

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

55:1-3

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/ The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:35. 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word
that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.



**CHRIST OUR LIGHT
CATHOLIC PARISH**

HIGHETT / CHELTENHAM

Parish Office:

9 Centre Dandenong Road,
Cheltenham, VIC. 3192

Our Lady of the Assumption Church
9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham

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25 Spring Road, Highett

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

1st / 2nd AUGUST, 2026



The "lovely" picture of God wanting to quench our thirst and satisfy our hunger is part of that unfolding narrative in the scriptures which sees the Kingdom of God in terms of a great banquet. It links us to the underlying message of this week's gospel – the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand' – which, in turn, points us to that banquet which we have in the gift of the Eucharist. And notice how Jesus uses the occasion of the feeding as a lesson for the apostles and for us, that we are called to be the providers. The instinct of the apostles was that this was all too much for them and that the people should be sent away to find food for themselves, but, of course, the Eucharist will become the ultimate sign and reminder that this is how we are to look after one another and be united through Christ with our Father in Heaven. Ultimately Christ will triumph over every problem that presents itself: "neither death nor life, nor angels or rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." May we have the confidence and the courage to go forth and proclaim that message to our troubled world.

Timothy Buckley CSsR

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9532 1794
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161
Monday - Friday 9am – 3pm
Secretary: Julie Binstead
Accountant: Maureen Ryan

OUR SCHOOLS:

Our Lady of the Assumption PS 9584 9488
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques
Email: principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au
St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344
Principal: Mr Thomas Hartney
Email: principal@sahighett.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES – CHELTENHAM & HIGETT

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
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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Wednesday	[OLA Church]	9:45 am
Saturday	[OLA Church]	9.30 am

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 parish 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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY-Year A 1st / 2nd AUGUST, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Emmanuel Bernal, Marie Webb,
Ha Duc Tran, Doreen Moore,
Maree Winduss, Colin McPhee,
Ana Frankovic

and all who have died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Marco Paoli, Eileen Rate,
Angeles Esquivel, Jorge Chacon,
Mary Buck, Indu Antao,
Philomena Baptista, Audrey Concessio,
Pio Salerno, Emilio Salerno, Marie Wilson,
Mary Canny, Dorothy George,
Domenico Zuccala, Margot McCormick

and all who we remember at this time.

*...as we also keep in our prayers
all those who are currently unwell.*

**Readings for this liturgical year from
Advent 2025 to Christ the King 2026 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 generously
support our parish i.e., through their
contributions to both our Thanksgiving and
Presbytery collections. With the assistance of the
Archdiocese, we are currently working on
refining the facility for parishioners to contribute
to Christ Our Light Parish via an online portal.



MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026

We're invited to answer the call
to deepen our understanding of
synodality in parish life.
Consultation and dialogue months for our faith
communities. For more information please visit:
melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

**SYNOD CORNER: Synodality requires
humility** Walking together means recognising
that no one has all the answers. Synodality
invites humility from leaders and from
communities, so that the Spirit can guide us
beyond our limitations.

MELBOURNE SYNOD CHRIST OUR LIGHT PARISH CONSULTATIONS

Would you like to help shape the evangelical
and missionary priorities for our
Archdiocese for the years ahead?

The 2026 Melbourne Synod, to be held in
December, will focus on three themes:
**Young Discipleship, Missionary
Leadership and Formation and
Participation.** Parishes are invited to
discuss the themes and forward responses to
the group preparing the Working Document
for the Synod members.

You are invited to a meeting on Monday 10th
August at 7.00pm in St Agnes Hall,
1 Locinda St, next to St Agnes Church,
Highett. All are welcome. To RSVP, please
leave your contact details on the list in the
church foyer, or notify the Parish Office (03)
9583 6161. Thank You!



THIS SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST

All are invited to
stay and join fellow
parishioners for a
cuppa after 9am &
11am Masses, in the OLA Church Meeting
Room.

**UPCOMING FEAST OF THE
ASSUMPTION:** Saturday 15th August
2026. A gentle reminder for your diaries.

**SHAPE THE FUTURE: BE COUNTED
AS CATHOLIC THIS CENSUS.** National
Census date: 11th August 2026. Catholics are
encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the
question on religion. It is vital the Catholic
community is represented in our national
statistics. Census data supports Church
pastoral planning, contributes to government
decision-making on health, education,
infrastructure, and social services – guiding
resource and funding allocations across
Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you
can help the contribution and needs of faith
communities are recognised and considered
in future planning and policy decisions.

VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Vocations come from families, communities
and parishes. Strong families and
communities are a place where vocations are
first nurtured. In National Vocations
Awareness Week, let us pray for all families
and for those preparing for marriage. Let us
also pray that our parish community may
always be welcoming and encouraging of all
vocations.



Contact Antonella Taranto & Liz Dawson
via email

fete@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au