

**THE COMMEMORATION OF THE  
LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO  
JERUSALEM**

**(Mt 21:1-11)**

When they were near Jerusalem and had come in sight of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village facing you, and you will immediately find a tethered donkey and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, "The Master needs them and will send them back directly." 'This took place to fulfill the prophesy: Say to the daughter of Zion: Look, your king comes to you: he is humble, he rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.

So, the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and the colt, and they laid their cloaks on their backs and he sat on them. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed were all shouting:

'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!'

And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil. 'Who is this?' people asked, and the crowds answered, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

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**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah 50:4-7**

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at

my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R./ My God, my God, why have you  
abandoned me?**

**SECOND READING**

**A reading from the Letter of St Paul to  
the Philippians 2:6-11**

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, To the glory of God the Father.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!  
Christ became obedient for us  
even to death, dying on the cross  
Therefore, God raised him on high  
and gave him a name  
above all other names.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!**

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**THE PASSION OF  
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW  
(Mt 26:14-27:66)**

**Please refer to handout...**

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**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

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**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A**  
**28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2026**

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**"Others cut  
branches  
from the trees  
and spread  
them on the  
road."**

Matthew 21:8

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The Passion narrative, as described in the Gospel of Matthew, is keen to drive home two particular points. Firstly, throughout his Gospel, Matthew is at pains to demonstrate Jesus as fulfilling the prophecy of Scripture. At the time of the arrest and the use of the thirty pieces of silver, we are reminded that these things took place to fulfil scripture. Secondly, this particular Gospel reading emphasises the innocence of Jesus throughout the Passion narrative: he is 'sold out' by one of his followers; his trial before the Sanhedrin is a farce; his most loyal follower denies association with him; Pilate declares himself innocent of Jesus' blood and the crowd accepts the consequences of their actions. At no point is any hint of guilt cast over Jesus. He is an innocent whose fate has been manipulated by others. In this Gospel there is no conversation between Jesus and the criminals between whom he is crucified. There is no suggestion that Jesus too is a criminal who is deserving of his fate. His innocence is manifest. The actions of those who plot against Jesus to seek his downfall actually serve to bring about his purpose. No other outcome was possible. Matthew assures us, his readers, that the death of Jesus was no accident; it was intended from the very beginning.

*Greg Sunter*

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**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: (tba)  
 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@sahighett.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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.

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR A**  
 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2026

**PRAYING FOR:**

Maureen Thompson, Terry Donegan,  
 Lisette Pasnin, Trevor Kelly, Rob Atkins,  
 Michael Woodruff, Anna Adaman,  
*and all who died recently.*

**WE ALSO PRAY FOR:**

Nathan De Abreu, Enrico Alba,  
 Adela Aviles, Fortunata Morabito,  
 Fr John McGannon CSsR, Jack Buttie,  
 Stefano Bettoni, Marjorie Connolly,  
 Noel Byrne, Pio Salerno, Absalom Layos,  
 Mariano Villacerah, Ken Holloway,  
*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](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.



As Project Compassion 2026 comes to a close, we thank you for your generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared the stories of four inspiring people whose lives are being uplifted through your compassion. Your support is helping them overcome challenges and build stronger futures. There is still time to donate! Together, we can continue nurturing hope and empowering communities facing poverty and injustice. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or online at: [projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://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 & Highett/Hampton Conferences:** 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, Conference members will be available in the churches’ foyers after Masses, to answer any questions you may have.

**† UPCOMING FUNERAL †**

**Maureen Thompson (RIP)**  
 Funeral Prayers - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 11.30am  
 Our Lady of the Assumption Church



**HOLY WEEK 2026 – TIMETABLE**

**TUESDAY – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026**  
 9am Mass [St Agnes]  
 6pm Mass (extended Penitential Rite) [OLA]

**WEDNESDAY – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026**  
 9.15am Mass [OLA]

**HOLY THURSDAY – 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026**  
 7pm – Mass of the Lord’s Supper [St Agnes]

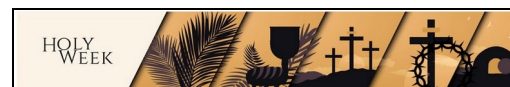
**GOOD FRIDAY – 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2026**  
 9am – Way of the Cross [OLA]  
 3pm – Solemn Ceremonies [OLA]

**HOLY SATURDAY – 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2026**  
 7pm – Easter Vigil [St Agnes]

**EASTER SUNDAY – 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2026**  
 9am & 11am Masses [OLA]

*Please Note: As is the Church's liturgical custom, no morning Masses are celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday.*

**RECONCILIATION (Individual)**  
 Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026: 9.30am [St Agnes]  
 Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026: 6:45pm [OLA]  
 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026: 9.45am [OLA]



**HOLY WEEK LITURGIES** Thank you to all those who volunteered for the various liturgical ministries across Holy Week. **Please consult the updated sign-up sheets** available on the table in both churches’ foyers, to confirm your participation/ministry in the Holy Week liturgies.



**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be **No ‘Cuppa’** after masses next Sunday morning, **Easter Sunday**. This month, April, the ‘Cuppa’ will be held **after 9am & 11am Masses, on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April.**