

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people

are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

'Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you'.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world,
says the Lord;
whoever follows me
will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?'

...continued overleaf



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

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Email: col@cam.org.au

Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A 14th / 15th MARCH, 2026



Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him. By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does? As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

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: (tba)
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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A
14th/15th MARCH, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Nicoletta Velluto, Arunee Kongtrab,
Evelyn Ambrad, Manuelito Cosido,
Krystyna Konryc, Diane Adaman,
and all who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Matt Ryan, Salvatore Algeri, Elizabeth Fox,
Gus Valent, Mary McGannon,
Victoria Ajomale, Antonino Fucile,
Hazel & Frank Sweeney, Scott Kerr,
Ita Lambert,

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.



PROJECT COMPASSION 2026 Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education. Please donate today.

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.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL – Cheltenham Conference The St Vincent de Paul Society – affectionately known as 'Vinnies' – is dedicated to shaping a more just and compassionate society.

The Society has volunteer groups around Victoria, known as Conferences, which provide support and a 'hand-up' to vulnerable members of their communities. Historically we have two conferences within Christ Our Light Parish: Cheltenham and Highett/Hampton.

Vinnies invites you to learn more about their work, and to this end, there's information in each church's foyer. Additionally, throughout the month of March, Cheltenham Conference members will be available after the Sunday morning Masses at Our Lady of the Assumption church, to answer any questions you may have.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS... Please Note: the Parish Office will be **CLOSED this Monday, 16th March.**

Upcoming Funeral Mass

Nicoletta Velluto (RIP)

11am on Thursday 19th March, at St Agnes' Church
[Rosary 10.30am]

Gospel reading continued...

And there was disagreement among them.

So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.



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 welcome.

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK The OLA Choir warmly welcomes parishioners who would like to sing with us over the ceremonies of Holy Week. We begin Choir practice this Sunday 15th March at 10am for 30 minutes. Enquiries: Tony: 0468 453 156 or Helen: 0432 866 039

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Last Sunday the Archbishop formally convoked a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. If you haven't already, **please pick up a copy of the Archbishop's letter**, addressed to all within the Melbourne Church, to read more about the upcoming Synod.