

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom

12:13. 16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father,

Lord of heaven and earth;

**You have revealed to little ones
the mysteries of the kingdom.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

13:24-43

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn." He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.' He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.' In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world. Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels.

.....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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

18th / 19th JULY, 2026



The gospel continues on from the parable of the Sower that we heard last week. For all our good intentions, and efforts we will probably continue to struggle with some issues all our lives. The garden of our soul will always need a little weeding. These inner struggles will continue to call us to conversion and we will continue to need to call on God and allow God to be the gardener of our souls. Knowing the weeds and wheat within our own individual lives, can help us be a little more patient, or tolerant of the weeds and wheat around us – in our families, communities, our Church. Also, sometimes in the struggle to live a good meaningful life, we can be our own worst enemy in being far too harsh and unforgiving towards ourselves. The Parable may invite us to greater kindness towards ourselves and to leave the task of major garden work to God.

Mary Coloe PBVM

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.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY-Year A

18th / 19th JULY, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Andres Nombrado,
Angelina Marvida,
Vivian Vitry,

and all who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Ante Milicevic, Katarina Milicevic,
Silvestra Misajon, Helmut Arias,
Colleen Barrett, Clare Herft,
Manfred Morys, Jerome D'Souza

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.

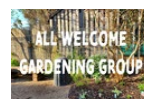
Timeline for Synod consultation: This month
will see the gradual release of the Synod theme
papers, with June and July being Consultation
and dialogue months for our faith communities.
For more information on the Synod please visit:

melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

**SYNOD CORNER: A listening Church is a
credible Church.** In a world where many feel
ignored or dismissed, a Church that listens
becomes a sign of hope. Synodality teaches us
that listening can heal wounds and rebuild trust.

SAVING MONEY ON HOME ENERGY

BILLS. The Care for Our Common Home
Group of Christ Our Light Parish is holding
an **Information Seminar on Monday 27th
July at 7pm** in the OLA Church meeting
room. The presenters will be Cait O'Shea
and Tom Rose from Solar Savers, which is a
council-led program designed to help
households access vetted suppliers and
trusted information to make improvements
to the energy efficiency of their homes. The
session will cover how households can lower
their energy bills, improve comfort at home,
and reduce their carbon footprint. We'll
cover practical energy efficiency tips, the
benefits of electrification, and how making
smart upgrades to a few key appliances can
help you save money over time. Whether
you're just getting started or ready to take the
next step, this session will give you the tools
and confidence to make your home more
efficient and future-proof. Please contact
Phillip Steele m 0419 311 582.

**COL GARDENING GROUP.**

'Working Bee' on Saturday, 1st
August from 10am, (weather
permitting). Anyone able to assist, either
casually or more regularly, would be most
welcome. For information contact John
Tetteroo on 0432 649 659.

GOSPEL READING continued...

Well then, just as the dandelion is gathered up and
burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time.
The Son of Man will send his angels and they
will gather out of his kingdom all things that
provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw
them into the blazing furnace, where there will
be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the
virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom
of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'.
Well then, just as the dandelion is gathered up and
burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time.

**OLA FETE SAVE THE DATE 7th
NOVEMBER 2026.** Our Lady of the
Assumption Primary School has nearly 200
families, over 2,000 parishioners, and strong
ties to local kinder's, childcare centres and
neighbourhood groups. The OLA Fete is a
most treasured event. It is more than just a
fun day out, it's our major fundraiser for the
year, and your support can make a big
difference to our school and church. If you
would like to discuss sponsorship
opportunities or should you have any
questions, please do not hesitate to contact:
Antonella Taranto & Liz Dawson: via email
fete@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

**MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 - THEME
PAPER RELEASE.** The Synod theme
papers are an important step in our journey
of listening and discernment as we prepare
for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to
foster a spirit of hope and imagination—
trusting that, God is calling us into a future
marked by faithfulness, renewal, and deeper
communion. The suggested reflection
process is a 'Conversation in the Spirit' or a
Spiritual Conversation. This method is based
in prayer and allows people to come together
to both speak and to listen. Different from a
discussion, it is an attentive listening process
that aims to discern where the Holy Spirit is
leading us. At the conclusion of each theme
paper, there are prompt questions for
reflection. Responses to these prompt
questions can be provided via the QR code
which is at the end of each paper. Resource
access: <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>