

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Baruch

5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows

how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

OLA PIETY STALL 2025 Columban Art Calendars @ \$10 each are available for sale after the 9am and 11am Masses.



**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

St Agnes' Church
25 Spring Road, Highett

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

7th/8th DECEMBER, 2024



While the advent of God's coming with its promise of fulfilment show us that God works within everyday life, John the Baptist, on the other hand proclaims the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. Reversals characterise such transformation: the robe of mourning is replaced by the splendour of glory; tears are turned into rejoicing; those led away by enemies are brought back by God; valleys are filled, mountains are levelled, winding roads are made straight; even nature offers itself as shelter for the people of God. Those who are shamed and discarded are made glorious; those who suffer are comforted; the oppressed are freed; all of life's obstacles are removed; the way to God is made straight; the natural world enjoys peace and harmony. The transformation or repentance of heart takes place within human life, within relationships of justice between people and with the earth, in right living, in genuine unselfish love. It produces the fruits of righteousness of which Paul speaks. Advent is the time to prepare ourselves for this.

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
Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

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 [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 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR C - 7th/8th DECEMBER, 2024

PRAYING FOR:

Juliana Olivera, Jude Cardona,
Claude Carbonaro, Eve D'Cruxe,
John Hibbert, Lee White, Peter Bracchi,
June D'Souza, Sr Anita Le Clerq,
... and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Serge Dada, Claudia Dada, Ethel Boyle,
Kathrine Natale, George Nyibay,
Kevin Fennessy, Sergio Andra De,
William Dean, Margaret Dean,
Noel Larkins, Alice Larkins, John Smiles,
Jean Wallis, Frank Devine, Susan Duke,
Hayley Thomas,

...and all who we remember at this time.

...additionally, we keep in our prayers all
who are currently unwell.

**Readings for this liturgical year from Advent
2024 to Christ the King 2025 are taken from
Year C in the Lectionary cycle.**

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

† **UPCOMING FUNERAL MASSES** †

Tuesday 10th December at 1 pm (St Agnes')

June D'Souza (RIP)

[Rosary: Monday 9th December 7pm (St Agnes')]

Wednesday 11th December at 11.30am
(OLA)

Peter Bracchi (RIP)

*May their souls and the souls of all our
faithful departed, rest in peace.*



**OLA ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Christmas "Giving Tree"**

We extend our sincere gratitude to all
who contributed so generously to
the Christmas "Giving Tree" appeal. Your
support is invaluable and helps Vinnies to
further their mission and help ease the burdens
vulnerable people in our community are
experiencing at a time such as Christmas.
Thank you to parishioners across both of our
parishes who donated retail gift cards. Your
support of both our parish conferences is
appreciated and vital.

ST AGNES' SCHOOL UPDATE Over the
upcoming Summer school holidays, the large
asphalted area in St Agnes' school playground
will be resurfaced with Astro-turf. This is for
safety reasons because the asphalt area has
significantly deteriorated over time and is very
rough, causing considerable injury when
children fall. The school is looking to minimise
car traffic on this surface to maximise its
longevity and is hoping for your support in this
area. The Parents & Friends Committee of the
school have fundraised \$65,000 to enable this
improvement for the children. This solution is
the only cost-effective and viable solution.
Thank you for your consideration.

- Lachlan Foott, Principal.



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND With
great joy the Church of God formally
welcomes those to be Baptised this
weekend: Leonard, Steffan, Matilda
and Pia.

OLA FETE Congratulations to all involved in
helping raise more than \$30,000 for our school
and parish. A special mention must go to our
Fete Coordinators, Claire and Melanie and all
who yet again assisted in making this year's
event such a huge success. We are truly thankful
to you and all your amazing team. Thank you.

- Richard Jacques, Principal.



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

CHRISTMAS CAROLS Come, join us to
sing Carols before and during Christmas Eve
Mass. We will begin a short weekly practice
session at 10am in the Church from Sunday 8th
December until Christmas. All are most
welcome! For enquiries contact:

Helen: 0432 866 039 or Tony: 0468 453 156

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE 2024

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve
6pm Mass St Agnes' Church, Highett
8pm Mass OLA Church Cheltenham
[Carols from 7.30pm]

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day
9am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham
11am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham

**Anniversaries of Death – Christmas 2024
through to the end of January 2025:** In
preparation for the Summer Bulletin, covering
Christmas through to the end of January, you
are invited to enter the names of those whose
anniversaries occur during this period, who
you'd like remembered in prayer, into the
Memorial Folders located in the foyers of both
OLA and St Agnes' churches, or alternatively
contact the Parish Office.