

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ The Lord will bless his people
with peace.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was

brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The heavens were opened
and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'



CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC PARISH

HIGHETT / CHELTENHAM

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR A

10th / 11th JANUARY, 2026



The baptism of Jesus inaugurates his ministry as the anointed one of God. The passage from Isaiah indicates the kind of messiah he will be. He will not exercise harsh justice, nor will he wield the sword of vengeance on the battlefield. He will be a servant, who, though mighty is gentle; one chosen by God, yet committed to the needy and the marginal; the Son of God who attends to the least within the community. The messiah of God may have come from an insignificant village like Nazareth, but he was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power. Filled with the Spirit of God, he acts out of a gentle, compassionate spirit and comes for all people without distinction.

Dianne Bergant CSA

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9532 1794
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161
Monday - Friday 9am – 3pm
Secretary: Vino Krishnan Blair
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
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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.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YR A 10th / 11th JANUARY, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Carmel Wanless,

and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Corazon Ramirez, Nazzareno Zammit,
Alice King, Annie Bukasongo, Lily Walsh,
Ellen Melia, Caridad David, Juan Chavez,
Barbara Skea, Margaret Charters,
Ananda Krishnan, Drago Borko,
Irene Borko, Patricia McQuinn,
Jereme Ceballos,

...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.

The Baptism of the Lord - Veronica Lawson RSM

The story of the Lord's baptism is an initiation or commissioning story. We hear it against the backdrop of the first reading from Isaiah 42. Jesus is God's chosen one on whom God's Spirit rests. The voice of God commissions God's chosen to bring forth justice, sensitively and without fanfare: to be a light to the peoples; to open the eyes of the blind and to set the captives free. A Spirit-filled life consists in fulfilling such a mission.

In Matthew's account of the baptism, "the heavens are opened" and Jesus sees God's Spirit descending on him "like a dove". While the image of the heavens opening presents an ancient three-tiered understanding of the structure of the cosmos, we might nonetheless appreciate the sense it evokes of the all-encompassing cosmic nature of this commissioning event. God's words are addressed to all who listen to the gospel: "This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Jesus' mission is to be understood in terms of "righteousness" or right relationship. Jesus' insistence that John baptise him despite John's reluctance points to the reversal of values that will characterise his mission. There is no pursuit of status or personal aggrandizement in a gospel way of life. Right relationship lies rather in respecting as God's creation the entire Earth community, in bringing forth justice and setting the captives free. Each one of us can make a difference to the "ordinary time" of those with whom we share life on this planet. The image of "the heavens" opening might serve as a reminder of the destructive effects of human-introduced space debris and of our responsibility to promote global legislation that might inhibit further devastation of this kind.

THANK YOU for your many Christmas wishes, cards and gifts. Thank you too to all those who assisted with the liturgies over Advent and Christmas. Much happens behind the scenes, and as always, the parish staff and myself are very appreciative of the efforts and generosity of so many within our parish community. With two churches, two schools, a hospital and more than a dozen aged care facilities within the boundaries of the parish, its heartening to know our Christ-like outreach is very much alive in our many volunteers. Thank you again and I wish all parishioners a great 2026. – Fr Alan



MARY MACKILLOP SPIRITUALITY CENTRE - RECOLLECTION AND REFLECTION DAY

Join us for a Day of Reflection - a peaceful retreat to deepen your connection with God through prayer, meditation, and reflection. Take time away from daily routines to nurture your faith, gain clarity, and renew your purpose. Activities include guided meditations, spiritual readings, and personal prayer time. Book now and nurture your soul in this sacred day of quiet reflection. Facilitated by Clare Shearman. Friday 6th March from 9.30am - 3pm.