

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

Parish Office: 9583 6161

9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192

Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

Website: 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

Website: www.sahighett.org.au



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A - 10th / 11th DECEMBER, 2022



Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment. Advent invites us to be more perceptive, and to take time out to see the presence of God with us. Like the people mentioned in the gospel, we may need to step aside, to 'go out into the wilderness' in order to see these signs. Look within your own life, your family, your workplace, your neighbourhood and recognise the sure signs of God's presence in our midst.

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Yr A
10th / 11th December, 2022

PRAYING FOR:

Mick Richards, Mary McElwee,
Carol Harrold (née Molloy), Norma Bride,

...and all those who have died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

John Mulhall, Elizabeth Thomas,
Violet Hogg, Jacinta Armstrong,
Sarah Jackson, Susan Duke, Frank Devine
& Frank Canny.

...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"

The St Vincent de Paul conference "Giving Tree" stands in the OLA church foyer. Once again parishioners are invited to donate Retail Gift Cards to help families with children, purchase toys of their choice. If you wish to donate a Retail Gift Card, there are envelopes to collect, showing the age range & gender of each child. Please return the envelopes to the box labelled 'Christmas Hampers Gift Cards'. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

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

St Vincent de Paul's "Giving Tree" stands in St Agnes' church foyer. The conference is requesting donations of food, (not necessarily Christmas fare), that can be distributed throughout the holiday season. If you would prefer to donate a gift card or a monetary gift, these would also be welcome. We will not be providing hampers this year, but distributing Woolworths vouchers to those families we have visited over 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



OLA KNITTING GROUP The **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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE 2022

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

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

Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

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

Please note: the Parish Office will close on Friday 23rd December @ 12 noon, and re-open on Monday 9th January, 2023. Should you need to get in touch please phone the **Presbytery** on: **9555 3557**.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND We welcome with joy through the sacrament of Baptism **this** weekend, **Elle Meehan, Aurora Kelly, and Beau Armitage**.

OLA PIETY STALL Columban Calendars @ \$10 each and St Vincent De Paul Christmas cards @ \$3 for a pack of 5 are available for sale.

OLA PARISH COMMUNITY FETE

A sincere thank you to all who supported and contributed so generously to the OLA Parish Fete. Approximately **\$27,000** was raised. What a fantastic result! The Fete's success certainly reflects our wonderful community spirit. Thank you again for such a huge effort on the part of so many!

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.

WORDS OF WISDOM...

Always be kind to your Parish Priest...
He may have the last word at your funeral!