

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

AN ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray, as Advent draws to a close,
that Christ will truly come into our hearts.

Lord, fill our hearts with your love,
and as you revealed to us by an angel
the coming of your Son as man,
so lead us through his suffering and death
to the glory of his resurrection.



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A 20th / 21st DECEMBER, 2025



Emmanuel; God-is-with-us – that's what we celebrate through Christmas and that's what we've been preparing for during Advent. We celebrate God-with-us in a particular time and place through our celebration of the birth of Jesus. But we remember it every year because we also use the Christmas celebration to remind ourselves that God continues to be with us. That is what is so remarkable about the Christmas season: that God-is-with-us now, not just in a stable in Palestine so many years ago, but now! Advent is the time to remind ourselves of this incredible truth and prepare ourselves to acknowledge it once again.

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: Vino Krishnan
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 Lachlan Foott
Email: lfoott@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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR A 20th / 21st DECEMBER, 2025

PRAYING FOR:

Carol Maiden, Stephen Battye,

and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Sr Eugenie Zimaris FMM, Mylene Samuel,
Max Raimbert, Lourdes Raimbert,
Domenico De Gilio, Vincent D'Souza,
Felicity Williams, Ian Steele, Les Aldred,
Patrick Aldred, Francoise De Los Angeles,
Bob McShane, Vince McLoughlin,
Brian Stackpole, Molly Fowler,
Lillian Fowler, Gerard Chadwick,
Oscar Capule, Patrick Owens,

...and all who we remember at this time.

...and we keep in our prayers all 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.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE 2025

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6pm Mass St Agnes' Church, Highett

8pm Mass OLA Church Cheltenham

[Carols from 7.30pm]

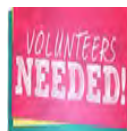
Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

9am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham

11am Mass OLA Church Cheltenham

Anniversaries of Death – Christmas 2025

through to the end of January 2026: In preparation for the Summer Bulletin, which is to be printed this coming week, covering the period of Christmas through to the end of January, you are invited to enter the names of those whose anniversaries occur during this period, who you'd like remembered in prayer. Please enter these names into the Memorial Folders located in the foyers of each church, or alternatively contact the Parish Office.



CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL MINISTRIES / VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all who put their names down for the various liturgical ministries across our Christmas Masses. The Sign-up sheet, now updated with the names of volunteers, is available to view in each church foyer. Please remember which Mass and ministry you signed up for!



ST VINCENT DE PAUL Christmas "Giving Tree" Heartfelt

thanks to all the Parishioners who donated to the SVDP Christmas Appeal. We received money and gift cards. The St Agnes Primary School students donated a generous \$1700 worth of gift cards. We distributed them to our 50 families and singles this week. They were very appreciative.

Kind regards, Tricia Hickey [Highett Conference]



CHRISTMAS CAROLS An Invitation for YOU to come along and sing Christmas Carols with our Choir at 7.30 pm before and during the 8pm Christmas Eve Mass on Wednesday 24th December. We will have a short weekly practice session at 10am in the Church until Christmas. All are most welcome! For enquiries contact:

Helen: 0432 866 039 or Tony: 0468 453 156

OLA PIETY STALL St Vincent De Paul Christmas cards are available for sale @ \$5 per pack and the 2026 Columban Art Calendars @ \$10 each after the 9am and 11am Masses.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please Note: The COL Parish Office will close for the Christmas / Summer holiday period at 2pm on Wednesday

24th December. Regular office hours of 9am - 3pm will resume on Monday 5th January, 2026.

To contact me, please phone the Presbytery on: 9532 1794. This number will connect through to my mobile. Please leave a message and a contact number if I'm unable to answer your call, and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you, Fr Alan

THE VATICAN 'Christmas Concert with the Poor' – 6th December, 2025: Michael Bublè sings in the presence of Pope Leo XIV.

Please Note: updated link:

https://youtu.be/3ik_tEkCGUU

