

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ I will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His

commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Live in me and let me live in you,
says the Lord;**

**my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!,**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'



BAPTISM

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

With great joy the Church of God welcomes **Jackson and Marlia Hanman**, who are to be Baptised this weekend.

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

Telephone: 9532 1794

1 Locinda Street, Highett. 3190

Email: Highett@cam.org.au

Website: www.sahighett.org.au



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B - 27th/28th APRIL, 2024



The gospel reading reminds us that as baptised Christians we are not just intimately interlinked but that the source of our unity is the Risen Christ. As limbs and leaves and sap of the same vine, we simply cannot survive in isolation. The vine image is an image of life and growth, of colour and vibrancy. It holds the promise of a life-sustaining grape harvest that is ultimately transformed into wine, the biblical symbol for joy. The Johannine Jesus makes the claim: "I am the true vine/vineyard" and God is the "vine grower". He goes further: "I am the vine/vineyard and you are the branches". The potency of this image resides in the fact that a vine without branches is inconceivable. It draws us into the mystery of the mutual interchange of life between us and the risen Christ, into the mystery of God. It also invites us to acknowledge our interconnection with the whole of the Earth community, to nurture the wonderful biodiversity of our planet, and to accept the inevitability of "pruning" if we are to "bear fruit" and "become disciples".

Veronica Lawson RSM

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: 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B - 27th / 28th April, 2024

PRAYING FOR:

Fr David Wilkie CP, Charmaine Firdous,
Pat Bergin,
...and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Sylvia Dib, Adele Gori, Joel Aracosta,
Tim Bukasongo, Francesca Piccolo,
Frankasio Aureo, Mark Connolly,
John Martin, Olga Evans,

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

*...additionally 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>

CHELTENHAM-HIGHETT DISCERNMENT SESSION

The second Discernment Session to discuss and
plan for the forthcoming formal amalgamation
of Highett & Cheltenham parishes, is as follows:

**Session 2: 7–8.30pm this Thurs. 2nd May
at Brigid Hall – OLA,
9 Centre Dandenong Rd Cheltenham**

The invitation is open to all parishioners of OLA
and St Agnes', including the staff of both our
parish schools, as well as all school families.

To register please visit: trybooking.com/COYIM

Our thanks to all those assisting with hospitality.

The detailed '**Implementation Plan**' for the
'**Reconfiguration of the Bayside Parishes**',
can be downloaded directly from the following
link: bit.ly/47JiBHR

Documents referred to in these sessions will be
progressively added to the OLA News Page:
<https://olacheltenham.org.au/2024/04/19/discernment-sessions-phase-2-documents/>

OLA FETE - NOVEMBER 2024 DONATIONS / SPONSORSHIPS

OLA school fete is on Saturday 23rd
November, and the fete committee are busy
preparing for what we hope will be an
amazing event. We are currently seeking
donations and sponsorships to make our fete
a huge success. We ask you or anyone you
know who runs a business and would like to
donate, or sponsor, the OLA Fete to please
contact either Antonella or Liz via email:

biv_is@hotmail.com

liz.grace.dawson@gmail.com

In exchange for donations, we will provide
your business with exposure via social media
accounts and in the school newsletter. Let's
all work together for our beautiful parish
school to make this year's fete at OLA
another successful one.



Next Sunday 5th May,
you're invited to stay and join
fellow parishioners for a
cuppa **after the 9am & 11am
Masses**, in the OLA Church Meeting Room.



**FIRST EUCHARIST at OLA
Church:** We extend our best
wishes and congratulations to
William McLean, Gabrielle De
Castro, and Stella Corondo, who
are receiving the Eucharist for the first time this
weekend. May Jesus, our Bread of Life, nourish
and sustain them and us, as together we gather in
thanksgiving at his table.



**CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA SUNDAY
APPEAL** Next weekend is the
CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.
As the Catholic Church's mission in action,
CatholicCare Victoria delivers programs and
services to support families, children, young
people and individuals to help everyone
reach their full potential. The services
include counselling and mental health
services, specialised support for children and
teens, refugee and asylum seeker help,
pastoral care, support for separating families,
social housing and homelessness support.
Donations from our parish community help
CatholicCare Victoria support the most
vulnerable individuals and families in our
community and empower everyone to live
life to the full. Please donate to the
CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your
support and generosity will help provide
caring and compassionate support for
struggling individuals and families in our
community. You can donate using the appeal
envelopes available next week or donate
online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call:
(03) 9287 5513. **CatholicCare thanks you
once again for your ongoing generosity.**