

FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
27:30 – 28:7**

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/ The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
14:7-9**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, Alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
18:21-35**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'



**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

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

12th / 13th SEPTEMBER, 2026

'Safeguarding Sunday'



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water

EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

SEASON OF CREATION 2026

Wherever the river flows, all living creatures in it will live. Fish will be very plentiful, for wherever the water goes it brings health, and life teems wherever the river flows. ...Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree with leaves that never wither and fruit that never fails; they will bear new fruit every month, because this water comes from the sanctuary. And their fruit will be good to eat and their leaves medicinal. (Ezekiel 47:1-12)

One way you may wish to enter into the spirit of the **Season of Creation** would be to watch the 2025 documentary film (37 mins) **'Everyone, Everywhere, Everywhen'**. It is described as a story of resistance, strength and actions in support of Living Waters, water justice and a better future for all. It features First Nations and scientific perspectives. It is available on **SBS ON Demand**:

www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/movie/everyone-everywhere-everywhen/2495277635750

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
Parish Accountant: Maureen Ryan 0407 544 779
Counsellor: AnneMaree Eddy 0403 284 536

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 & HIGETT**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.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY-Year A

12th / 13th SEPTEMBER, 2026

'Safeguarding Sunday'**PRAYING FOR:**

Maureen Carew, Lourdes Ceballos,
Jill Turpin,
and all who have died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Fr Greg Florendo, Joe Borg,
Afra Fernandes, Maureen Stent,
Isabell Allars, Gregorio Gajo, Juan Gajo,
Zachary Gleeson, Jose Sanchez,
Catherine Pelayo, Felicidad Magsino,
Jim Sullivan, Peter Derrick,
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. More
information is available at:

melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

**SYNOD CORNER: Synodality and
leadership.** Leadership in a synodal Church is
not about control but about service. Leaders create
spaces where gifts can emerge and flourish.

**SEASON OF CREATION**

2026 Caring for our Common
Home calls for us to respond to the Cry of the
Earth, but also to the Cry of the Poor who
suffer most from climate change and its
damaging effects on food and water. As in
previous years we will collect non-perishable
food items and cleaning products for the
Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project on the
weekends of **19th / 20th September** and **26th /
27th September**. Please collect a list of
suitable items from the church foyer. In the
latest BASP Newsletter we read: "Inevitably
refugees and asylum seekers become a part of
any debate about immigration—often based on
devastatingly wrong information. While
Australia accepts a high volume of overall
immigrants, the number of refugees and
asylum seekers admitted is extremely low."

BASP ONLINE TRIVIA NIGHT is back on
Friday 9th October supporting the **Brigidine
Asylum Seekers Project** (basp.org.au).

Invite a team to your place or co-operate with a
distributed team. Details and booking at
cohdig.au/trivia. For further information, please
email: baspstrivia@gmail.com.



OLA KNITTING GROUP Our
wonderful knitting group are holding
their **Stall at OLA church after the
9am and 11am Masses this weekend.**

Please support our wonderful knitters, as all
proceeds go to St Vincent De Paul.

OLA FETE

SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2026

PLANT DONATIONS can be dropped at the

OLA School Office:

9 Centre Dandenong Rd, Cheltenham,
by Friday 6th November 2026.

For more information please contact:

fete@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

**NEPAL FLOOD DISASTER
APPEAL**

We've all been struck by the devastation and the
many lives lost, the injuries and displacement of
people as a result of the floods and mudslides in
Nepal. If you would like to support the outreach
Caritas Australia is providing, please consider
donating to their Nepal Flood Disaster Appeal visit:

www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call **1800 024 413.**

...or simply scan the QR Code above.