

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans
8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!
The seed is the word of God,
Christ is the sower;
All who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding.

So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

...continued overleaf

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 15th / 16th JULY, 2023



The readings for this Sunday call us to self-examination. The gospel describes various levels of receptivity, the willingness to allow ourselves to receive from another, to be influenced by another, perhaps even to be transformed. The more independent we are, the less likely we will be open to others and, consequently, less receptive to their ideas. By definition disciples are receptive to the one they follow. To be a disciple of Jesus requires receptivity, so it is important that we scrutinise ourselves to discover the extent to which we are open. To what should we be receptive? To the words of Scripture, the words of the liturgy, the words of the sacraments, the living tradition of the community. God's word is sown in many forms and under many guises. It makes little difference who sows the seed. How will we receive it? *Dianne Bergant CSA*

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: principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au
St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott
Email: foott@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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
Year A - 15th/16th July, 2023

PRAYING FOR:

Lynette Cronk, Fiona Roberts,
Joyce D'Olivera, Madge McFall,
Adelina Raon, Bronislaw Burza,
Frances Brooks, Russell Welsh,
... and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Margaret Dowsey, Arthur Goepfert,
Doris Miller, Bill Miller, Kevin Wanless,
Ray Wanless, Graham Wanless,
Josip Mandic, Milena Bilos,
Joane Sharpe, Nellie Andrews, Claire Herft,
Manfred Morys, John Roberts,
Marshall D'Souza,

....and all whose anniversaries occur about
this time.

...and we keep in our prayers all who are
currently unwell.

Readings for this liturgical year from Advent
2022 to Christ the King 2023 are taken from
Year A in the Lectionary cycle
Should you wish to view the Scripture
Readings for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical
Calendar) please visit:
universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/Mass

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.

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>

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
VICTORIA AND CATHOLIC
SOCIAL SERVICES
AUSTRALIA** invite you to join them
in a Webinar Series on the:

*'Indigenous Voice To Parliament – Moments
for healing this country'.*

Date: Thursday 27th July

Venue: via Zoom (link will be provided)

Enquiries: Kate Stilwell: office@css.org.au

Book here: trybooking.com/events/landing/1052799



We extend our congratulations to
Margo McCormick on the
occasion of her 100th Birthday.
Please join us for a cuppa and
cake after the 6pm Mass at St
Agnes' church, next Saturday the 22nd of July, to
celebrate this marvellous milestone. Warm
wishes from all within your parish family.



**HEART OF LIFE CENTRE FOR
SPIRITUAL & PASTORAL
FORMATION**

**RETREAT IN EVERYDAY LIFE -
MOMENTS OF GRACE**

**Mondays at 10am-12pm on 31 July, 7, 14,
21 & 28 August (at Heart of Life, Malvern,
or via Zoom)**

We invite you to join this retreat - either in person
or online - as you go about your day-to-day life.
The Retreat in Everyday Life involves a
commitment to daily prayer, and weekly spiritual
accompaniment for an hour per week over five
weeks with this year's theme 'Moments of
Grace'.

Cost: Donation

Book via: www.heartoflife.melbourne

Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral
Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern,
Email: mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne
Telephone: (03) 9890 1101.

GOSPEL READING continued...

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the
sower. When anyone hears the word of the
kingdom without understanding, the evil one
comes and carries off what was sown in his
heart: this is the man who received the seed on
the edge of the path. The one who received it on
patches of rock is the man who hears the word
and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no
root in him, he does not last; let some trial come,
or some persecution on account of the word, and
he falls away at once. The one who received the
seed in thorns is the man who hears the word,
but the worries of this world and the lure of
riches choke the word and so he produces
nothing. And the one who received the seed in
rich soil is the man who hears the word and
understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest
and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty,
now thirty.'

† **UPCOMING FUNERAL MASS** †

Tuesday 18th July at 11.30am (OLA)

Lynette Cronk (RIP)

May she rest in peace.

**Historical
Context**

**MATTHEW'S
COMMUNITY**

The gospel of Matthew is written at a time
and particular context in which the
community audience were feeling the effects
of having been ostracised from the Jewish
community. They were confounded by the
fact that other Jews could not accept the
reality of the Jesus message as they had. This
parable, and the accompanying conversation
with the disciples in which they are blessed
for their understanding, would have been a
comfort for the Matthew community.
Although they were frustrated, they were
being told through this story that not
everyone is ready to hear the message that
they had heard and accepted.