

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:1-6.10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

† UPCOMING FUNERAL PRAYERS †

(St Agnes' Church)

Thursday 18th December at 11am

Roy Meiklejohn (RIP)

May his soul and the souls of all our faithful departed, rest in peace.



**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

Telephone: (03) 9583 6161

Email: col@cam.org.au

Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

13th / 14th DECEMBER, 2025



Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment. Advent invites us to be more perceptive, and to take time out to see the presence of God with us. Like the people mentioned in the gospel, we may need to step aside, to 'go out into the wilderness' in order to see these signs. Look within your own life, your family, your workplace, your neighbourhood and recognise the sure signs of God's presence in our midst.

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT
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: Vino Krishnan
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 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
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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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A 13th / 14th DECEMBER, 2025

PRAYING FOR:

Roy Meiklejohn, Victor Tope Awe,
and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Michael Smith, John Lynch,
Mick Richards, Kevin Maloney,
Frank Bonnefin, Serge Dada, Claudia Dada,
Fedelina Chan, Baba Varghese,
Mary Fernandez, Iris West,
Elizabeth Thomas, Philomena Walsh,
Antoinette Nime,

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

*...and we keep in our prayers all 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.



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND With
great joy we the Church of God formally
welcome: **Scarlett, Victor, Chloe,
Penelope, Annalise and Ari**, who will
be Baptised this weekend.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE 2025

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6pm Mass	St Agnes' Church, Highett
8pm Mass	OLA Church Cheltenham

[Carols from 7.30pm]

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

9am Mass	OLA Church Cheltenham
11am Mass	OLA Church Cheltenham

**Anniversaries of Death – Christmas 2025
through to the end of January 2026:** 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 (those
you'd like remembered in prayer) into the
Memorial Folders located in the foyers of both
OLA and St Agnes' churches, or alternatively
get in touch with the Parish Office.



CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL MINISTRIES / VOLUNTEERS

We are seeking volunteer readers,
special ministers, commentators
and PowerPoint operators for the Masses on
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. **Sign-up
sheets are available in each church's foyer.**



KNITTING GROUP The Knitting
Group would like to thank everyone
who donated wool and supported our
Christmas stall last Sunday. We have
passed on to the OLA Conference of St Vincent
de Paul, the wonderful sum of **\$1,000.**



Following the Saturday evening
Mass at St Agnes, this weekend,
you're invited to stay and join your
fellow parishioners for a Cuppa. Thank you to all
those providing food, and our volunteers.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS An Invitation for
YOU to come along and sing Christmas
Carols with our Choir at 7.30 pm before and
during the 8pm Christmas Eve Mass on
Wednesday 24th December. We will have a
short weekly practice session at 10am in the
Church until Christmas. All are most
welcome! For enquiries contact:

Helen: 0432 866 039 or Tony: 0468 453 156

OLA PIETY STALL St Vincent De Paul
Christmas cards are available for sale @ **\$5 per
pack** and the **2026 Columban Art Calendars**
@ **\$10 each** after the 9am and 11am Masses.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS Please
Note: The Office will be **closed this
Monday 15th December.** On **Tuesday
& Wednesday** this coming week the Office will
be open from **10am-2pm.** Regular office hours
(9am-3pm) will resume on Thursday.

Additionally, the **COL Parish Office will close**
for the Christmas / Summer holiday period at
2pm on Wednesday 24th December. Regular
**office hours of 9am - 3pm will resume from
Monday 5th January, 2026.** To contact me,
please phone the Presbytery on: 9532 1794. This
number will connect through to my mobile.
Please leave a message and a contact number if
I'm unable to answer your call, and I'll get back
to you as soon as possible. Thank you, Fr Alan

**THE VATICAN 'Christmas Concert with the
Poor' – 6th December, 2025:** Michael Bubl 
sings in the presence of Pope Leo XIV.

youtu.be/W8Gs-m3WPwQ