

## FIRST READING

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostle

6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

## SECOND READING

### A reading from the first letter of St Peter

2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be

disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**I am the way, the truth, and the life,  
says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father,  
except through me.  
Alleluia!,**

## GOSPEL READING

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?'

*(Gospel reading continued overleaf...)*

## Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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Website: [www.olacheltenham.org.au](http://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](mailto:Highett@cam.org.au)

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



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A – 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2023



This Sunday Jesus says that it is through his death that he goes to God. However, it is as he is raised up in crucifixion that he is exalted. The author of the epistle declares him 'chosen and precious in the sight of God' but it is as the stone that was rejected that he is so honoured. If we ever wonder how the exaltation of Jesus will effect us, we have Jesus' own words of explanation. He promises to go ahead of us and make arrangements for us to share in his exaltation in the house of the one he calls Father. All we need do is follow him. Today's readings suggest that the exaltation of Jesus is most dramatically manifested in the character of the community of those called by his name. It is revealed in the way Christians settle their differences so that all parties are treated fairly. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which this community is built, and the community mirrors his influence in its life. Christians also participate in the exaltation of Jesus by spreading the good news to others. In Acts we see how the witness of life and the preaching of the word of God increased the number of believers.

*Dianne Bergant CSA*

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT  
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](mailto:rjacques@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au)  
St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344  
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott  
Email: [tfoot@sahighett.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tfoot@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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Year A - 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

PRAYING FOR:

Graham Fraser, Marice Wall,  
Belen Rubas Rino, James Dunne,  
Myrtle Black,

...and all those who have died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Tim Bukasongo, Vladimir Gazdik,  
Maria Alba, Carman Zahra, Patrick Boshell,  
Francesca Piccolo, Barbara Chalmers,  
Celia Moran, Liliane Tranquille,  
Livia Polgar, Kathleen Corbett,  
Martin Fernandez, Lorelle Walker,  
John Martin, Brian Haggarty  
& Olga Evans.

...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 #62: 26 November 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>



**This Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May,** you're invited to stay and join fellow parishioners for a cuppa **after the 9am & 11am Masses**, in the OLA Church Meeting Room.



**YOU'RE INVITED** to OLA School's Grand Opening of its refurbished Learning Spaces, on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023. **Mass at 10am**, celebrated by **Bishop Anthony Ireland**, Regional Bishop for the Southern Region, followed by a blessing, cutting of the ribbon, and morning tea. Please RSVP via email: [office@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au) by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023.



**"SYNODALITY: CAN IT WORK IN MELBOURNE?"**

Fr Peter Matheson will give a talk at the Hampton RSL on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May for Spirituality in the Pub. Bookings are essential by Friday 12 May. Meals from 6.00pm, followed by Fr Peter's presentation at 7.30, conversation and conclusion about 9.00pm. Sharing a meal is an important part of the evening. For bookings and enquiries contact Michele [michelekennan@presvic.org.au](mailto:michelekennan@presvic.org.au) or mobile 0415 956 107, or Catriona [devlinc@bigpond.com](mailto:devlinc@bigpond.com) or mobile 0419 109 830.

**OLA / ST AGNES' CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME GROUP** warmly invites you to a



**'From the Heart Workshop'** on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May from 2pm–3.30pm** in the **OLA Church Meeting Room**. Learn more about the issues that the 2017 *'Uluru Statement from the Heart'* invites all Australians to consider before the Referendum later this year. We hope you will join us for an afternoon of prayer, videos, discussion, and afternoon tea. Enquiries: Adrian Foley on: 0497 780 233, or Email: [ade.foley@gmail.com](mailto:ade.foley@gmail.com)

*Gospel reading continued...*

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

**FYI: THE ANNUAL MASS COUNT** commences this weekend and will be conducted each weekend, across both our parishes, throughout the month of May.

**FR LAURIE MCNAMARA CM** will be presenting a programme entitled **'AGEING and AWAKENING: LIFE'S SURPRISING GIFTS!'** at OLA. Fr Laurie is offering three two-hour sessions where participants have the opportunity to explore the sources of meaning and the possibilities for growth, as many members of our parish communities journey into old age. Dates: **Wednesdays May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup> & June 14<sup>th</sup>**, from **10am to 1pm**. Handouts and sign up sheets will be available from next weekend.

**OLA & ST AGNES' FAMILY BOOKS**

Each of our churches have 'Family Books' in their respective foyers, where parishioners and visitors have the opportunity to inscribe the names of those who are recently deceased and/or whose anniversaries of death occur about this time. These books assist in the preparation of our intercessory prayers for each upcoming weekend. As handwriting can be difficult to read, coupled with our obligations to meet privacy laws, **always include your name and telephone number as the person requesting the inclusion of a loved one's name** in our prayers and bulletin. Thank you.