

## FIRST READING

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.**

## SECOND READING

### A reading from the First Letter of St Peter

2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it

because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!  
I am the way, the truth, and the life,  
says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father,  
except through me.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL READING

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to

John

14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?' 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'



**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

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

**2nd/3rd MAY, 2026**



Brothers and sisters, this Word is a source of consolation, and it is a source of hope for us. Jesus did not separate himself from us, but rather opened the way for us, anticipating our final destination: the encounter with God the Father, in whose heart there is a place for each one of us. So, when we experience fatigue, bewilderment and even failure, let us remember where our life is headed. We must not lose sight of the destination, even if today we run the risk of overlooking it, of forgetting the final questions, the important ones: where are we going? Where are we headed? What is worth living for? Without these questions, we flatten our life only into the present. We think we must enjoy it as much as possible and end up living day by day, without purpose, without a goal. Instead, our homeland is in heaven (cf. Phil 3:20); let us not forget the greatness and the beauty of our destination!

Once we have discovered the destination, we too, like the apostle Thomas in today's Gospel, wonder: how can we get there? What is the way? At times, especially when there are major problems to face and there is the sensation that evil is stronger, we wonder: what should I do, what path should I follow? Let us listen to Jesus' answer: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). "I am the way". Jesus himself is the way to follow to live in truth and to have life in abundance. He is the way and therefore faith in him is not a "package of ideas" in which to believe, but rather a road to be travelled, a journey to undertake, a path with him. It is following Jesus, because he is the way that leads to unending happiness. Following Jesus and imitating him, especially with gestures of closeness and mercy towards others. This is the compass for reaching Heaven: loving Jesus, the way, becoming signs of his love on earth.

**POPE FRANCIS 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT**

Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9532 1794

Email: [Alan.Fox@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au)

**St Agnes' Primary School** 9532 0344

Principal: Mr Thomas Hartney

Email: [principal@sahighett.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year A**

2<sup>ND</sup> / 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 2026

**PRAYING FOR:**

Fr Peter Foley, Claudia Giuliano,  
Ken Hambling, Brigida Del Balso, Anna Lin,  
Tyrone De Rozario

*and all who died recently.*

**WE ALSO PRAY FOR:**

Frank Barrett, Anna Gomoluch,  
Andrew Gomoluch, Tim Bukasongo  
Francesca Piccolo, Alberto David,  
Robert Gormley, Lawrence Gasto,  
Elizabeth Chadwick, Ignatius Fernandez

*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](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  
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.

For more information on the Synod please visit:

[melbournecatholic.org/synod2026](http://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026)

**SYNOD CORNER** Synodality is not a  
parliament. The Church is not a democracy  
where truth is decided by majority vote. A  
Synod is not about winning arguments or  
pushing agendas. Instead, it is a spiritual  
process of listening deeply—to God, to  
Scripture, to tradition, and to one another—so  
that decisions are shaped by faith and mission,  
not ideology.

**† FUNERALS THIS WEEK †**

Funeral Prayers for **Claudia Giuliano** (RIP)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 11 am

(at OLA Church)

Funeral Prayers for **Brigida Del Balso** (RIP)

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am

(at OLA Church)



**Catholic Mission and  
the Xavier Social  
Justice Network** are

excited to welcome Cardinal Charles Maung  
Bo and Cardinal Mykola Bychok for an  
evening on social justice, humanity and  
faith.

Hear from two prominent religious leaders  
coming from war-torn countries and the  
challenges that they face. The evening will  
begin with an introduction and welcome  
from Archbishop Peter Andrew Comensoli,  
followed by a guided panel discussion with  
both Cardinals, then a Q&A session a  
wonderful chance to engage directly with  
these inspiring leaders. For more information

[cathevents.org.au/event](http://cathevents.org.au/event)



**This weekend we have the CatholicCare  
Victoria Sunday Appeal.**

CatholicCare Victoria is the Church's mission  
in action - empowering communities and  
building strength and resilience, to enable  
everyone to reach their full potential and live  
life to the full. Please donate to the  
CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. You  
can donate using the appeal envelopes  
available, or donate online at:

[catholiccarevic.org.au](http://catholiccarevic.org.au)

or call (03) 99672515.

**ANNUAL ATTENDANCE MASS COUNT**

The 6th National Count of Attendance will  
start this weekend and take place this year over  
the first four weekends of May.

It is intended that the 2026 count will be  
conducted in all parishes and other Mass  
centres such as migrant communities. As we  
did in 2021 this year parishes are also asked to  
provide information on the age and gender of  
those who attend Mass and Sunday assemblies.  
Parishes will also be invited to provide the  
number of 'views' of Masses and Sunday  
assemblies streamed online.

If you would like more information please  
visit

[ncpr.catholic.org.au/national-count-of-attendance](http://ncpr.catholic.org.au/national-count-of-attendance)



**This Sunday 3rd May,**  
you're invited to stay and  
join fellow parishioners  
for a cuppa after both the  
9am & 11am Masses, in  
the OLA Church Meeting Room.

