

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel
16:1. 6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are

ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
Whoever follows me
will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL READING

[SHORTER FORM]

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them.

...Gospel reading continued overleaf

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

Parish Office: 9583 6161

9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192

Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

Website: 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

Website: www.sahighett.org.au



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A – 18th/19th MARCH, 2023



By means of the water that washed away his blindness, the blind man is made a new creation. He progresses from knowing the name of the one who cured him, to professing that Jesus is a prophet, to proclaiming that he comes from God. The struggle between darkness and light, between blindness and sight runs throughout this account. Jesus is the light of the world. The man, who is gradually brought from physical blindness to sight, also progressively moves from spiritual blindness to religious insight. The Pharisees were blind to the truth that the newly cured man saw so clearly. The one who was blind sees, and those who can see are blind. The move from darkness to light describes the radical change that takes place in the lives of Christians as a result of their commitment to Christ. The three qualities that are produced by the light – goodness, righteousness, truth – are merely symbolic of the complete transformation of character that this light can effect. Christians have entered into a new state of being, which will require of them a new way of living.

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

OUR SCHOOLS:

Our Lady of the Assumption 9584 9488
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques
Email: rjacques@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au
St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott
Email: 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Year A - 18th / 19th March, 2023

PRAYING FOR:

Jill O'Brien, Dudley D'Cruze,
Jarath Duggan,
and all those who have died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Fr John McGannon, Mary McGannon,
Ita Lambert, Douglas Boustead, Doris Zahra,
Charles Dib, Martin Piccolo,
Julie D'Souza, Francis Fernandes,
Victoria Awe, Hazel Sweeney,
Frank Sweeney, Geraldine Rippon,
...and all who we remember at this time.
...and we keep in our prayers all who are currently unwell.

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.

UPDATE ON COVID RESTRICTIONS: General Guidelines from the Archdiocese (Update #61: 12th October, 2022) are available online at:

melbournecatholic.org/covid-19-guidelines

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>

**Readings for this liturgical year from
Advent 2022 to Christ the King 2023 are
taken from Year A in the Lectionary cycle**
universalis.com/australia.melbourne/1000/Mass



Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With the support of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Thu can now earn extra income and care for his wife as she recovers from a stroke.

Please consider donating to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations.*



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM For those who contribute to our parishes via envelopes, new boxed sets of envelopes for the year are available for collection from our respective church foyers. Thank you once again for your ongoing practical and financial support for the mission of both our parishes.



OLA CHOIR welcome you to join them in singing on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Next practice is on **Sunday 19th March at 10am** in the church. For enquiries, please contact Tony 0468 453 156 or Helen 0432 866 039.



OLA KNITTING GROUP will next meet on Tuesday 21st March at 1pm in the Church Meeting Room. All are welcome. The **Knitting Stall** will be held at OLA on Sunday 26th March after the 9am and 11am Masses. All proceeds will go to the St Vincent De Paul Cheltenham Conference.

Gospel reading continued...

So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!'

And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

RCIA: Please continue to pray for both our Catechumens, **Jessica Cox & Paulette Stutterd**, as they prepare for their formal reception into the Church at the Easter Sacraments.



DISPLAY OF THE LAST 70 YEARS OF OLA PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are looking to create a display of the last 70 years of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Primary School (OLA) to celebrate our upcoming 'Official Opening' of the recently renovated school buildings, on Friday the 19th of May. We thought that among some photos and other memorabilia items being displayed, that we could have some words from past and current students, families or staff. We would especially love to hear from families in the parish who have had 2 or 3 generations through this beautiful school. We welcome your favourite photos/ artefacts / memories / why OLA holds a special place in your life, to commemorate this special occasion and anniversary. Please include your name and the years you attended OLA. You are welcome to drop these items off at our office or email me at:

rjacques@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

– Richard Jacques – Principal (OLA)