

## FIRST READING

### A reading from the book of Numbers

21:4-9

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.' At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Do not forget the works of the Lord!**

## SECOND READING

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

2:6-11

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,

should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!  
We adore you, O Christ,  
and we praise you,  
because by your cross  
you have redeemed the world.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL READING

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'



## 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

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## THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS YEAR C - 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2025

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*Garden of Peace*

Isaiah 32:14-18

# PEACE WITH CREATION

## SEASON OF CREATION 2025

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Today we concentrate on the power of the cross in our lives. It is the ultimate demonstration of the nature of God. Christ gave of himself even to death on the cross. We stand before the glorious cross and praise God for God's incomprehensible goodness toward us. God's graciousness is poured out indiscriminately and prodigally, as only profound love can be given. Such is the nature of our God, and the cross is the symbol of this nature. It was through the cross that Jesus conquered sin and death and won for us access to God. It is through the cross that we die to sin and rise to new life in Christ. As painful as life's crosses may be, they serve to transform us. It can be our hope in the midst of pain and suffering and brokenness, because it promises to carry us into new life. Through the goodness of God, which has been poured out for us, we have been granted eternal life. It is incomprehensible to think that death is the way to life, but that is the message of this feast. The cross, which is a sign of shame and misery, is now a symbol of glory and exaltation.

*Dianne Bergant CSA*

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PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT  
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9555 3557  
Email: [Alan.Fox@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au)  
St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344  
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott  
Email: [lfoott@sahighett.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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 [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.

THE EXALTATION OF THE  
HOLY CROSS - YEAR C  
13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2025

**PRAYING FOR:**

Dorothy Brooker, Kevin Harvey,  
Des Dwyer, Carmela Passarelli,  
Allan Camiling,  
*and all those who died recently.*

**WE ALSO PRAY FOR:**

Isabell Allars, Hilda Zammit,  
Harry Lambert, PJ McNamara,  
Leticia Monte, Mary Meyer, Jim Sullivan,  
Sr Catherine Burke RSJ,  
*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](http://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.



**SEASON OF  
CREATION**

As part of our response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, we will be collecting cleaning products for refugees and asylum seekers who are supported by the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP) on the weekends of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you in advance for your generous support. In the latest BASP Newsletter we read that the ban on granting permanent protection to around 900 people who were transferred back to Australia from Nauru and PNG has put them in an uncertain predicament. Since resettlement arrangements with New Zealand, the USA and Canada are either finished or suspended, they have nowhere to go. The majority are recognised refugees and many are in desperate circumstances.



**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY** Today we mark Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for the vulnerable in our midst. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled Church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised; those who are the 'silent' ones in our society, the ones without a voice! Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

**† UPCOMING FUNERAL PRAYERS †  
(St Agnes' Church)**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 11am

**Dorothy Brooker (RIP)**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 11am

**Kevin Harvey (RIP)**

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



**BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND**

With great joy we the Church of God formally welcome: **Sophie Macdonald, Brodie Zgela, Mia Vulic, Ava Vulic, BAPTISM Jemima Arthur and Anthony Imperatori**, who will be Baptised this weekend.



**PARISH STEWARDSHIP** For those who contribute to our parish via 'Envelopes', **new boxed sets of Thanksgiving / Presbytery Giving envelopes** are available for collection in each church foyer. Thank you most sincerely, once again, to all who offer their ongoing practical and financial support for the mission of our parish.



**VATICAN II: KEEPING THE  
WINDOWS OPEN**

CATHOLIC  
THEOLOGICAL  
COLLEGE



There will be a joint Catholic Theological College / Yarra Theological Union symposium to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the close of Vatican II.

This symposium gathers experts from around Australia to reflect on the key themes of Vatican II that continue to shape the Church today.

The late Pope Francis emphasised the importance of synodality which no doubt will guide the leadership of Pope Leo XIV.

Our day together will end with Prof. Massimo Faggioli (via Zoom) in conversation with Rev. Prof. Orm Rush.

Date: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

Time: 9.30am – 4.15pm

Where: Catholic Theological College,  
278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

REGISTRATION: Fee: \$70.00 (Lunch included) This is an in-person event only and numbers are strictly limited. Bookings close on the 17<sup>th</sup> September.

To book, go to [humanitix.com/Vatican-II](http://humanitix.com/Vatican-II) For enquiries, please call: +613 9412 3333 or email: [vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au](mailto:vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au) or [ctc.edu.au](http://ctc.edu.au).