

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.**

SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans**

8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**The seed is the word of God,
Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew**

13:1-9

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'



**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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

11th/12th JULY, 2026



The parable of the soil, of the seed, of the birds and the thorns, of the sun and the sower alerts us to Jesus' deep sense of connection with life in its multiple forms. It calls us to examine our connection with the natural world. For a long time, we have focussed on the human character in the parable, a character who evokes an agricultural world that is far removed from our post-industrial world, but not so far removed from the world of millions of people in our planetary home who live close to the soil and to earth's elements and who struggle to produce the food they need to stay alive. Is the Matthean Jesus presenting in the sower an image of an estate owner, or a tenant farmer or even a slave? Or is the reader being asked to imagine the sower, whether estate owner, tenant farmer or slave, as an image of an extraordinarily generous God whose life-sustaining gifts are there for all, no matter their readiness to receive? It may not be one or the other but both. What of the silty clay loam or red sandy soil, of the wheat or barley seed, of the birds and the thorns and the sun? We know that barley was domesticated some ten thousand years ago in what became bible lands and that these lands are also the original home of the finest bread-making wheat. The birds and the thorns and the sun are for another reflection. We bring our experience of looking and listening and being into dialogue with the parable and search out its meaning for us. We trust that God will ensure an abundant harvest if we but learn to look and to listen to the needs of a planet in peril.

Sr Veronica Lawson RSM

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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY-Year A

11th / 12th JULY, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Chear Sovanak, Kevin Roberts, Moira Marsh,
Agueda Rubia, Henny de Jong,
Carlos San Juan, Kingston Leonard

and all who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Michael Kenny, Mary Malek, Tony Malek,
Elia Malek, Darryl Wigney, Joseph Zahra,
Gwen Valent, Eugene Pereira, Doris Miller,

Jim De Gregorio, Clement Savyell,
Harold George, Joe Halloran,
Marshall 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: Synodality begins
locally.** Synodality is lived first in parishes,
schools, families, and communities. When
people feel heard and valued locally, the Church
becomes more credible and more missionary.

**BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND**

With great joy the Church of God
formally welcomes: **Lucas Denis,
Harrison Kelly, Archer Crook,
Frederick Crook, Charlie Sutcliffe and
Ted Pearson.**

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.

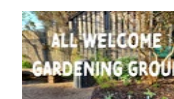
ST JOSEPH'S MENS EVENING:

Thursday 16th July. 8pm to 9.30pm adoration,
followed by fellowship and formation. A
special guest speaker Steve Lawrence, will
talk about "Terror of Demons": St Joseph's
Help in the Spiritual Battle'. Venue: Our
Lady of Lourdes, 631 High St, Prahran.



SEA SUNDAY. Anyone who
would like to support Stella Maris
and its ongoing mission to
seafarers, through their annual Sea
Sunday appeal, can donate online:

<https://stellamarisaustralia.org/sea-%20sunday-appeal/>

**COL GARDENING**

GROUP. There will be a
'Working Bee' on
Saturday, 1st August from 10am, (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.

**KILBREDA COLLEGE
OPEN EVENTS.**

Open
Mornings tours: 9:15am –
10:45am Wednesday 15th July &
Thursday 6th August, Talk & Tour: 4
to 5.00pm with the Principal Thursday 30th July
Visit:

<https://www.kilbreda.vic.edu.au/enrolment/college-event-registrations/>

**CARITAS URGENT
AUSTRALIA APPEAL FOR**

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE. Two
powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela.
Communities homes destroyed and families
devastated. Rescue efforts are hampered by
damaged infrastructure and limited
resources. Over 3,300 people confirmed
dead & tens of thousands missing. To donate
visit:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/venezuela-earthquake/venezuela-earthquake/>