

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the second book of Samuel**  
**7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**  
**16:25-27**

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ,

the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
**I am the servant of the Lord:**  
**May his will for me be done.**  
**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**  
**1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

## Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

**Parish Office:** 9583 6161

9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192

**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

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)



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B - 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023



The waiting of Advent is over. In the face of the impossible, God works the possible. During Advent, we have been waiting for the realisation of the promise made to David. We have been waiting for Mary's yes. With this yes, hope is enlivened, and history is changed. There is an unimaginable future for all people, a future that comes from God. Salvation is created among us, and the fate of history is altered by a godly presence. This salvation resides in the hearts of those who believe in the gift, and who stay awake eagerly to know its coming. With David we await it, with the nations we long for it, with Mary we behold it.

*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: [principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au)  
**St Agnes' Primary School** 9532 0344  
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott  
Email: [lfoott@sahighett.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lfoott@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.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**YEAR B**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**

**PRAYING FOR:**

Tito Bernal, Kenneth Ambler,  
Michael Kelly, Adrian Sier,  
Mary Marama,

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

**WE ALSO REMEMBER:**

Sr Eugenie Zimaris FMM, Kerry Seymour,  
Vincent D'Souza, Violet Hogg,  
Gerard Cartier, Adolphus D'Rozario,  
Cyril Smith

*....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**

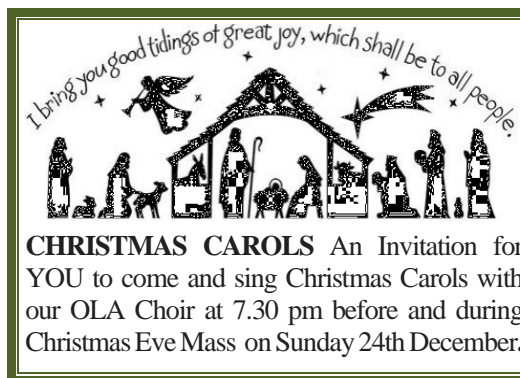
Should you wish to view the Scripture Readings for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) please visit:  
[universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/Mass](http://universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/Mass)

**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>



**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE 2023**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**  
6pm Mass St Agnes' Church, Highett  
8pm Mass OLA Church Cheltenham  
[Carols from 7.30pm]

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day**  
9am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham  
11am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham

**PLEASE NOTE** that Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> December, remain as scheduled: Saturday evening: 6pm at St Agnes', and Sunday morning: 9 & 11 at OLA.

**OLA PIETY STALL** Columban Calendars @ \$10 each and St Vincent De Paul Christmas cards @ \$3 for a pack of 5 are available for sale.



**HEART OF LIFE Centre for Spiritual and Pastoral Formation** is now receiving applications for their **2024** formation programs.

Programs include:

**Siloam Program** – for the formation of spiritual directors.

**Emmaus Supervision Program** – for the formation of professional supervisors.

**Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program** – for the formation of spiritual leaders.

**Let the Heart Listen Program** – for people involved in listening to and supporting others in life's journey. For more information visit: [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)



**OFFICE CLOSURE** Please note: the OLA/St Agnes Office will be closed for the majority of time over the Summer holiday period. The office will open on a limited basis over the coming weeks due to parish staff taking leave. Regular office hours of 9am-3pm resume from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024. Should you need to get in touch, please phone the Presbytery on: **9555 3557**. This number connects through to my mobile phone. Please leave a message and a contact number if I'm unable to take your call, and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you, Fr Alan



**UPDATING PARISHIONERS ON THE RECONFIGURATION OF PARISHES IN THE BAYSIDE AREA** Fr Joe Caddy, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, has written to all parishioners of St Agnes and Our Lady of the Assumption, to outline the timeline for the realignment of parish boundaries, as well as the process for the amalgamation of parishes within the Bayside area. A copy of his letter is available for you to pick up from both church foyers. You'll note in his letter that the realignment of parish boundaries will, among other changes, alter the existing northern boundary of St Agnes' Parish. The area east of Bluff Road across to the Nepean Highway, and up to South Road, formerly a section of East Hampton Parish, is to be incorporated into St Agnes' prior to proceeding with the amalgamation of St Agnes' and OLA. If you would like to read the detailed 'Implementation Plan' including the overall schedule for the realignment of parish boundaries, and the further amalgamation of existing parishes into the new configuration of the 4 parishes that will make up the Bayside area, the document is a direct download from the following link: [bit.ly/47JiBhr](http://bit.ly/47JiBhr)