

FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
3:14-18**

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the
great and Holy One of Israel.**

SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians 4:4-7**

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

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
Luke 3:10-18**

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.



**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.



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 C

14th/15th DECEMBER, 2024



Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for today, Gaudete Sunday, assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

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: 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.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR C - 14th/15th DECEMBER, 2024**

PRAYING FOR:

Finola Price, Dianne Board,

... and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Michael Smith, John Lynch,

Frank Bonnefin, Baba Varghese,

Bridie Leanihan, Alice King, Clive Carew,

Edna Wendt, Gerard Chadwick,

Oscar Capule,

...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.

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.



OLA 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 St Vincent de Paul, (OLA Conference) the wonderful sum of **\$1,100**.

OLA PIETY STALL Columban Calendars @ \$10 each and St Vincent De Paul Christmas cards @ \$3 for a pack of 5 are available for sale.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS An Invitation for YOU to come and sing Christmas Carols with our OLA Choir at 7.30 pm before and during Christmas Eve Mass on Tuesday 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



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

PUBLIC LECTURE Fr Robert McCulloch, (originally from the parish of Cheltenham), and Eric Siray, a Hospital Administrator, will be speaking on their missionary and educational work in Hyderabad, Pakistan. When: 7pm on Monday 20th January in St Patrick's Parish Centre, 3 Mitchell Street, Mentone. The evening has been arranged by the Knights of the Southern Cross, and all are welcome. To assist with catering it would be helpful to advise either John Tetteroo via Mobile: 0432 649 659 or John Beruldsen via Email: johnberuldsen@gmail.com, or Mobile: 0429 693 030, if you plan to attend.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE Please note:

the COL Parish Office will close for the Christmas/Summer holiday period from 12pm on Tuesday 24th December. The office will open only on a limited basis over the ensuing week due to parish staff taking leave. The regular office hours of 9am – 3pm will resume from Monday 6th January, 2024.

Should you need to get in touch, please phone the Presbytery on: 9555 3557. This number connects through to my mobile phone. 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