

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Kings 19:9, 11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/ The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: 9am Saturday 15th August 2026. Our Lady of the Assumption Church.



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

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A 8th/9th AUGUST, 2026



The disciples' panic at the rising storm buffeting their boat must have been compounded by Jesus's sudden appearance as he walked across the water. Jesus's loving reassurance that he was not a ghost – "It is I, do not be afraid" – would have quelled their fears. Peter's response may resonate with many of us: "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." We trust in the Lord; yet need reassurance. Jesus's response fills Peter with peace and courage. He says simply to Peter, "Come." Peter gets out of the boat and, quite miraculously, finds himself walking on the water towards Jesus. But, looking at the wind and the waves around him though, starts to sink. He cries out to the Lord and immediately Jesus reaches out and rescues him. In that moment, Peter's relief at Jesus' timely rescue must surely have been accompanied by the overwhelming realisation that Jesus' loving, tender presence would never have let him drown. Peter realises that he is deeply and tenderly loved, in spite of all his inadequacies. Even at our most vulnerable moments, Jesus invites us to be courageous and audacious in trusting his steadfastness and his unfailing embrace of our frailties. Let us lean into the accompaniment of those who walk with us. Jesus looks steadfastly at us across the wind and water, and says, "Come".

Sophie Clements

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 & HIGGETT**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.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY-Year A

8th / 9th AUGUST, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Henny de Jong, Agueda Rubia,
Fr Fabian Ukachi, Bernardo Scott,
Lorraine Wilkins, Antoniette Sequeira,
Carlos San Juan, Mary Rose Debattista

and all who have died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

John Borg, Lorraine Christopher,
Mary Salath, Antonio Pardo, Shirley Miller,
Anthony Eke, Elizabeth Iorfino
Angela Agius, Lillian Fowler, Frank Sofo
Molly Fowler, Daphne Evans,
Guia Ramirez, Grazia Fucile, Daniel Paoli,
Paul Flood, Ruby Holloway,
Maureen Noonan, Richard Callega,
Peter Home, Scott Taylor

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.
Consultation and dialogue months for our faith
communities. For more information please visit:
melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

SYNOD CORNER: Is Synodality slow?

Synodality may seem slower than top-down
decision-making, but it often leads to deeper,
more lasting renewal. What is discerned
together is more likely to be embraced together.

**BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND**

With great joy the Church of God
formally welcomes: Olivia Falco
Emily Falco and Sonny Fritsch.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP. For those who
contribute to our parish via "Envelopes",
**new boxed sets of Thanksgiving /
Presbytery Giving envelopes (starting
Sept 26)** are available for collection in each
church foyer. Thank you most sincerely,
once again, to all who offer their ongoing
practical and financial support for the
mission of our parish.

**MELBOURNE SYNOD CHRIST OUR
LIGHT PARISH CONSULTATIONS**

Would you like to help shape the evangelical
and missionary priorities for our
Archdiocese for the years ahead? The 2026
Melbourne Synod, to be held in December,
will focus on three themes: **Young
Discipleship, Missionary Leadership and
Formation and Participation.** Parishes are
invited to discuss the themes and forward
responses to the group preparing the
Working Document for the Synod members.
You are invited to a meeting on **Monday
10th August at 7.00pm in St Agnes Hall,**
1 Locinda St, next to St Agnes Church,
Highett. All are welcome. To RSVP, please
leave your contact details on the list in the
church foyer, or notify the Parish Office (03)
9583 6161. Thank You!

**CATHOLIC EARTHCARE SEASON
OF CREATION GATHERING 2026**

an online Catholic ecology event. Caritas
Australia and Catholic Religious Australia
warmly invite you to participate in the
Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation
Gathering 2026: **Listen, Reflect, Act**, a
national online event on 3–4 September
2026. The Gathering offers inspiring
keynote presentations and practical
workshops to help participants deepen their
faith and respond to the call to care for our
common home. Parishioners can register
individually for \$20. Learn more and
register: www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering

THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

2026 is now underway, and we ask everyone
to consider a one time or monthly pledge to
support the vital ministries of our
Archdiocese. Brochures with more
information can be found at the church.
Online (direct debit or credit card) donations
are the most secure and preferred method
and can be made via the QR code below.



You can also donate via the supplied
envelopes next weekend, or anonymously
via cash directly into the collection plate
during the campaign weekends.

**2026 NATIONAL CENSUS EVERY
ANSWER MATTERS SHAPE THE
FUTURE.** Be counted as a Catholic this
national census held on 11th August 2026.
Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic"
in the question on religion.