

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

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 Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire.

continued overleaf...

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Pastoral Visitation Coordinator: Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

St Agnes' Parish Highett

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1 Locinda Street, Highett. 3190

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A – 3rd / 4th DECEMBER, 2022



What is essential and truly preparatory to Jesus' proclamation of good news is John's summons to conversion of heart. The "way" that Isaiah wanted prepared in the wilderness is one that must be prepared in the wilderness of the human heart. The good news will then find a hearing when at last it is proclaimed. The greatest obstacle to conversion of heart is complacency – a complacency that especially stems from privileged status and a sense that one is different from the despised outsiders and so can rest secure. Jesus will "baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire". That is, he will seek to catch up human lives into the fire that is God's love, communicated through the Spirit. But only hearts that are truly repentant and converted will be able to be grasped within a "baptism" of this kind. John's baptism with water is a preparatory rite of conversion, readying human hearts for the entrance of this message about God's love, the true "knowledge of the Lord" that Jesus will impart.

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHTT
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9555 3557
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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 & HIGHTT
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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Yr A
3rd / 4th December, 2022

PRAYING FOR:

Mary Hisgrove, Rosie Schiena,
Antonio Casaceli,

...and all those who have died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Alexander Burke, Mai Molloy,
Elizabeth Thomas, John de Jong,
John Smiles, Jean Wallis & Oscar Capule

...and all who we remember about this time.

...and we keep in our prayers all who are currently unwell.

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 #61: 12th October, 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>

Readings for this liturgical year from
Advent 2022 to Christ the King 2023 are
taken from Year A in the Lectionary cycle
universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/Mass



**OLA ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Christmas "Giving Tree"**

You may have seen our "Giving Tree" as you entered the Church.

Although we can provide Food Hampers to needy families in a Covid-safe manner, we will again be adding Retailers' Gift Cards to help families with children purchase toys of their choice. If you wish to help, by gifting a Retail Gift Card, there will be envelopes (rather than stars) to collect, showing the age range & gender of each child. You may return the envelopes into the box labelled 'Christmas Hampers Gift Cards'. Your contribution will be much appreciated.



**ST AGNES'
ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Christmas "Giving Tree"**

This weekend you will see our "Giving Tree" as you enter St Agnes' church. We are asking for food, (not necessarily Christmas fare), that we can distribute throughout the holiday season. If you wish to contribute a gift card or a monetary donation, that would also be welcome. We are not providing hampers this year, but distributing Woolworths vouchers to our companions we have visited in the last twelve months.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS Come, join us to sing Carols before and during Christmas Eve Mass. We will begin a short weekly practice session at 10am in the Church from Sunday 27th November until Christmas. All are most welcome! For enquiries contact:
Helen: 0432 866 039 or Tony: 0468 453 156

**YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION
ONLINE ENROLMENTS FOR 2023**

Register online at www.ytu.edu.au or via phone: 03 9890 3771. 2023 Handbooks are available to pick up at OLA Parish Office.



OLA KNITTING GROUP The next **Knitting Stall** will be held at OLA on Sunday 11th December after the 9am and 11am Masses. All proceeds will go to the St Vincent De Paul Cheltenham Conference.

GOSPEL READING *continued...*

I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'



This Sunday 4th December, you're invited to stay and join fellow parishioners for a cuppa after the 9am & 11am Masses, in the OLA Church Meeting Room.

OLA PARISH COMMUNITY FETE

Thank You!

A sincere thank you to all who supported and contributed so generously to the OLA Parish Fete. The Fete's success reflects our wonderful community spirit.

OLA PARISH FETE RAFFLE - Winners...

- 1st Prize - \$1500 Chadstone Shopping Voucher:
Sandra Muscat
2nd Prize - Apple iPad:
Mia McKillan 3/4JD
3rd Prize - \$250 Red Balloon voucher:
Vidhi Metila
4th Prize - Alessi food Hamper:
Eli Seguel

PLANT STALL RAFFLE – Winners...

- 1st Prize - Cathal Crawford
2nd Prize - Paul Brennan

The total amount of money raised is still being finalised. We hope to publish the final figures in next weekend's bulletin. Thank you again for such a huge effort on the part of so many!