

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Leviticus

19:1-2. 17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
Grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.



UPCOMING FUNERAL MASS

Thursday 23rd February at 1.00pm
(OLA Church)

Margaret Donovan (RIP)

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

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



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 18th/19th FEBRUARY, 2023



Jesus instructs his disciples to offer no resistance at all when someone tries to take advantage of them. He then reinterprets the law of love in an even more radical manner, insisting that his disciples' love must be patterned after God's love, which is given unquestioningly to the just and the unjust alike. Those who would be known as children of God are expected to love as God does. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance. We are also told that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching.

Dianne Bergant CSA

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 – 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
St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott
Email: lfoott@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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME Year A - 18th / 19th February, 2023

PRAYING FOR:

Emilia Slaviero, Margaret Donovan,

...and all those who have died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Tony Maccora (1 month), Frank Shanley,
Adam Wanless, Doris Mille, Bill Mille, Nita
Sunberg, Liliane Tranquille, Leonor Rivera,
Gaby Tanzimat,

...and all who we remember at 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

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES Lent begins
this coming **Wednesday 22nd February**.
Masses will be celebrated at **9.15am at OLA
Church**, and **7pm at St Agnes' Church**.



LENTEN PROGRAMME

2023: The programme we
will be following this year is
God is on the Journey, Too by *Christopher
Monaghan CP*. Any parishioners interested in
participating in this year's Lenten
Programme, are asked to please indicate day
and time preferences on the sign-up sheets
available in our church foyers. For more
information contact the parish office on:
9583 6161 or email: cheltenham@cam.org.au.



Caritas AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION

2023 Please consider taking
home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of
donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia
this Lenten season, and in doing so, help support
vulnerable people around the world, now and
'For All Future Generations'. With your
support, Caritas Australia has been able to
support vulnerable communities around the
world to tackle poverty, food security,
education, water and sanitation and disaster risk
reduction to build a better future for all.



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND We

welcome with joy, **Luca Pertile** and
Enza Pertile, whose Baptisms we'll
celebrate during 6pm Mass at St Agnes.



CatholicCare
VICTORIA



PASTORAL CARE APPEAL 2023

Thank
you! Last weekend, we conducted the annual
Pastoral Care Appeal across all parishes. Thank
you to those who supported the Appeal. If you still
wish to donate or if you would like to have more
information about Chaplaincy Services, please
visit www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call: 9287 5513.



**SECURITY OF THE OLA
GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS**

Over the last couple of years we
have seen an increase in visitors
onsite at Our Lady of the
Assumption both in the evenings and over
the weekend. While many visitors enjoy our
beautiful grounds, we do have some visitors
engaging in unsafe practices. In consultation
with the police, our neighbours and members
of our community, we have decided to lock
the pedestrian gates at the close of business
each weekday as well as over the weekend
with the gates being opened for each Mass.
We apologise for this inconvenience but
please know that this decision has been made
for the safety and wellbeing of all in our
community. We will begin locking gates
from Monday 20th February. Thank you for
your understanding and support.

With our building works completed on the
original school we are looking at creating a
display of the last 70 years of Our Lady of
the Assumption Parish Primary School. We
would love to hear from any parishioner who
would like to contribute a favourite photo or
memory or why OLA holds a special place
in your life. Please contact me via the School
Office on: 9584 9488.

– Richard Jacques – Principal (OLA)



SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Bishop Robert Rabbat, the Melkite
Catholic Eparchy, through the Melkite
Charitable Foundation (MCF), is desperately
seeking funds to support the victims of the
Syrian earthquake. Please consider donating to
the **Syrian Earthquake Appeal**. Contributions
can be made to:

MCF DGR Account Ref: Syrian Appeal
BSB: 062784 Account: 100011493

Donations are tax deductible and for a receipt
please email: mcf@melkite.org.au

Phone: (02) 9750 5514 for more information.