

## FIRST READING

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostle

1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ God mounts his throne  
to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

## SECOND READING

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Go and teach all people my gospel.**

**I am with you always,  
until the end of the world.**

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL READING

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

## Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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Email: [Cheltenham@cam.org.au](mailto:Cheltenham@cam.org.au)

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

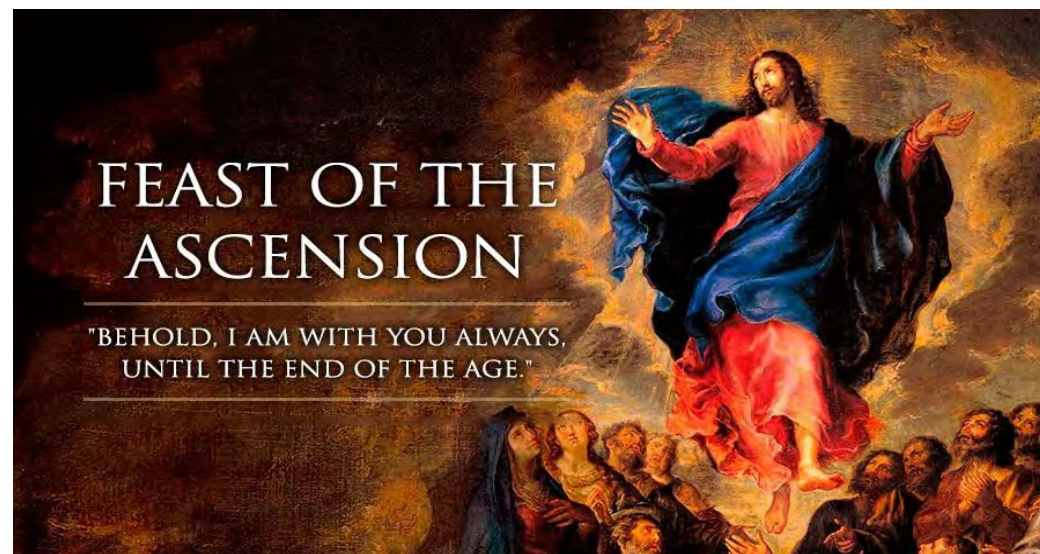
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## ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A – 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> MAY, 2023



The feast of the Ascension celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church). Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

*Dianne Bergant CSA*

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT  
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9555 3557  
Email: [Alan.Fox@cam.org.au](mailto: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](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.

**ASCENSION OF THE LORD**  
**Year A - 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2023**

**PRAYING FOR:**

Margaret D'Crue,

*...and all those who have died recently.*

**WE ALSO REMEMBER:**

Doris Borg, Teresita Salvador,  
Irena Kowalczyk, Melania Völkel,  
Enlogio Lucas, Roger Stapleton,  
Judith Dodgson, Tom Kelly and  
Eduardo Oropeza.

*...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>

**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](http://universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/Mass)

**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 at OLA entitled: **'AGEING and AWAKENING: LIFE'S SURPRISING GIFTS!'**. 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 **10.30am to 1pm**. Program outline leaflets and sign-up sheets are available in both our churches' foyers.



**2023 PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL**  
Tuberculosis, malnutrition, and maternal mortality are conditions all too familiar for the people of Timor-Leste. In two weeks' time you will learn about the work of the Salesian Sisters, including nurse, Sister Carolina, who desires to see better outcomes for her community. We will also share the story of Petrolina and her daughter's desperate need for medical attention. You have the opportunity to partner with this life-giving work, and your prayers and generosity are crucial in ensuring this program can continue. This opportunity is a great way to commit to the missionary movement, as He reminds us in Luke 24:13-35, the fire of Christ burns within us and encourages us to take action for those in most need.

**OLA / ST AGNES' CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME GROUP** warmly invites you to a **'From the Heart Workshop'** this **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:ade.foley@gmail.com)



**LAUDATO SI' WEEK** The Church in Australia is this week celebrating **'Laudato Si' Week'**, marking eight years since the publication of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on care for creation. Catholic communities are encouraged to reflect on the message of *Laudato Si'* and act to bring its ideals to life, focusing on this year's theme, **'Hope for the Earth. Hope for Humanity'**. As part of this global call to action, the Church is promoting the movie, **'The Letter: A Message for our Earth'**. This film tells the story of frontline leaders journeying to Rome to discuss the encyclical with Pope Francis. Hailing from Senegal, the Amazon, India, and Hawai'i, they bring perspective and solutions from the poor, the indigenous, the youth, and wildlife into a conversation with Pope Francis himself. This documentary follows their journey to Rome and the extraordinary experiences that took place there, and is packed with powerfully moving personal stories alongside the latest information about the planetary crisis and the toll it's taking on nature and people. You can watch the movie on <https://youtu.be/Rps9bs85BII>

You may be interested to read that our parishes are mentioned in an online article by Fiona Basile published on the Melbourne Catholic website: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/laudato-si-week-reminds-us-to-care-for-our-common-home>

