

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Give thanks to the Lord
for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire

– and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas,
because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me,
but still believe!
Alleluia!,

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them.

(Gospel reading continued overleaf...)

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A - 15th/16th APRIL, 2023



The themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystagogical instruction, primarily of those baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.

Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover our capacity, as a Christian community, to reach out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world.

Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless gifts that came at a cost.

Dianne Bergant CSA

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGETT
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 & HIGETT

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 EASTER
Year A - 15th / 16th April, 2023

PRAYING FOR:

Neliya Edema,

...and all those who have died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Mary Crough, Veronica Tobin,
Norma Dodgson, Loata Ravu,
Alberto David Robert Gormley,
Jane Farrugia

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

...and we also 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



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND With great joy the Church of God formally welcomes: Elizabeth Vanderputt, BAPTISM Jesse Hinds, Imogen Duffy, Sienna Duffy, Charlie Pecora-Burne, Greyson Neyland, and Bruce Duffy, whose Baptisms we celebrate this weekend.

COMMUNITY REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP
OLA Parish Meeting on Sunday 30th April, at 10.15am, in Bracken Hall.

The Commonwealth Government has introduced a refugee migration program on a trial basis, where community groups sponsor a refugee family to settle in Australia. Under the scheme, a group of about 10 people in a community agree to sponsor a refugee family and take responsibility for helping the family to settle in the local area until they find their feet.

There will be a meeting at 10.15am on Sunday, 30th April in OLA's Bracken Hall to discuss the program in more detail. All are invited.

Enquiries: Adrian Foley on: 0497 780 233, or Email: ade.foley@gmail.com



'For All Future Generations'

THANK YOU most sincerely for your generous support of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2023 Lenten Appeal. If you have yet to return Project Compassion donation boxes or envelopes, please do so A.S.A.P., so we can finalise all parishioner contributions to this year's appeal, and forward them on to Caritas Australia.



If you would still like to make a donation to Project Compassion 2023, you can do so by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Gospel reading continued...

'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

YOU'RE INVITED to OLA School's Grand Opening of its refurbished Learning Spaces, on Friday 19th May 2023. **Mass at 10am**, followed by a blessing, cutting of the ribbon and morning tea. RSVP to office@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au by Monday 1st May 2023.



CARDINAL PELL LUNCHEON & LECTURE: 'Aid to the Church in Need' is launching an annual George Cardinal Pell Luncheon & Lecture with the inaugural event at the Park Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne, from 12-3pm, on Sunday 21st May. The keynote speaker will be Mr David Pell, brother of the late Cardinal. For information, and to register, please visit: www.trybooking.com/CGUDA

Divine Mercy Sunday

"Jesus makes us see the wounds of our brothers and sisters. In the midst of our own crises and our difficulties, divine mercy often makes us aware of the sufferings of our neighbour. We think that we are experiencing unbearable pain and situations of suffering, and we suddenly discover that others around us are silently enduring even worse things. If we care for the wounds of our neighbour and pour upon them the balm of mercy, we find being reborn within us a hope that comforts us in our weariness."

- Pope Francis