OLA FETE - NOVEMBER 2022

Calling all plant lovers and green thumbs!

The plant stall is one of the most successful and most loved stalls at our fete. This year we need your help to make sure it is blooming and bigger than ever.

We are looking for people who can:

- Donate indoor/outdoor plants, indoor/ outdoor plant pots (can be creative) or source donations for the stall; or
- Propagate plants that you may have in your garden/home to donate to the fete. Even if it is just a few – every little bit helps;

If you can assist please contact Helen Brennan or Claire Melican, from the Fete Committee either at 0402 367 067 or via email:

fete@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

The fete committee are also collecting Spinning Wheel donations in the month of September. Kindly drop off donations at the School Office.



PARISH FIRST
BUILDING BETTER PARISHES

OLA CHELTENHAM/ST AGNES' HIGHETT PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM 2022

Welcome to the final week of our Parish Renewal Program – the Parish Commitment Weekend.

Last week we considered our **engagement** in parish life. How our involvement in parish groups & ministries is central to building parish community – and central to actively living our faith through service to others. This week we turn our attention to **parish finances**. We again welcome Stephen Littleton from Parish First, who will speak to us on this very important subject.

WE ASK FOR YOUR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE PARISH

What is the current state of our Thanksgiving income?

- Thanksgiving is the major source of parish income
- Thanksgiving in both parishes suffered major declines during the last two years
- We need to significantly increase Thanksgiving in both parishes to turn this around
- This is a challenge – but can be achieved with the support of ALL parish families

What does my financial support pay for?

Thanksgiving

- The maintenance of our churches and parish facilities
- Supporting our pastoral care and outreach programs
- The operating costs of the parish – staff wages, insurance, utilities etc.

Presbytery

- Support for your Parish Priest
- Support for retired priests through the Priests Retirement Foundation
- Support for less advantaged priests through the Priests Remuneration Fund
- Support for the Archbishop & Bishops

Parish First Pty Ltd

ACN 635 079 079

PO Box 1063, Newport VIC 3015

Stephen Littleton **M** 0458 358 116 **E** stephen@parishfirst.com.au www.parishfirst.com.au

How much should I pledge?

- It is now 4 years (OLA) and 9 years (St Agnes') since we conducted a Renewal Program, so we are asking all families to review and renew their commitments. As a guide - how do you use your discretionary income – after paying the essentials. A daily cup of coffee can cost \$30 per week or \$130 per month. Is support of your parish a priority for you? We simply ask that your financial support to Thanksgiving is a meaningful one in your own individual circumstances.
- We unashamedly ask those with the greatest capacity to contribute the most – reserving special thanks for those on restricted incomes whose continued support is very much appreciated

How do I pledge?

- Use the Commitment form from the Program brochure
- Download the Commitment form from the parish websites
- Use the Commitment form available in hard copy at all Masses this weekend – Sat 10 & Sun 11 September
- Return your completed pledge at Mass this weekend – or to the Parish Office no later than Wed 14 September

THOUGHTS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Q: Why do you think it is important to support our parish financially through our Thanksgiving Program?

“Our parish would not exist without having stable financial support. This financial support is vital for funding parish activities, maintaining our facilities and providing quality pastoral care and outreach to the needy.”

“It is very simple. Any organisation requires funding to be able to operate and provide the services according to its mission - our parish is no different.”

POPE FRANCIS SAYS

“The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.”



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