

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

8:5-8, 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Let all the earth cry out to God
with joy.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Peter

3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once

for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John **14:15-21**

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.’



**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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

9th / 10th MAY, 2026



*Heavenly Father,
we thank you for the gift
of motherhood.
Today we celebrate the
loving sacrifice of
mothers, who nurture,
protect and guide us.
Bless them with joy, peace
and love.
May they feel deeply
appreciated and honoured
not just today, but every
day. Amen.*

The coming of the Holy Spirit is Jesus' promise to all of us who have faith in him. The word that Jesus uses here for the Holy Spirit, paraclete (in Greek), means advocate, defender or consoler and is often used to describe a helper or witness in a court of law. Just as Peter tells his readers to be ready for whenever they are called to make a defence for themselves, Jesus promises a defender who will always be with them. The Holy Spirit is an advocate and witness for our faith. The Holy Spirit also testifies to Christ's saving work in our lives, including times of doubts, trials and shortcomings. In a world that sometimes seems devoid of God's presence and action, the Holy Spirit dwells within us to help us "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts." When the world rejects Christ and his good news, we have the Holy Spirit to help us follow Christ, loving as he loved, suffering as he suffered, and living in unity with the Father as he has made possible. And when we do this, God himself, in the fully divine person of the Holy Spirit, advocates for us, defends us and comforts us.

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: 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 & 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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year A
9th / 10th MAY, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Barry Taylor, Thi Huong Tran, Cory Santos

and all who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Maria Aviles, Michael McGannon,
Mamerto Madrid, Marcel Gonzalés,
Marie Gonzalés, Tom Kelly, Alicia Grieta,
Anju Sood, Harry Lambert, Lorna Harrold,
Eamonn Molly, Joe Charters, Don Yates,

Hilary Palman, Denzil 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.

For more information on the Synod please visit:

melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

**SYNOD CORNER: Why listening matters
in the Church**

Listening is not a sign of weakness. In the
Christian tradition, listening is an act of
humility and faith. We believe that God can
speak through the experiences, joys, and
struggles of His people. Synodality reminds us
that listening is a form of love and a path to
wisdom..

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

GROUP The next meeting will be held in
Exodus Hall at 10am on Sunday 17th May 2026.
Anyone wishing to learn more about the
activities of the group is very welcome to attend.
Call Phillip Steele 0419 311 582 for more
details.

SIP: SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB Next

SIP evening coming up on Wednesday 27th
May. Please note that it is an evening meal this
time: 6.00pm – 9.00pm. Our guest is Lawrie
Hallinan, who has a wealth of experience and
who is coming to speak to us on Synodality in
practice: The ways we walk together as church.
Venue Hampton RSL, 25 Holyrood St,
Hampton. Bookings are essential by Friday 22nd
May. Please do not contact RSL for bookings.
For bookings and/or further details contact:
Michele: michelekennan@presvic.org.au
Catriona: catriona3171@gmail.com



PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH The

next Parish social lunch will be
held Thursday 28th May, 12noon.
The venue is Highett RSL. All are most
welcome. Please RSVP by Tuesday 26th May
to: Tricia Hickey 0421 275 853, or
Adrian Foley 0497 780 233



Thank you to Christ Our light parishioners.

We raised \$2,252.60. You can still donate
online at: catholiccarevic.org.au or call 99672515.

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE MASS COUNT

The 6th National Count of Attendance will
continue this weekend and over the first four
weekends of May. If you would like more
information please visit:

ncpr.catholic.org.au/national-count-of-attendance

JOURNEYS OF HOPE FROM VIETNAM

Parramatta Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv's
testimony of coming to Australia as a refugee is
part of a new ABC Education series, Journeys of
Hope from Vietnam. Bishop Long's story is
offered not merely as a personal testimony but as a
profound witness to faith, migration, and human
resilience. The series showcases five individual
stories of Vietnamese refugees fleeing the
Vietnam War and communist regime, searching
for safety, security, freedom and a new place to call
home. Organised with the Vietnamese Museum
Australia. Australia's first museum dedicated to
honouring and preserving the powerful stories of
Vietnamese refugees and their journey to a new
life in Australia – the series aims to educate
students on the "migration stories, inviting them to
reflect on themes of resilience, courage and
belonging, while gaining a deeper understanding
of the contributions Vietnamese Australians have
made to our shared community." Bishop Long's
episode describes his dangerous boat journey, his
year in a refugee camp in Malaysia, and his
eventual arrival in Melbourne in 1981. He details
his experience of starting a new life in an
unfamiliar place, learning a new language and
pursuing his calling to the priesthood. His chosen
motto as bishop, [plunge] "into the deep", is a
reflection of his boat journey across the ocean and
the courage required to embrace the unknown.

cathnews.com/2026/05/05/bishop-long-features-in-abc-series-on-vietnamese-refugees