

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the

example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming?

(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

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25 Spring Road, Highett

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

6th / 7th DECEMBER, 2025



Today's readings sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to messianic fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ. The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives. John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.

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: 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
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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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR A 6th / 7th DECEMBER, 2025

PRAYING FOR:

Pasquale Audino, Pio Salerno,
Gurunath Korgaonkar, Fr Michael Shadbolt,

and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Hayley Thomas, Harold Carroll,
Noreen Carroll, John Maguire, Perce Rate,
Malcolm Windsor, Carol Harold,
Antonia Zingale, Sergio Andrade,
Margaret Markwick, Jean Wallis,
Susan Duke, Frank Devine, Ray Holloway,
Craig Blair, Fr Michael Flanagan,
Ethel Boyle, Frank Siracusa.

...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.



This Sunday 7th December,
you're invited to stay and join
fellow parishioners for a cuppa
**after the 9am & 11am
Masses**, in the OLA Church Meeting Room.



COL GARDENING GROUP

There will be a 'Working Bee'
next **Saturday, 13th December**,
from **9.45am**, (...weather
permitting). Anyone able to
assist, either casually or more
regularly, would be most welcome. For further
information contact John Tetteroo on 0432 649
659. Thank you in anticipation of your presence.



BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND With
great joy the Church of God formally
welcomes **Leo James Gross**, who is
to be Baptised this weekend.



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



ST VINCENT DE PAUL Christmas "Giving Tree"

We extend our sincere gratitude to all
who contributed so generously to the
Christmas "Giving Tree" appeal. Your support is
invaluable and helps Vinnies to further their
mission and help ease the burdens vulnerable
people in our community are experiencing at a
time such as Christmas. **Thank you** to
parishioners across our parish who donated retail
gift cards. Your support of both our parish
conferences is appreciated and vital.

GOSPEL READING continued...

But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate
fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We
have Abraham for our father," because, I tell
you, God can raise children for Abraham from
these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the
roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to
produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown
on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance,
but the one who follows me is more powerful
than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear
his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the
barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will
never go out.'

CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS

From Mon. 8th – Wed. 17th December, the
Parish Office will operate on a limited
timetable. The Office will be open from **10am
–2pm** each weekday. **N.B. The Office will be
closed on Monday 15th December.**



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The
Choir is inviting new members to
join existing members in the singing
of carols at St Matthew's Church,
Community Carol Service next
Sunday 14th December at 6pm. Practice is each
Sunday at 10am at OLA church wherein we will
also be preparing Carols for our Christmas Eve
Mass. All are most welcome! 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.



KNITTING GROUP

Our
wonderful knitting group will be
holding their **Christmas Stall at
OLA church after the 9am and
11am Masses this Sunday, the 7th of
December**. Please support our wonderful
knitters, as all proceeds go to St Vincent De Paul.