

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in

prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

**No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes
from the mouth of God.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Mark**
1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

Parish Office: 9583 6161

9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192

Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au



Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

St Agnes' Parish Highett

Parish Office: 9532 1794

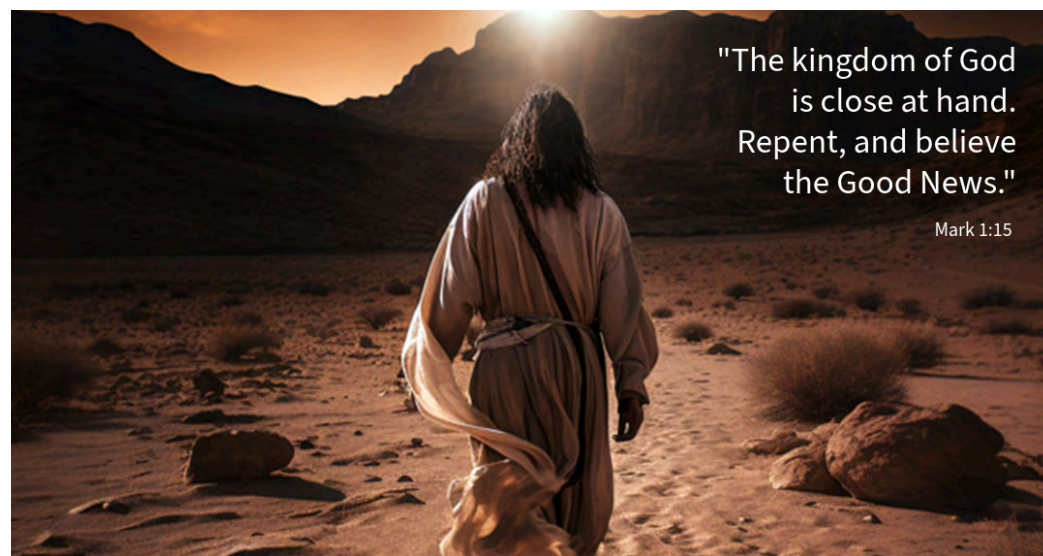
1 Locinda Street, Highett. 3190

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Website: www.sahighett.org.au



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B - 17th / 18th FEBRUARY, 2024



"The kingdom of God
is close at hand.
Repent, and believe
the Good News."

Mark 1:15

Both the Gospel and the Season of Lent take us on a journey in which Jesus is at the centre and stresses the importance of our encounter with Him. We follow him through his time of teaching to his death on Good Friday and his rising on Easter Sunday from the dead. These weeks give us space to reflect on the journey of our own lives and the places where we have drifted far from Jesus' path. Lent invites us to ask ourselves what matters most deeply to us and to return to Jesus who remains close to us. Jesus' message is simple and life changing. He reminds us that God is with us in all the hard places and questioning of our lives and we can remember and treasure the times and places of God's presence. Lent is also a reminder that God's coming is near and the time of waiting for God to act is over. The challenge for his hearers is to pay attention, to believe this great news, and to respond to it.

Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT
Fr Alan Fox BH: 9583 6161 / AH: 9555 3557
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 9584 9488
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques
Email: principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au
St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott
Email: foott@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 9:45 am
Saturday 9.30 am
i.e. following Mass (COVID-safe protocols apply)

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 two parishes 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR B
17th/18th February, 2024

PRAYING FOR:

Liz Halpin, Maureen Pitcher,
John Brinkley, Fred Lambert,
... and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO REMEMBER:

Bernard Dwyer, Liliane Tranquille,
Joseph Ceravolo, Frank Shanley,
Neliya Edema, Brian Bluett, Brian Boyle,
Victoria Ajomale, Gloria Magcawas,
Caridad David, Alberto David,
Robert Gormley, Juan Chavez,
Felicidad Chavez, Antonio Cesario,
Alexandre Nime, Nita Sundberg,
Sydney Patterson,

....and all whose anniversaries occur about
this time.

...and we keep in our prayers all who are
currently unwell.

Readings for this liturgical year from Advent
2023 to Christ the King 2024 are taken from
Year B 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 support both the
Thanksgiving and Presbytery collections through
your generous contributions. Both OLA & St
Agnes are now registered for online contributions.

The **CDF Pay** link for **OLA, Cheltenham** is:
<http://bit.ly/CDFpayCheltenham>

The **CDF Pay** link for **St Agnes, Highett** is:
<http://bit.ly/CDFpayHighett>

 **Caritas AUSTRALIA** PROJECT COMPASSION

2024 Over the next few weeks
Project Compassion will bring us the stories of
three resilient women from three different
corners of the world, facing vastly different
challenges. They are united by one dream: to
create a better tomorrow for all future
generations. **Ronita** from the Philippines is a
mother of two young boys living in a slum in
Quezon City. She went back to school to finish
her education so that she could earn an income
to support her children. **Leaia** from Samoa was
not able to have access to a reliable source of
clean water, which was very difficult for Leaia
and her family. But, with the support of Caritas
Australia, a water tank was installed at their
home, improving their health and living
conditions. **Memory** from Malawi is the eldest
daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained
to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer
for future generations of women in her village.
Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to
know their stories, and journey with them as
they forge a path to a brighter future.
Please give generously to Project Compassion
through either the boxes or envelopes that are
available in each of our church foyers, or by
visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or calling
1800 024 413.

OLA FETE - NOVEMBER 2024

Calling all plant lovers and green thumbs!

The plant stall is one of the most successful and
most loved stalls at our fete. This year we need
your help to make sure it is blooming and bigger
than ever. We are looking for people who can:

- Donate indoor/outdoor plants, indoor/ outdoor
plant pots (can be creative) or source donations
for the stall; or
- Propagate plants that you may have in your
garden/home to donate to the fete. Even if it is
just a few – every little bit helps;

If you can assist please contact Claire Melican,
from the Fete Committee either at 0402 367 067
or via email: fete@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

LENTEN GROUP For anyone still wishing to
participate in a Lenten Group, there is the
opportunity to join the **Wednesday evening**
group. For more information and venue details,
please contact: Sue Wilson on 0408 103 168.

 The Australian Catholic
Bishops Conference,
through its **National
Centre for Pastoral
Research**, has created a profile for each parish
across Australia, based on the data from the
2021 Australian Census. You can download a
copy of the 'Parish Social Profile' for every
parish within the Archdiocese, including our
own parishes of Highett and Cheltenham, via
the following link: ncpr.catholic.org.au/2021-parish-social-profiles-melbourne/

PARISHES OF THE BAYSIDE AREA:

RECONFIGURATION Let's continue to
pray for our local Church in the Bayside area,
as together we work to implement the
upcoming changes to our local parishes. The
detailed '**Implementation Plan**' for the
'**Reconfiguration of the Bayside Parishes**',
including the schedule for the realignment of
parish boundaries, and amalgamation of
existing parishes, can be downloaded
directly from the following link: bit.ly/47JiBtR

 **Holy TRINITY PARISH**
Catholic Communities of St. Peter's, St. Paul's and St. Catherine's

**HOLY TRINITY PARISH - Bentleigh East/
Bentleigh/Moorabbin**, are hosting a Spiritual
Retreat by Fr Glenn Morris at **St Peter's
Church, 844 Centre Road, East Bentleigh.**
on Saturday, 2nd March from 10am to 4pm.
All are most welcome. For further information
contact the **Holy Trinity Parish Office** on
9579 4255 or OfficeHolyTrinityParish@cam.org.au



OLA KNITTING GROUP will
next meet on Tuesday 20th February
at 1pm, in the Church Meeting
Room. All are most welcome.