

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the second book of Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23**

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Let my tongue be silenced,  
if ever I forget you!**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10**

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
God loved the world so much,  
he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him  
might have eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3:14-21**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:  
'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

*...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](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

**Telephone:** 9532 1794

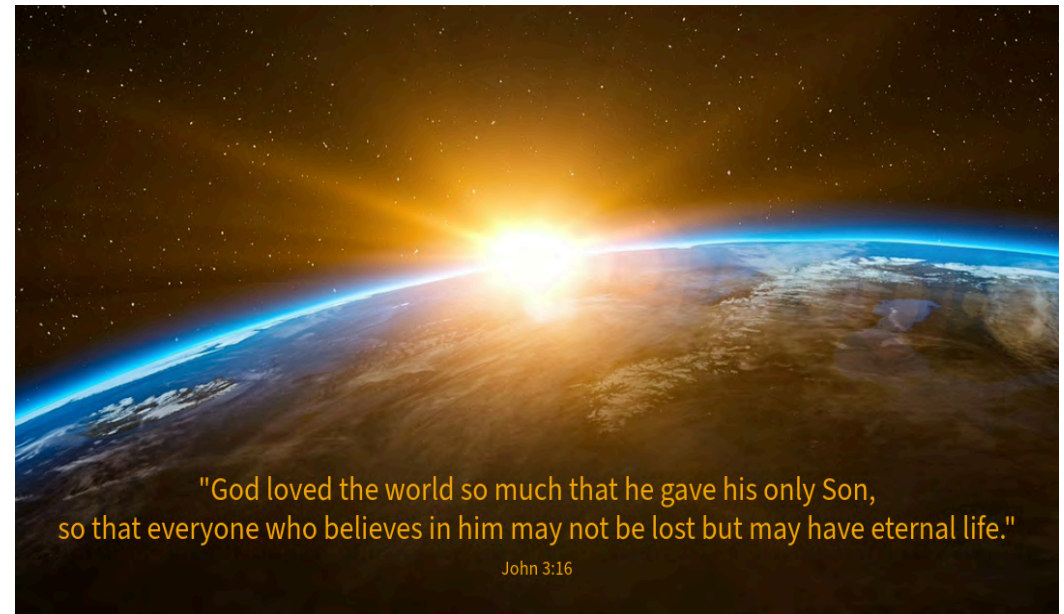
1 Locinda Street, Highett. 3190

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

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



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B - 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2024



**"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life."**

John 3:16

Life and death, seeing and believing in God's love and mercy are at the heart of the story of the bronze serpent. Just as the serpent was lifted up and the people found life, so will Jesus be lifted up and those who believe in him will find life. In the gospel this week, God's saving activity is expressed in terms of 'love'. God's love is explicitly related to the gift of Jesus, God's Son, for the salvation of the world. Salvation resides in acceptance of Jesus while judgment is the refusal to accept Jesus as the revelation of God. Later in the gospel, Jesus will again reference the bronze serpent story in an expansive embrace of all creation: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself."

*Veronica Lawson RSM*

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: [lfoott@sahighett.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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 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 B  
9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

PRAYING FOR:

Fr Terry Yard, Michelle McCourt,  
Reverend Professor Anthony Kelly CSsR,  
Brian McKittrick, Giovanna Bernabeo,  
Lawrence Mooney, Hazel D'Rozario,  
... and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Gus Valent, Kevin Linehan, Gerald Lannan,  
Lou Noone, Marge Rosevear, Paul Smiles,  
Ita Lambert, Kit Martin,

....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>

 **Caritas AUSTRALIA** PROJECT COMPASSION

2024 Memory, a 26-year-old from rural Malawi, overcame significant barriers to education. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, she juggled household chores and farming duties while struggling to afford school fees and supplies. Thanks to Caritas Australia and their partner CADECOM, Memory enrolled in a technical college, where she learned carpentry skills. After a three-year course, she became her village's first female carpenter. Today, she works at a major hydroelectric power station, supporting her family and inspiring other young women in a male-dominated field

Please give generously to Project Compassion through either the boxes or envelopes that are available in each of our church foyers, or by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or calling 1800 024 413.

**YOU'RE INVITED TO A COMMUNITY GATHERING for parishioners of OLA & St Agnes' -** An opportunity to get to know one another, as we seek to build our new identity in preparation for our approaching amalgamation: **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm to 8.30pm at St Agnes' School Hall, 1 Locinda St, Highett.**

This weekend at each of our Masses we will welcome **Cath Garner, Strategy Coordinator of 'Take the Way of the Gospel' from the Archdiocese of Melbourne**, to speak to us about community engagement and some of the practicalities associated with the upcoming amalgamation of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Agnes parishes.

The detailed **'Implementation Plan'** for the **'Reconfiguration of the Bayside Parishes'**, can be downloaded directly from the following link: [bit.ly/47JiBHR](http://bit.ly/47JiBHR)

**OLA CHOIR** Come along and sing with us!! Easter Choir practice will continue at OLA each Sunday from 10am until Easter. All are most welcome. Enquiries: Tony 0469 453 156 or Helen 0432 866 039.

*Gospel reading continued...*

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'



**PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM**

For those who contribute to our parishes via envelopes, new sets of envelopes 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.



**ST AGNES' PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Come along to our school fete!

There will be loads of stalls, great food, Devonshire tea, entertainment and rides for all the family to enjoy.

Pre order your ride wristband at [www.trybooking.com/CPNUB](http://www.trybooking.com/CPNUB)

Raffle tickets are available at the St Agnes' Primary school office and will be sold after Masses each Saturday & Sunday in March.



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, through its **National Centre for Pastoral Research**,

has created a profile for each parish across Australia, based on the data from the 2021 Australian Census. You can download a copy of the 'Parish Social Profile' for every parish within the Archdiocese, including our own parishes of **Highett** and **Cheltenham**, via the following link: [ncpr.catholic.org.au/2021-parish-social-profiles-melbourne/](http://ncpr.catholic.org.au/2021-parish-social-profiles-melbourne/)



## CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

7 March 2024

To the parishes and school communities of:

- St James Gardenvale, St Joan of Arc Brighton and St Finbar's Brighton East;
- St Mary's Hampton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Hampton East and Sacred Heart Sandringham;
- St Agnes Highett and Our Lady of the Assumption Cheltenham.

### **Re: Your Invitation to Participate in the Parish Amalgamation and Renewal Process**

Further to Archbishop Peter's message to you in early February, I have been working with your parish priests and the archdiocesan staff to design a community engagement process to facilitate the parish amalgamations.

We are fortunate this process is beginning during Lent, as this is the time in our Church year when we are invited to deepen our awareness of how God is prompting us to take the next step in our walk of faith. Attuning our ears to God's voice within us will be essential as we embark on this momentous change to the parishes that have nourished and supported our faith journey. Each of us will have wisdom to share as we work together to create new parish communities wherein everyone is welcomed and belong.

The community engagement process comprises three phases:

1. In the period between now and Easter, we encourage each one of you to do two things:
  - Meet the people in your parish and the other parish(es) that will be part of your new community. This may be as simple as introducing yourself to someone you don't know before or after Mass, attending Mass at a different time or in another Church in your cluster, or participating in a group activity with people you don't know or wouldn't normally talk to.
  - Find some time to be still and listen for God's voice within you. Creating a new shared identity will ask everyone to draw on all of their senses and ways of knowing. For many of us, the busyness of our normal daily lives leaves little room for the time and patience discernment requires. Please note you will find some meditation resources on your parish website if you don't have a current practice.

Celebrating the Easter Triduum as one community will mark the end of this phase.

**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.*

2. In the period between Easter and Pentecost, you will be invited to participate in workshops to help you discern your identity as a new parish. As your new purpose, values and behaviours become clear, you will be in a position to consider a name for your parish that is consistent with the Naming Policy and brings with it the charism needed to animate your community.

The shortlist of names will be submitted to Archbishop Peter by Pentecost. Preparation and posting of the formal Decree of Amalgamation will occur following Archbishop Peter's naming decision.

3. Pentecost marks the beginning of the third – community renewal – phase.

Embracing the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost, this phase starts with forming a leadership team for each of the new parishes to translate your identity into a vision and concrete pastoral and financial plans.

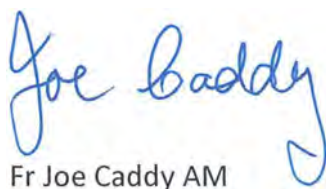
Forming people for mission, and finding new and innovative ways for parishes to collaborate with each other, with our schools and with the ministries of care and service across the greater Bayside area will also be at the heart of our renewal.

Information about the dates and times of the activities for your parish in each of these phases will be communicated by your parish priest.

If you have any general suggestions or feedback on the community engagement process as it unfolds, please feel free to communicate with me using the [mission@cam.org.au](mailto:mission@cam.org.au) email address. We will need to keep learning and building our capacity in change management as we strive to *Take the Way of the Gospel* in response to the challenges of today's world.

With every blessing,

Yours sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Caddy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr 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  
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