

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.**

SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans** **8:8-11**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life,
says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John** **11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45**

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.'

... continued overleaf



**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 LENT - YEAR A 21st / 22nd MARCH, 2026



As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

Dianne Bergant CSA

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT
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: (tba)
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 & 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 LENT – YEAR A
21st / 22nd MARCH, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Ian D'Cruz, Isidoro Sonno, Janina Maksel,
Mark Carroll, Agnela Borges,
Angelina Marvida,
and all who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Neliya Edema, Frank Patterson,
Charles Dib, Julie D'Souza,
Francis Fernandez, Douglas Boustead,
Catena DeLuca, Tomasa Rubia, Eufemio
Rubia, Crispina Salavarez,
Sr Mary Camillas RSM,

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.

 **Caritas AUSTRALIA** | **PROJECT COMPASSION**

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026 Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict. Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or online at: projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413
Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

 **Vinnies good works**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL – Cheltenham & Highett/Hampton Conferences: The St Vincent de Paul Society – affectionately known as ‘Vinnies’ – is dedicated to shaping a more just and compassionate society.

The Society has volunteer groups around Victoria, known as Conferences, which provide support and a ‘hand-up’ to vulnerable members of their communities. Historically we have two conferences within Christ Our Light Parish: Cheltenham and Highett/Hampton.

Vinnies invites you to learn more about their work, and to this end, there’s information in each church’s foyer. Additionally, throughout the month of March, Conference members will be available in the churches’ foyers after Masses, to answer any questions you may have.



COL GARDENING GROUP

There will be a ‘Working Bee’ next **Saturday, 28th March** from **9.45am**. Anyone able to assist, either casually or more regularly, would be most welcome. Ordinarily we spend around an hour or so on these days. For further information contact John Tetteroo on 0432 649 659.

Gospel reading continued...

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



 **CHRIST OUR LIGHT PARISH - LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Friday 27th March, at 6.30pm in Our Lady of the Assumption Church.** All welcome.

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK The Choir warmly welcomes parishioners who would like to sing with us over the ceremonies of Holy Week. Choir practice 10am each Sunday at OLA church, for 30 minutes. Enquiries: Tony: 0468 453 156 or Helen: 0432 866 039

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR THE LITURGIES OF HOLY WEEK Please see the sheets in the foyers of our churches and consider putting your name down to assist with the various ministries.

† UPCOMING FUNERALS †

Ian D’Cruz (RIP)
Funeral Mass – Tuesday 24th March – 11am
Our Lady of the Assumption Church

Isidoro Sonno (RIP)
Funeral Mass – Thursday 26th March – 11am
St Agnes’ Church