

## FIRST READING

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

8:23 – 9:3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations. The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

## SECOND READING

### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1:10-13. 17

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach

that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.**

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL READING

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

4:12-23

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.



# 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](http://www.olacheltenham.org.au)

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2026



In the Gospel today, Matthew symbolically presents Jesus as a great light for a people who have lived in darkness and the shadow of death and oppression. Jesus offers the hope of an alternative reign and invites his hearers to expand their horizons, for the all-embracing empire or kingdom "of the heavens" has come near. He then calls four fishermen to follow him, to join him on his mission of proclaiming the empire or reign "of the heavens". The verb "to follow" is an invitation to live out in their lives/in our lives the pattern of Jesus' life. They "immediately" leave their boat and their father and follow him. Later in the story we find they still have their boat, an indication that, at some levels, the story is to be read symbolically. At times we need to distance ourselves from family expectations for the sake of the gospel. At times we have to decentre our material possessions even while we affirm the goodness of their materiality and their significance for the work of the mission. We are all invited to turn our lives around and to live out in our lives the pattern of Jesus' life.

Veronica Lawson RSM

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT  
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9532 1794  
Email: [Alan.Fox@cam.org.au](mailto:Alan.Fox@cam.org.au)

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](mailto:principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au)  
St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344  
Principal: Mr Thomas Hartney  
Email: [principal@sahightett.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sahightett.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.

#### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2026

#### PRAYING FOR:

Rosina Iorfino, Michelle Smith,  
William Donnelly, Generoso de la Peña,  
*and all those who died recently.*

#### WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Joanne Casaceli, Maria Fucile,  
Dominic Usher, Mary Andrews,  
Thomas Smith, John Walsh,  
Eileen McLoughlin, Holly Brennan,  
Miroslav Andrysik, Rick Thorp,  
Don Walford, Vincent Fernandes,  
Nachithra Mary, Norma Sevilla,  
Francesca Fuccio, Pasqualina Mazzitelli,  
Nicole Thompson, Paul Gori,  
Bried McKeever, Charles Lamplugh,  
Caterina Pittari, Gerard Cimiotti,  
Antonino Fucile,  
*...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](http://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.



Next Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February, you're invited to stay and join fellow parishioners for a cuppa **after the 9am & 11am**

Masses, in the OLA Church Meeting Room.



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

#### NEW SCHOOL YEAR COMMENCES

We wish all the children and staff of both our parish schools, along with all associated with our schools, every blessing for the year ahead as classes commence this coming week. We pray that all who contribute to the children's education will continue to nurture them in faith and in love.

#### AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Please Note: The Parish Office will be closed and there will be **No Communion Service this Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.



**Mary MacKillop  
Spirituality Centre  
Melbourne**

#### Recollection and Reflection Day

Join us for a Day of Recollection - 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 6<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30am - 3pm.  
Cost: \$180 excl. GST | \$198 incl. GST

To book please visit:

[mmsm.org.au/retreats/recollection-reflection-day-melb/](http://mmsm.org.au/retreats/recollection-reflection-day-melb/)



**COL GARDENING GROUP** There will be a 'Working Bee' on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February

from 9.45am. Anyone able to assist, either casually or more regularly, would be most welcome. Ordinarily we spend around an hour or so on these days. For further information contact John Tetteroo on 0432 649 659. Thank you in anticipation of your presence.

#### A Prayer for Our Country

God of all nations,  
We pray for our country, Australia.  
We give thanks for all the blessings we receive from this ancient and mysterious land.  
We are grateful for the Indigenous people who took time over thousands of generations to learn her ways and share them with wisdom.  
We stand humbly before the storms and fires that leave us speechless.

Our hopes are stirred by the millions of kind and decent people who enliven our community, seldom seeking the limelight, always responding to the needs of others, regardless of who they may be.  
These people are our future.

We know, Lord, that the new year finds us in a fragile place.

We pray earnestly for your grace to find the right direction, the one that leads to dignity and justice for us all.

May your Holy Spirit work with us to heal divisions, dissolve anger, open our ears and draw us into compassion.

May we rediscover the gifts of common good, commonwealth and common sense.

May we, like your Son, seek to serve, not to be served.

In 2026, and for all ages.  
Amen.

- Michael McGirr