

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostle

8:5-8. 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Let all the earth
cry out to God with joy.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John **14:15-21**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

Mother's Day Prayer

Holy God, you compare your love of all people with the love of a mother for her children.

Look with kindness on our mothers, give them joy in all they do for us their children, and comfort them in moments of difficulty or sorrow.

Listen to their prayers and bless them in all they do. May they share everlasting happiness in your kingdom.

We ask this grace and blessing in the name of Jesus your Son. Amen

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A - 13th / 14th MAY, 2023



The essential idea behind 'Paraclete' is that of someone who stands beside you in time of difficulty, providing a comforting, supportive and encouraging presence. Though Jesus may no longer be physically present, the comfort and assurance his presence gave the disciples during his lifetime will continue in the presence of the Holy Spirit. In the face of constant trial and rejection from the world, the Paraclete will be for the disciples 'the Spirit of Truth' in the sense of imparting to them a conviction that what they believe and hold on to is indeed reality in the most profound sense. The Gospel begins and ends with the sense that believers 'have entered into the same reciprocity of love that unites the Father and the Son'. Though the language may suggest it to be the case, the Gospel does not mean that God's love is conditional upon human observance of the commandments. The essential commandment is that of love. What the Gospel is saying is that when the community is indeed one where love prevails, the atmosphere of love that it experiences is nothing other than a sharing in the communion of love that is the Godhead.

Brendan Byrne SJ

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: 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
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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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year A - 13th/14th May, 2023

PRAYING FOR:

Leah Wettstein, Monica Blair, Karin Jones,
Rod Cram,

...and all those who have died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Marco Paoli, Daniel Paoli, Alberto David,
Caridad David, Stephen Coulson,
Denzil D'Souza, Hilary Palman &
Ewa Paplinska

...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

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 the current 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

PLEASE NOTE that there will be **no 6pm Mass** at OLA church on **Tuesday the 16th May**. The 9am Mass at St Agnes' church will be celebrated as usual. Apologies for any inconvenience.



YOU'RE INVITED to OLA School's Grand Opening of its refurbished Learning Spaces, on Friday 19th May 2023. **Mass at 10am**, celebrated by **Bishop Anthony Ireland**, Regional Bishop for the Southern Region, followed by a blessing, cutting of the ribbon.

OLA / ST AGNES' CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME GROUP warmly



invites you to a **'From the Heart Workshop'** on **Sunday 21st May** from **2pm-3.30pm** in **OLA Church**. 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

THE ANNUAL MASS COUNT continues 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 31st, June 7th & June 14th**, from **10.30am to 1pm**. Program outline leaflets and sign-up sheets are available in both our churches' foyers.

OLA KNITTING GROUP will next meet on Tuesday 16th May at 1pm in the Church Meeting Room. All are most welcome.



HEART OF LIFE [MALVERN] 'Pondering Grief' Join Linda Espie, counsellor, psychotherapist, supervisor, educator, art therapist and author in this extremely special reflection day at the Heart of Life Centre in Malvern. This day offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop will offer a sacred and safe place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Cost includes Linda's book 'Pondering Grief. (BYO lunch). Sat 20th May, 10am-3.30pm (in-person event) Cost: \$80.

'Retreat In Everyday Life' involves a commitment to daily prayer and weekly spiritual accompaniment for an hour per week over five weeks. This is an ideal opportunity for a Parish or spiritual community to retreat together, as well as for individuals who would like to experience an opportunity to recognise God's presence in their everyday lives in a more intentional way.

5 x Mondays - 31 July, 7, 14, 21 & 28 August (at Heart of Life, Malvern, or via Zoom)

Cost: Donation.

Register at info@heartoflife.melbourne



AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED has launched their "Nigeria: Young. Faithful. Crucified" global campaign. Did you know that in 2022 a total of 5,014 Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria? These were not Nigerians who happened to be Christian, but rather, their allegiance to the Lord saw them face a brutal death. This is a Church being crucified with Christ. To watch testimonies and to make an offering visit aidtochurch.org/nigeriaglobal