

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Lord make us turn to you,
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed

been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

PREPARE
the Way
OF
the Lord

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B - 2nd / 3rd DECEMBER, 2023



Today's readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then moves beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord. Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment.

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR B
2nd / 3rd December, 2023

PRAYING FOR:

Fr Gerard Dowling OAM DE,
Sr Brigida Nailon CSB, Terence Sier,

... and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Marco Paoli, Mary McElwee,
Grazia Marino, Ian Steele, Carol Harold,
Mai Molloy, Monina Garcia,
Mick Richards, Kevin Maloney,

....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
2023 to Christ the King 2024 are taken from
Year B 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>



**ST VINCENT DE PAUL Christmas
“Giving Tree”** Thank you to all for
your donations of Retail Gift Cards.

Next weekend the Cheltenham Conference of St
Vincent De Paul will pack/deliver some 90
Christmas Food Hampers to our needy families
along with Gift Cards (not toys) for approx. 80
children. You can still donate a Gift Card by
dropping it to the parish office by Friday 8th
December.

St Agnes' parishioners are also invited to donate
retail gift cards for distribution by the Highett
Conference, to families in need in the Highett/East
Hampton area, via the 'St Vincent de Paul Poor
Box' at the back of St Agnes' church. Thank you.

ST AGNES/OLA PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH



The next combined Parish
Social Lunch will be at **12
noon this Thursday, 7th
December**, at the **Highett**

RSL. All are most welcome.

Please RSVP by Monday 4th December to:
Karen Mitri: 0411 354 670 or 9553 0350
or via email: karen.mitri@gmail.com.



OLA KNITTING GROUP This
weekend our wonderful knitting
group will be holding their
**Christmas Stall at OLA after the
9am and 11am Masses**. Please support our
wonderful knitters, as all proceeds will go to the
Cheltenham Conference of St Vincent De Paul,.



This Sunday 3rd December,
you're invited to stay and join
fellow parishioners for a
'Christmas' themed cuppa **after 9am & 11am
Masses**, in the OLA Church Meeting Room.

Next Saturday evening, 9th December,
following the 6pm Mass at St Agnes' you're
invited to stay and join fellow parishioners in St
Agnes church foyer, for an 'End of Year'/
'Christmas' cuppa. You're most welcome to
bring something to share. Please consider
dropping any food into the church kitchen area
prior to Mass.

ADVENT IS A TIME OF WAITING. *We all
know what waiting is like. Sometimes our
waiting is impatient – a child hanging out for
holidays at the end of the school year, for
example, or of teenagers waiting until they can
drive legally. Sometimes waiting is anxious –
waiting for the result of exams, or waiting for
the verdict in a court case. Sometime waiting is
both anxious and joyful. In the Roman Empire
towns people might wait for a year for the
arrival of the Emperor, knowing that it would
be a time of reward for their compliance but
also for punishment of crimes committed.*

*This solemn and awe-inspiring arrival of the
Emperor into the city coloured Christians'
understanding of the waiting for Christ. It was
a time of waiting for the arrival of the king at
many levels. Most obviously it was a time of
waiting to celebrate the coming of Jesus as a
child in Bethlehem. The Scripture readings of
Advent are full of promises that a dry land will
flower, exiles will return home, peace will come
to a war-torn world, and the harvest will be
plentiful. In Advent we recall the coming of God
into our world at Christmas, and we prepare to
celebrate it.*

*Advent is also a time of waiting for the coming
of Christ at the end of time, the time of
fulfilment, of judgment, of the world united and
gathered as God's people. The Gospel of the
first Sunday of Advent emphasises this aspect of
Christ's coming. It tells the story of a master
who goes away and tells his servants to care for
the house and to wait attentively for his return.
The coming of God into our world at Christmas
is the beginning of a drama that will end with
us gathered with him at the end of time.*

*Finally, Advent is a time of waiting inwardly.
We wait in order to recognise the coming of
God into our hearts, and Jesus' call to us in our
daily lives. Seen from this perspective Advent is
a way of life in which we wait on God's Word,
a space for reflection in the business of our
daily lives.*

- Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ