

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

5:1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Word of God,  
Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly  
the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water,  
that I may never thirst again.  
Glory to you, Word of God,  
Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir.'

*...Gospel reading continues overleaf*



**CHRIST OUR LIGHT  
CATHOLIC PARISH**

HIGHETT / CHELTENHAM

Parish Office:

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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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2026



The Gospel reading this Sunday very clearly lays out the choices between water that quenches thirst and water that does not. Jesus identifies himself as the source of water that guarantees eternal life. He places before the Samaritan woman a choice that requires a step of profound faith. She knows the thirst-quenching quality of the water from Jacob's well, but she is not acquainted with the water promised by this stranger who is also an enemy of her people. The choice is not an obvious one. A similar choice is placed before us. We know the demands of our culture and the circumstances of our lives. Are we able to acknowledge the sins of which we are guilty, recognise the grace that is being offered to us, and make the right choice?

*Dianne Bergant CSA*

**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.

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A - 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2026

##### PRAYING FOR:

Mary Barbieri, Sr Patricia Pak Poy RSM AO,  
*and all those who died recently.*

##### WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Rocco Catalano, Audrey Homan,  
Marjorie Connolly, Patricia Bolger,  
William Morley, Kevin Linehan,  
Martino Piccolo, Dominic D'Silva,  
Ruby Pereira, Rita Giugni, Gerald Lannan,  
Edmund Noone, Kit Martin, Bill Wilson,  
Marge Rosevear, Nicholas Byrne,  
Paul Smiles,

*...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](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.

## POSITION VACANT

### Parish Office Administrator / Parish Secretary

Christ Our Light Parish  
Highett / Cheltenham

We are currently seeking a **Parish Office Administrator / Parish Secretary** to provide essential administrative support, manage parish records and communications, assist with liturgical provisions, and help keep the parish office running smoothly.

If you, or any one you know, would like more information about this important role in our parish, including a 'Position Description', please visit the Archdiocese's Job Vacancies, web page.

Applications close this Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

[melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies/parish-administration-officer-parish-secretary](http://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies/parish-administration-officer-parish-secretary)

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS** Please Note: the Parish Office will be **CLOSED** on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March** for the Labour Day Public Holiday. The Office will also be **CLOSED** on the following **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March.**



**PROJECT COMPASSION 2026 Monoranjon** lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

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.

#### Gospel reading continued...

Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'



### CHRIST OUR LIGHT PARISH LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday of Lent through to the 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026** On this third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli will formally convoked a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. **Please pick up a copy of the Archbishop's letter addressed to all within the Melbourne Church.**