

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ With the Lord there is mercy and
fullness of redemption.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
Whoever follows me
will have the light of life.**

**Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL READING

[SHORTER FORM]

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.

...Gospel reading continued overleaf

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A – 25th/ 26th MARCH, 2023



Focus on the Gospel...

The pure human emotion of Jesus in this text attests to the love he had for Lazarus, but this human affection is nothing compared with the future promise to which the actions of Jesus towards Lazarus will lead. For those without faith, the tomb is simply a place of human corruption and decay. Death has ultimate power over people. But for people of faith, the tomb holds no fear. It is ironic that in raising Lazarus to life, Jesus is ensuring his own death at the hands of 'the Jews'. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the power of sin and death is broken, and instead, resurrection and life are offered to all who would attest with Martha that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. It is Jesus who is the resurrection and the life! There is a fundamental difference between the death and resurrection of Lazarus and that of Jesus. Lazarus will return to death, symbolised by the fact that he still wears the clothes of death when he comes forth from the tomb. Jesus' death, however, will lead to a glory that lasts forever, symbolised by the fact that his death clothes are neatly folded and placed to one side when he emerges from the tomb. The resurrection of Jesus brings eternal life.

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

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Year A - 25th / 26th March, 2023

PRAYING FOR:

Marie French, Rita Giugni, Nell O'Sullivan,
Jack O'Dempsey
and all those who have died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Fortunata Morabito, Benidecta Nombrado,
Frank Patterson, Frank Lohan,
Santina Gullo, John Goulding,
Michael Campion, Tess O'Dempsey,
Frederick Pereira, Freida Pereira,
Rocksten Pereira, Leslie Raymond,
...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



HOLY WEEK LITURGICAL MINISTRIES / VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers for the various liturgical roles from Palm Sunday through Holy Week to Easter Sunday, as readers, special ministers, commentators and PowerPoint operators. A Sign-up sheet is available in each church's foyer.



OLA CHOIR welcome you to join them in singing on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Next practice is on **Sunday 26th March at 10am** in the church. For enquiries, please contact Tony 0468 453 156 or Helen 0432 866 039.



Next Sunday 2nd April, you're invited to stay and join fellow parishioners for a cuppa **after the 9am & 11am Masses,** in the OLA Church Meeting Room.



PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM
For those who contribute to our parishes via envelopes, new boxed sets of envelopes for the year are available for collection from our respective church foyers. Thank you once again for your ongoing practical and financial support for the mission of both our parishes.



OLA KNITTING GROUP The **Knitting Stall** will be held at OLA on Sunday 26th March after the 9am and 11am Masses. All proceeds will go to the St Vincent De Paul Cheltenham Conference.

RCIA: Please continue to pray for both our Catechumens, **Jessica Cox & Paulette Stutterd,** as they prepare for their formal reception into the Church at the Easter Sacraments.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS
Don't forget!! Daylight Savings ends **next** Sunday 2nd April. We turn our clocks back 1 hour.

Gospel reading continued...

Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

THANK YOU – Thomas McDonnell would like to sincerely thank all who generously sponsored him for the St Bede's College "Mission Action Day" in support of the Lasallian Foundation's Mission in Balgo, Western Australia, Papua New Guinea & Pakistan. **An amazing \$1130 was raised.**



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Teresa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

Please consider donating to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

St Agnes' Highett / Our Lady's Cheltenham



TUESDAY – 4th April, 2023

9am Mass – St Agnes' Church, Highett.

9:30am Individual Reconciliation (*after morning Mass*) at St Agnes' Church.

6pm Mass (with extended Penitential Rite) OLA Church, Cheltenham.

6.45pm Individual Reconciliation (*after evening Mass*) at OLA Church

WEDNESDAY – 5th April, 2023

9:15am Mass – Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Cheltenham.

9:45am Individual Reconciliation (*following morning Mass*) at OLA Church.

HOLY THURSDAY 6th April, 2023

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper – St Agnes' Church, Highett.

GOOD FRIDAY – 7th April, 2023

**9am 'The Way of the Cross' – Our Lady of the Assumption Church,
Cheltenham**

3pm Solemn Ceremonies (The Commemoration of the Lord's Passion)
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Cheltenham.

HOLY SATURDAY – 8th April, 2023

7pm The Easter Vigil – St Agnes' Church, Highett. (*Please note the later time*)

EASTER SUNDAY – 9th April, 2023

9am & 11 am Masses – Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Cheltenham.

Please Note: As is the Church's liturgical custom no morning Masses are to be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION – Individual Reconciliation

Tuesday 4th April, 2023 – 9.30am (*after Mass*) in St Agnes' Church, Highett.

Tuesday 4th April, 2023 – 6:45pm (*after Mass*) in OLA Church, Cheltenham.

Wednesday 5th April, 2023 – 9.45am (*after Mass*) in OLA Church, Cheltenham.