

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS

Mon 25th Dec, 2023 to Sun 31st Dec, 2023

Tue 26th St Stephen, the first martyr
Wed 27th St John, apostle, evangelist
Thu 28th The Holy Innocents, martyrs
Sun 31st The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mon 1st Jan to Sun 7th Jan, 2024

Mon 1st Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Tue 2nd Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors
Sun 7th The Epiphany of the Lord

Mon 8th Jan to Sun 14th Jan, 2024

Mon 8th The Baptism of the Lord
Sun 14th 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mon 15th Jan to Sun 21st Jan, 2024

Wed 17th St Anthony, abbot
Sat 20th St Fabian, pope, martyr
St Sebastian, martyr
Sun 21st 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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>

Dear parishioners of St Agnes' and Our Lady of the Assumption,

As 2023 draws to its close, having experienced highs and lows, joys and sorrows, moments of celebration and I'm sure a challenge or two along the way, we give thanks for our communities of faith. For some there has been the gift of new life, and others the sorrow that accompanies bereavement. We've prayed for the sick, some who are now doing well, others who continue to struggle. We thank God for the faith we share, sustaining and supporting us as individuals and collectively as families, as well as the broader family of the Church. In the spirit of Christmas, and on behalf of the parish staff, I would like to extend to you and your families, my sincere best wishes for this Holy Season. May this Christmas be a special and joyous time, an opportunity to gather with family and friends to celebrate the significance of our Christian faith, as we thank God for the blessings we enjoy. The Father's goodness to us is at the heart of what we believe and celebrate, namely the preeminent gift to us, His people, of His Son Jesus, the one whom we remember at this time of year, as the little babe of Bethlehem. Thank you most sincerely, both personally and on behalf of parish staff, for your many Christmas cards, well wishes and gifts.

As many of you are aware, 2024 will signal a new chapter in the life of both our parishes. With the reconfiguration of the Greater Bayside region, changes are afoot. The first of these involves the realignment of the Northern boundary of St Agnes' Parish, as the existing part of the parish East of Bluff Road through to the Nepean Hwy will be extended through to South Road. On 1st January, what was previously the Eastern area of East Hampton Parish, will formally fall within St Agnes' redefined boundaries. Then, as detailed in the Bayside area 'Implementation Plan', by the end of March, St Agnes' and Our Lady of the Assumption parishes will amalgamate to form one of the four new parishes of the Bayside reconfiguration. In many ways it's a 'home-coming' of sorts for both our parishes, as OLA (est. 1958), was formerly a part of St Agnes' (est. 1951), its mother parish. Let's pray for one another as we transition to our new identity as the local Church in the Highett/Cheltenham/East Hampton area.

In the peace and joy of this wonderful season, I wish you a truly blessed and treasured time, and may God continue to be present to us, and all with whom we share His wonderful gift of life and love, this Christmas. - Fr Alan

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

Parish Office: 9583 6161
9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192
Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au
Website: 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
Website: www.sahighett.org.au

24th / 25th December, 2023
– 20th / 21st January, 2024 (inclusive)

*Merry
Christmas*
& Happy New Year

Readings for this liturgical year are from Year B

To view the Scripture Readings for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) please visit:

<https://www.universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/>

24th / 25th December, 2023 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Readings - Is 9:1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14.

30th / 31st December 2023 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Readings – Gen. 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40.

6th / 7th January, 2024 – The Epiphany of the Lord
Readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12.

13th / 14th January, 2024 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: 1 Sam 3:3-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42.

20th / 21st January, 2024 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31, 17; Mk 1:14-20.

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161
Mon -Fri. 9am – 3pm
Parish 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: tfoot@shighett.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
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 the 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.

24th / 25th December, 2023
– 20th / 21st January, 2024 (inclusive)

RECENTLY DECEASED...

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

..and all those who have died recently,
and all whose anniversaries
occur around this time.

† ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH †

Week beginning: Sun. 24th Dec., 2023

William O'Reilly, Philip Dunne,
Margaret Dean, Malcolm Davidson,
Frances Savage, Leo D'Cruz,
Maria Fucile, Katharine Thomas,
Monina Olid Garcia, Renato Garcia

Week beginning: Sun. 31st Dec., 2023

Annie Smiles, Sebastian Faulkner,
Mai Molloy, Basil Kitto, Mary O'Brien,
John Buckley, Robert Knight, Moira Kelly

Week beginning: Sun. 7th Jan., 2024

Cornelio Rovira, Dennis Alderton,
Ralph Foster, Cardinal George Pell,
Patricia McQuinn, Barbara Callaghan,
William Smrdel, David (Bonnie) Jackson.

Week beginning: Sun. 14th Jan., 2024

Mick Johnston, Sheila Johnston,
Annette Clarke, Margaret Charters,
Ananda Krishnan, John Murray,
Ellen Melia, Mary Appleby.

Week beginning: Sun. 21st Jan., 2024

Monica Cashin, Margaret Roche,
May Neilson, Joseph Scicluna,
Tony Maccora, Helen Rozario, Joe Ingles.

*May these, and all our dearly departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.*

2024

Office
Hours

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS / JANUARY PERIOD

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 only on a limited basis over the coming weeks, due to parish staff taking leave. Regular office hours of 9am-3pm resume on Monday 22nd January, 2024. Should you need to get in touch, please telephone the Presbytery on: 9555 3557. This number connects through to my mobile. If I'm unable to take your call, please leave a message and a contact number, and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you, Fr Alan

LITURGICAL TIMETABLE CHANGES

Please Note: There will be **No Communion Services on Mondays 8th & 15th January, 2024.** Monday Communion Services will recommence on 22nd January.



YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION ONLINE ENROLMENTS FOR 2024

YTU offers courses in Theology, Scripture, Liturgy, Moral Theology, Spirituality and Religious Education. Register online at www.ytu.edu.au or via phone: 03 9890 3771.



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 course and further information visit: www.heartoflife.melbourne

MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEARS DAY) on Monday 1st January, 2024, will be at **9.15am** at **OLA church.**

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES NATIONAL CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE, 21st-23rd Feb., 2024. All those who work, volunteer or have an interest in Catholic community services (and social justice more broadly) are invited to attend the **Catholic Social Services National Conference 2024: Commons, Commonality, Common Good.** Come along to be inspired in our shared work together – hear from innovative leaders, participate in thought provoking conversations, and connect with others who share a desire to create true communities out of a common effort for the common good. More information on tickets, the conference theme, speakers and the program is available at:

<https://css.org.au/css-national-conference-2024/>

May we live 2024...
Compassionate of heart,
Clear in word,
Gracious in awareness,
Courageous in thought,
Generous in love,
With Jesus at our side.

(Adapted from John O'Donohue,
Benedictus, p.26)