

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans**

8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us?
Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave

him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud,

the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark**

9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B - 24th / 25th FEBRUARY, 2024



Jesus' Transfiguration puts our sacrifices in context, reminding us that Lent is more than a season of self-denial. The only reason we deny ourselves anything or commit ourselves to actions of service for these 40 days is to grow more deeply in love with the God who loves us into life. Penance is not meant to attack our self-esteem, it's intended to help us sort out what really matters, to cast some light in the darkness of our lives and to focus on the relationship which gives meaning and purpose for this world and the next. The God of Mount Tabor is not interested in each of us feeling isolated as we fulfil the letter of a legal code. He wants all of us to have hearts that listen to the Gospel of love so that we can gain the power to transform the world through the sacrifices of our daily lives. On a much gentler scale, Sunday Mass is meant to be a weekly mountaintop experience for us where we hear God call us by name and confess his love for us; where we feel re-energised for the commission we have to bear his light to the world. In this context anything we can do this Lent that helps remove the blocks in our full response to his love, must be worth the effort. *R. Leonard SJ*

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR B
24th / 25th February, 2024

PRAYING FOR:

Leonard O'Reilly, Margaret Pereira,
Michael Cole, Louie Borg, John Rowe,
John Verberne, Laurie McMahon,
Clare Cox,
... and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

May Connolly, Brigita Dagleish,
Jacob Chacko, Tom Duke,

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

...and 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>

 **Caritas AUSTRALIA** PROJECT COMPASSION

2024 Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines. Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines. Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment even with the arrival of her second child. After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family. Please give generously to Project Compassion through either the boxes or envelopes that are available in each of our church foyers, or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or calling 1800 024 413.



Next Sunday 3rd March,
you're invited to stay and
join fellow parishioners
for a cuppa **after the 9am & 11am Masses,**
in the OLA Church Meeting Room.



OLA KNITTING GROUP will
next meet on Tuesday 5th March at
1pm, in the Church Meeting Room.
All are most welcome. The next
Knitting Stall will be held at OLA on Sunday
17th March after the 9am and 11am Masses. All
proceeds will go to the St Vincent De Paul
Cheltenham Conference.

OLA CHOIR Come along and sing with us!!
Easter Choir practice begins **Sunday 3rd
March** from **10am** at OLA and will continue
every Sunday until Easter. All are welcome.
Enquiries: Tony 0469 453 156 or Helen 0432
866 039.

OLA FETE - NOVEMBER 2024

Calling all plant lovers and green thumbs!

The plant stall is one of the most successful and most loved stalls at our fete. This year we need your help to make sure it is blooming and bigger than ever. We are looking for people who can:

- Donate indoor/outdoor plants, indoor/ outdoor plant pots (can be creative) or source donations for the stall; or
- Propagate plants that you may have in your garden/home to donate to the fete. Even if it is just a few – every little bit helps;

If you can assist please contact Claire Melican, from the Fete Committee either at 0402 367 067 or via email: fete@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

 The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, through its **National Centre for Pastoral Research**, has created a profile for each parish across Australia, based on the data from the 2021 Australian Census. You can download a copy of the 'Parish Social Profile' for every parish within the Archdiocese, including our own parishes of **Highett** and **Cheltenham**, via the following link: ncpr.catholic.org.au/2021-parish-social-profiles-melbourne/

PARISHES OF THE BAYSIDE AREA:

RECONFIGURATION Let's continue to pray for our local Church in the Bayside area, as together we work to implement the upcoming changes to our local parishes. The detailed '**Implementation Plan**' for the '**Reconfiguration of the Bayside Parishes**', can be downloaded directly from the following link: bit.ly/47JiBhr

† UPCOMING FUNERAL †

Funeral Mass
Tuesday 5th March at 1.00pm (OLA)
Leonard O'Reilly (RIP)

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