

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ God mounts his throne
to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A 16th/17th MAY, 2026



Whether we realise it or not we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning 'to be sent', indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish. Finally, we continue to experience the abiding presence of Christ in our daily lives or else we wouldn't be here. God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is not distant to our lives or impervious to our needs; we believe in a Companion-God who seeks our company as much as we need his. In this Mass, then, let's thank God for the mountain top of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are creatures, not the Creator. Let us hear again Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a spiritual cafeteria to a church moving out to change the world. And let's rejoice in Christ's presence which abides before us, behind us, over and in us, within and without, now and forever. Amen.

Richard Leonard SJ

PARISH PRIEST:

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: Julie Binstead
 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 Thomas Hartney
 Email: principal@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 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.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD Year A

16th / 17th MAY, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Eugenia Nombrado, Stuart Moyne,
 Estela Ramirez, Angelina Marvida,
 Mark Collins, Hannah Finlayson,
 Francois Nahas, Glenn Smith
and all who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Vladimir Gazdik, Marvin Frankeni,
 Kevin Skidmore, Eulogio Lucas,
 Quirico Celeste, Edna Monteiro,
 Marie Grainger, Melville Pereira,
 Ewa Paplinska-Boraczewska,
 Jereme Ceballos, Cecelia Mumford,
 Antonia Zingale, Billie M^c Kenzie,
 Stephen Coulson, Gladys Walters,
and all who we remember at this time.

*...as we also keep in our prayers
 all those 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.

**MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026**

We're invited to answer the call
 to deepen our understanding of
 synodality in parish life.
 Timeline for Synod consultation: This month
 will see the gradual release of the Synod theme
 papers, with June and July being Consultation
 and dialogue months for our faith communities.
 For more information on the Synod please visit:

melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

**SYNOD CORNER: Who participates in a
 Synod?** A Synod involves the whole People of
 God: bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and
 lay faithful. Each has a distinct role, but all
 share responsibility for the Church's mission.
 Synodality does not blur roles-it helps each
 vocation flourish in service of the Gospel.

**BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND**

With great joy the Church of God
 formally welcomes:
 Jacob Crossman and Isaac Herd.

**PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH**

The next Parish social lunch will
 be held Thursday 28th May,
 12noon. The venue is Highett RSL. All are
 most welcome. Please RSVP by Tuesday 26th
 May to: Tricia Hickey: 0421 275 853, or
 Adrian Foley: 0497 780 233

**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
 CHRISTIAN UNITY**

will be held from 17th -
 24th May 2026, with this year's theme drawn
 from Ephesians 4:4: "There is one body and one
 Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of
 your calling." It is a timely reminder that
 Christian unity is not simply an ideal, but
 something we are called to live through prayer,
 friendship, service and shared witness. As
 Catholic communities gather for events across
 Australia and New Zealand, this week invites us
 to look for opportunities to build bridges, deepen
 faith and stand together in hope. You can find
 resources and more information from the
 National Council of Churches in Australia here:

www.ncca.org.au/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2026

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE MASS COUNT

The 6th National Count of Attendance will
 continue this weekend. Further information visit:
ncpr.catholic.org.au/national-count-of-attendance

**LAUDATO SI WEEK**

This Sunday
 we begin Laudato Si' Week which is
 held each year from 17th to 24th May. It
 marks the anniversary of Pope
 Francis's landmark encyclical on caring for our
 common home. This global celebration unites
 Catholics in listening and responding together to
 the cry of creation, rejoicing in the progress we
 have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life, and
 intensifying our efforts through education and
 action. Laudato Si' Week 2026 invites us to move
 from hope to action. Hope is lived and shared
 through daily decisions, community life, prayer
 and concrete acts of care. Pope Leo wrote last
 year: 'When the earth suffers, the poor suffer the
 most'. What might each of us do this week to
 express our care for our common home?
 Everyone is welcome to come along to the Care
 for Our Common Home Group meeting in
 Exodus Hall at 10am this Sunday 17th May 2026.

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 18th-24th**

May 2026. Volunteering inspires how sharing
 time and skills can foster belonging, meaning, and
 thriving communities. We shine a light on all
 Christ Our Light volunteers and give a huge shout
 out, recognition and thanks for all you do to in
 caring for the Parish community.

www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nationalvolunteerweek

**SACRED MUSIC CONCERT: THE
 WONDERS OF PENTECOST. St Peter's
 Church Toorak,**

Friday 22nd May 7-9pm,
 followed by light refreshments. A live
 performance from Melbourne's leading singers
 and musicians. Entry by donation, please book for
 catering purposes via

www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1540853