

FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
27:30 – 28:7**

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion**

SECOND READING

**A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the
Romans 14:7-9**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 18:21-35**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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



**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A - 16th / 17th SEPTEMBER, 2023**



**A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24**

**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

WEEK 3

'How many times ...?' What are the limits of love? Can love be measured? These questions lie behind Peter's query about forgiveness. He obviously considers seven a most generous number since it echoes God's words through the prophet Amos, 'For three transgressions and for four, I will not revoke the punishment.' (2:1). Jesus replies with an incalculable number 'seventy times seven'. Forgiveness, like love, has no limits. This week's parable sets up the measuring stick for Christian love and this measure is that of the generous, forgiving master. From the experience of God's extraordinary generosity we ought to be able to be generous in our turn. The servant in the parable forgot his experience of being forgiven and focussed only on his being wronged. Christians need to be people with long memories, able to recall the times they have failed and been forgiven, and from this place reach out in forgiveness of others. Remembering that we fail again and again and again might enable us to forgive 'seventy times seven'.

Mary Coloe PBVM

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: principal@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.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 16th / 17th September, 2023

PRAYING FOR:

John Ryan, John Moller, Mario de Abreu,
Sr Agnes Gleeson RSM, Censina Zammit

... and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Helen Ingles, Carlo Giugni, Ian Munro,
Vera Moloney,

....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 2022 to Christ the King 2023 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 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>

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY:
'A day to reflect and give thanks'.
Sunday 17th September 2023 marks
Social Services Sunday within the
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this
day we give thanks to the dedicated work of the
thousands of staff and volunteers who serve the
poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. We
acknowledge with gratitude Catholic Social
Service Victoria's 40 member organisations,
their 8,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who
work together to serve and support over
211,000 people.

PARISH CONSULTATIONS

Any parishioners wishing to provide feed-
back to the Archdiocese of Melbourne's
Proclaim Office, following the recent Parish
Consultation Sessions on the reconfiguration
of the Bayside region, are welcome to do so
by emailing:

mission@cam.org.au

For those who requested email addresses for
Archbishop Peter Comensoli and for Fr Joe
Caddy, the Vicar General, their email
addresses are as follows:

archbishop@cam.org.au

vicar.general@cam.org.au

BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT (BASP) This and next weekend we

are seeking donations of certain types of food and
cleaning products for refugees and asylum
seekers. There is still a great need to help asylum
seekers and refugees, many of whom receive
little or no government support.

Leaflets with details of which items are in
demand can be found in the foyer of each church.
Please leave donations in the box/basket labelled
BASP Food & Cleaning Products., that are
located in each of our church foyers For more
information, please contact Adrian Foley at
ade.foley@gmail.com or on mobile 0497 780 233.
Thank you.



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

THE SEASON OF CREATION is an
opportunity for each of us to reflect on where our
heart is – are we trapped in fear or selfishness, or
are we grateful for everything around us? The
Season invites us to reflect on how blessed we
are, and to support God's creation in every way
we can. Pope Francis challenges us to see things
this way: "...there is a clear link between the
protection of nature and the building of a just and
equitable social order. There can be no renewal
of our relationship with nature, without a
renewal of humanity itself." (Nairobi, Kenya,
2015).

TREE PLANTING To commemorate this
year's Season of Creation and our commitment to
caring more deeply for God's Creation, we will
plant a beautiful indigenous tree in the OLA
church grounds after the 9am Mass on Sunday,
24th September. Everyone is most welcome to
gather after Mass for this short tree planting
ceremony! In coming weeks, similar tree
plantings will take place in the grounds of St
Agnes church, and OLA and St Agnes primary
schools. Keep an eye out for more details. Thank
you to Bill and Wilma Pimm for their generous
donation of the four indigenous trees.

THE REFERENDUM ON THE VOICE AND INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION

Regarding the upcoming referendum on the
Voice and Indigenous Recognition in the
Australian Constitution, you may wish to
read the document: '**Listen, Learn, Love: A
new engagement with Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander People**' launched
recently on Social Justice Sunday by the
Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference
which offers some points for reflection.

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/08/22/social-justice-statement-2023-24/>