

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Be merciful, O Lord,
for we have sinned.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

5:12. 17-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives

the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

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 Matthew

4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.



CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC PARISH

HIGHETT / CHELTENHAM

Parish Office:

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25 Spring Road, Highett

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A 21st / 22nd FEBRUARY, 2026



The first reading reminds us of our fragility. We are made of the dust of the ground, the very stuff that represents death and decay. We were reminded of this when ashes were used to sign us on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent we are invited to acknowledge honestly and realistically our fundamental human weakness. Despite our weaknesses, the situation within which we find ourselves is not hopeless. Somewhere deep within ourselves we know that we are not helpless prisoners of our limitations. God has not deserted us to our guilt. The form that God's compassion takes is outlined in the reading from Romans. It is in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we see the extent of this divine compassion. God's gracious gift far exceeds the effects of human transgression. As we look to Jesus in the Gospel Reading, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome. There will certainly always be human limitations, human weaknesses that will open the door to temptation. But Jesus shows us that we are not thereby doomed. Jesus is a model for our own journey to new life.

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-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

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR A - 21st/22nd FEBRUARY, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Therese Kitney, Mario Parnis,
Mary Fernando, Nola Garvin, Ian Trimble,
Carol Rolfe, Brenda Carew,
and all those who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Leonard O'Reilly, Doone Gillespie,
Frederick Pereira, Freida Pereira,
Franco Bilela, Carmela del Rossi,
Jacob Chacko, Margaret Pereira,
Clara Cinaglia, Julie Ann Greaves,
Brian Boyle, Ralph Evans,
Greta Widdicombe, Trees Van Der Muelen,

...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.



Next Sunday 1st March, you're invited to stay and join fellow parishioners for a cuppa after the 9am & 11am Masses, in the OLA Church Meeting Room.

† UPCOMING FUNERALS †

Funeral Mass

Tuesday 24th February at 11am at OLA
Therese Kitney (RIP)

Funeral Prayers

Thursday 26th February at 11am at St Agnes'
Mario Parnis (RIP)

May their souls and the souls of all our faithful departed, rest in peace.

CHRIST OUR LIGHT SOCIAL LUNCH

The next Parish Social Lunch will be held on Thursday, 5th March, at 12 noon, at the Highett RSL. All are most welcome. Please RSVP by Tuesday 3rd March to: Tricia Hickey: 0421 275 853 or Adrian Foley: 0497 780 233. Looking forward to seeing you!



Caritas AUSTRALIA

PROJECT COMPASSION

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza. Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or online at: projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS Please Note: The Office will be closed this Monday 23rd February.



LENTEN GROUPS The programme we will be following this year is **The Journey Home** by Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge. Groups have begun meeting, however any parishioner still interested in participating in this year's Lenten Programme, is asked to contact the parish office on: 9583 6161 or send us an email.



CHRIST OUR LIGHT PARISH - LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS Each Friday of Lent through to the 27th of March, at 6.30pm, there will be a Lenten Way of the Cross in Our Lady of the Assumption Church. All are most welcome.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MAGAZINE - AUTUMN 2026 EDITION copies of the latest edition of the magazine are available in each of our church foyers. Please take a copy.

† SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026 †

Christ Our Light Parish offers sacramental preparation for Reconciliation (Grade 3 and above), First Eucharist (Grade 4 and above) and Confirmation (Grade 6 and above) for students attending non Catholic schools. All sessions occur on **Mondays** commencing **23rd February** from **4-5pm** at the Our Lady of the Assumption Church Meeting Room. If you are interested or have any queries please contact the Parish Office on: 9583 6161.