

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14**

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7**

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A virgin will give birth to a son;**

**His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.**

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

## AN ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray, as Advent draws to a close,  
that Christ will truly come into our hearts.

Lord, fill our hearts with your love,  
and as you revealed to us by an angel  
the coming of your Son as man,  
so lead us through his suffering and death  
to the glory of his resurrection.

## Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

**Parish Office:** 9583 6161

9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192

**Email:** [Cheltenham@cam.org.au](mailto:Cheltenham@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.olacheltenham.org.au](http://www.olacheltenham.org.au)



**Parish Priest:** Fr Alan Fox

**Pastoral Visitation Coordinator:** Christine Dunne

**Psychologist:** AnneMaree Eddy

## St Agnes' Parish Highett

**Parish Office:** 9532 1794

1 Locinda Street, Highett. 3190

**Email:** [Highett@cam.org.au](mailto:Highett@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.sahighett.org.au](http://www.sahighett.org.au)



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A - 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2022



Emmanuel; God-is-with-us – that's what we celebrate through Christmas and that's what we've been preparing for during Advent. We celebrate God-with-us in a particular time and place through our celebration of the birth of Jesus. But we remember it every year because we also use the Christmas celebration to remind ourselves that God continues to be with us. That is what is so remarkable about the Christmas season: that God-is-with-us now, not just in a stable in Palestine so many years ago, but now! Advent is the time to remind ourselves of this incredible truth and prepare ourselves to acknowledge it once again.

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT  
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9555 3557  
Email: [Alan.Fox@cam.org.au](mailto:Alan.Fox@cam.org.au)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161  
Monday - Friday 9am – 3pm  
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](mailto:rjacques@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au)  
St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344  
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott  
Email: [foott@sahighett.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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.

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Yr A 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

##### PRAYING FOR:

Fr Joseph Hynan PE,  
Barbara Mondan, Kathrine Natale  
...and all those who have died recently.

##### WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Alfredo Torres, Patrick Flood, Robert Jelleff,  
Stephen Cole, Lee They Wong,  
Kevin Maloney, John Lynch, Rosie Schiena,  
Margaret Dean, Pauline Stevens,  
Alice King, Gerard Chadwick &  
Craig Blair.

...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: 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2022) are available online at:

[melbournecatholic.org/covid-19-guidelines](http://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](http://universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/Mass)

**Anniversaries of Death – Christmas 2022 through January 2023:** In preparation for the Summer Bulletin, covering Christmas through to the end of January, you are invited to enter the names of those whose anniversaries occur during this period, and who you'd like remembered in prayer, into the Memorial Folder located in the foyer of OLA church or contact the OLA Office.



**ST AGNES' and OLA ST VINCENT DE PAUL** conferences extend their sincere gratitude to all who contributed so generously to their respective Christmas "Giving Tree" appeals. Your support is invaluable and helps Vinnies to further their mission and help ease the burdens vulnerable people in our community are experiencing at a time such as Christmas.



##### RETURNING COMMUNION

**PYXES** Any parishioners who have volunteered to take Communion to the sick in the past, and still have a parish pyx in their possession, are asked to please return it to the OLA Parish Office. Thanks.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS** Come, join us at OLA to sing Carols before and during the 8pm Christmas Eve Mass. The final practice session is scheduled for 10am this Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December in OLA Church. All are most welcome! For enquiries contact:  
Helen: 0432 866 039 or Tony: 0468 453 156



**OLA KNITTING GROUP** would like to thank everyone who donated wool and supported our stall last weekend. We have passed on to St Vincent de Paul (OLA Conference), the wonderful sum of \$615.

#### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE 2022

##### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve

**6pm Mass** St Agnes' Church, Highett  
**8pm Mass** OLA Church Cheltenham  
[Carols from 7.30pm]

##### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day

**9am Mass** OLA Church Cheltenham  
**11am Mass** OLA Church Cheltenham

Please note: **the Parish Office will close on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December @ 12 noon, and re-open at 9am on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.** The Office will open with the limited hours of 9am to 12pm on both Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January. Regular office hours of 9am – 3pm resume on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Should you need to get in touch outside of these hours, please phone the **Presbytery** on: **9555 3557.**



**BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND** We welcome with joy through the sacrament of Baptism **this** weekend, **Xari Madonna Herridge.**

##### YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION ONLINE ENROLMENTS FOR 2023

Register online at [www.ytu.edu.au](http://www.ytu.edu.au) or via phone: 03 9890 3771. 2023 Handbooks are available at OLA Parish Office.



##### EVANGELISATION SUMMER SCHOOL

Are you looking for an encounter with Jesus? Start your year on a retreat with the Lord. Join other young adults between 18-35 years old for prayer, fellowship, worship, catechesis, and the sacraments. **January 15-22, 2023** at Glenmore, VIC. Book before 26 Dec for Early Bird Rates! Register at [ssemelbourne.org.au](http://ssemelbourne.org.au)

##### ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

For all the latest news of what's happening in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, including the announcement that the Archdiocese will be hosting the 'Australian Catholic Youth Festival' in 2024, please visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news>