

## FIRST READING

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

40:1-5. 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Lord, let us see your kindness,  
and grant us your salvation.

## SECOND READING

### A reading from the Second Letter of St Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you

should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
**Prepare the way of the Lord,**  
**make straight his paths:**  
**all people shall see the salvation of God.**  
**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL READING

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



## Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

Parish Office: 9583 6161

9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192

Email: [Cheltenham@cam.org.au](mailto:Cheltenham@cam.org.au)

Website: [www.olacheltenham.org.au](http://www.olacheltenham.org.au)



Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

## St Agnes' Parish Highett

Parish Office: 9532 1794

1 Locinda Street, Highett. 3190

Email: [Highett@cam.org.au](mailto:Highett@cam.org.au)

Website: [www.sahighett.org.au](http://www.sahighett.org.au)



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B - 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023



In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation and inspire broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

*Dianne Bergant CSA*

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 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: [tfoot@sahighett.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tfoot@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 ADVENT  
YEAR B  
9th / 10th December, 2023

PRAYING FOR:

Tim Mangan,

... and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Philomena Walsh, Fedelina Chan,  
Jules Balancy, Frank Bonnefin,  
Baba Varghese, Perce Rate,  
Elizabeth Thomas, John Robinson,  
Renato Garcia, Alice King, Susan Duke,  
Frank Devine, Sarah Jackson,  
Oscar Capule, Ethel Boyle,

....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](http://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>



**ST VINCENT DE PAUL Christmas "Giving Tree"** We extend our sincere gratitude to all who contributed so generously to the Christmas "Giving Tree" appeal. Your support is invaluable and helps Vinnies to further their mission and help ease the burdens vulnerable people in our community are experiencing at a time such as Christmas.

**Thank you** to parishioners across both of our parishes who donated retail gift cards. Your support of both our parish conferences is appreciated and vital.



**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**.



**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 Sunday 24th December. We will have a short practice on Sunday 10th and Sunday 17th December at OLA at 10am. All are most welcome! For enquiries contact: Helen: 0432 866 039

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE 2023**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**  
6pm Mass St Agnes' Church, Highett  
8pm Mass OLA Church Cheltenham  
[Carols from 7.30pm]

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day**  
9am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham  
11am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham



**BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND** With great joy the Church of God welcomes those to be Baptised this weekend:

Euan McGoldrick, Leon Considine, Jedd Considine and Zoe Philip.

**Anniversaries of Death – Christmas 2023 through to the end of January 2024:** 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.



**UPDATING PARISHIONERS ON THE RECONFIGURATION OF PARISHES IN THE BAYSIDE AREA** Fr Joe Caddy, the Vicar General of the

Archdiocese of Melbourne, has written to all parishioners of St Agnes and Our Lady of the Assumption, to outline the timeline for the realignment of parish boundaries, as well as the process for the amalgamation of parishes within the Bayside area. A copy of his letter is available for you to pick up from both church foyers. You'll note in his letter that the realignment of parish boundaries will, among other changes, alter the existing northern boundary of St Agnes' Parish. The area east of Bluff Road across to the Nepean Highway, and up to South Road, formerly a section of East Hampton Parish, is to be incorporated into St Agnes' prior to proceeding with the amalgamation of St Agnes' and OLA. If you would like to read the detailed 'Implementation Plan' including the overall schedule for the realignment of parish boundaries, and the further amalgamation of existing parishes into the new configuration of the 4 parishes that will make up the Bayside area, the document is a direct download from the following link: [bit.ly/47JIBHr](http://bit.ly/47JIBHr)





CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

7 December 2023

To the parishioners of St Agnes Highett and Our Lady of the Assumption Cheltenham,

Dear friends,

I am writing to thank you for your support for the reconfiguration of parishes in the greater Bayside area and let you of the planned sequence and timing of events.

Bayside Catholic Mission will formally cease on 1 January 2024 with the appointment of Fr Ian Ranson to St Joan of Arc Parish and St James Parish and the appointment of Fr Justin Ford to Nazareth Parish. In the short term, Fr Dean Mathieson will continue to care for the Sacred Heart, St Mary's and Immaculate Heart parish communities in the role of Administrator until a new Parish Priest is in place.

The adjustment to the boundaries of Immaculate Heart Parish is also planned to take effect on 1 January 2024. Pertinent to your community, the area east of Bluff Road will be incorporated into St Agnes Parish.

In the New Year, a community engagement process will be implemented to support the development of a shared vision and assist in choosing a holy name for each of the three new amalgamated parish communities. We anticipate the amalgamations will take effect on 1 April 2024.

I am sure the reconfiguration of the parish communities is generating mixed emotions – grief for the past, uncertainty about the present and hopeful anticipation for the future. During this period of Advent, the time when the whole Church is preparing and waiting, I pray you are rewarded with the hope, peace, joy and love represented by the birth of Christ, our Saviour.

With every blessing,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Father Joe Caddy AM

**VICAR GENERAL**

**Very Reverend Joseph Caddy AM – Vicar General**

St Patrick's Centre, 486 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002 Australia. PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia  
Telephone: (03) 9926 5638 | Email: [vicar\\_general@cam.org.au](mailto:vicar_general@cam.org.au) | Website: [www.melbournecatholic.org](http://www.melbournecatholic.org)

*The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.*