

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Give thanks to the Lord
for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Peter

1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by

fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**You believe in me, Thomas,
because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me,
but still believe!
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you', he said.

...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

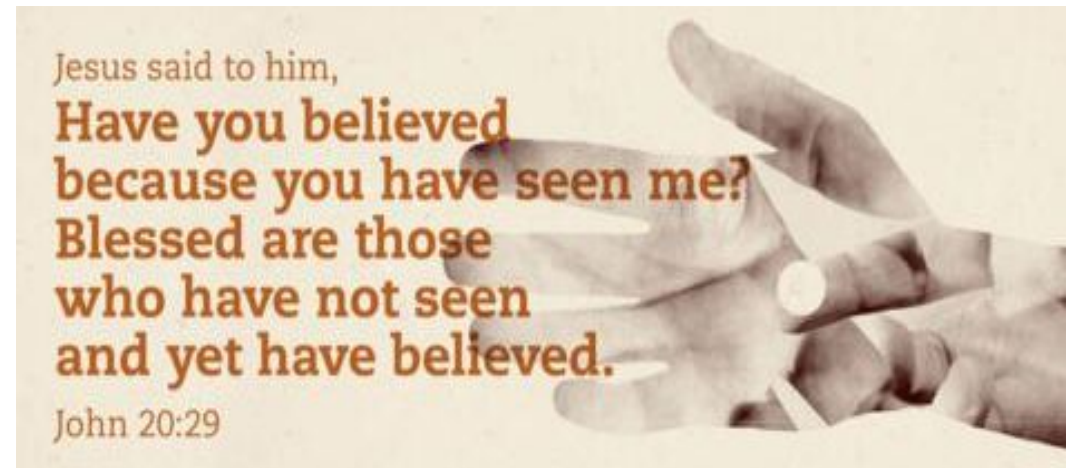
Telephone: (03) 9583 6161

Email: col@cam.org.au

Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

11th / 12th APRIL, 2026



The themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystagogical instruction, primarily of the neophytes who were baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.

Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover tangible proof. This proof can be seen in the way the community reaches out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world.

We find a similar situation in the reading from Acts where the fledgling Christian community grew in number as a result of the teaching of the apostles. So it has always been. Those who are not eye witnesses of the actual events are called, through the teaching of others, to witness to the power of the resurrection. Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless costly gifts. They have been won through the blood of Christ, and we too may have to pay a price for having received them.

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: Julie Binstead
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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year A
11th/12th APRIL, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Peter Lay, Robyn Lomas, Maria Luca,
and all who died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Idefonso Chan, Lauryn Clark,
Henry DeSouza, Do Trung Cu, Ng Thi Tho,
Des Kealy, James Oni Awe, Cam Mills,
Myrtle Black,
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.

WELCOME As a Parish community we extend a warm welcome to **Julie Binstead** who, on Thursday, commenced her employment as our new Parish Secretary/Office Administrator. We wish her all the best in this significant parish role.



Please Note: You're invited to a 'Cuppa' after both the 9am & 11am Masses this Sunday 12th April. Thank you to all who assist with the provision of food, the serving, and with both the setting up and the clean-up.



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND
With great joy the Church of God formally welcomes: **Ziggy Akau, Alyssa Caputo and Levi Caputo.**



MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026
We're invited to answer the call to deepen our understanding of synodality in parish life. For more information on the Synod please visit:

melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

SYNOD CORNER – What is a Synod?

A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly, "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"

✠ FUNERALS THIS WEEK ✠

Funeral Mass for **Maria Luca (RIP)**
Tuesday 14th April at 11.30am (Rosary 11am)
(at OLA Church)

Funeral Prayers for **Robyn Lomas (RIP)**
Thursday 16th April at 10.30am
(at OLA Church)

SPECIAL ANNUAL COLLECTIONS – THANK YOU
Good Friday Collection – Holy Places \$1,401.00
Project Compassion (to date) \$4,044.45

GOSPEL READING continued...

Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.



THANK YOU!

Caritas Australia sincerely thanks you for your generous support of Project Compassion this Lent.

If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return it next week at Mass. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps to bring hope and opportunity to people experiencing poverty and injustice.

Together, we are *Uniting Against Poverty* and walking alongside vulnerable communities as they build stronger, more sustainable futures.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 by scanning the QR code, or online at:
www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

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