

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.' Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/ My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

11:33-36

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel – 'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.



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

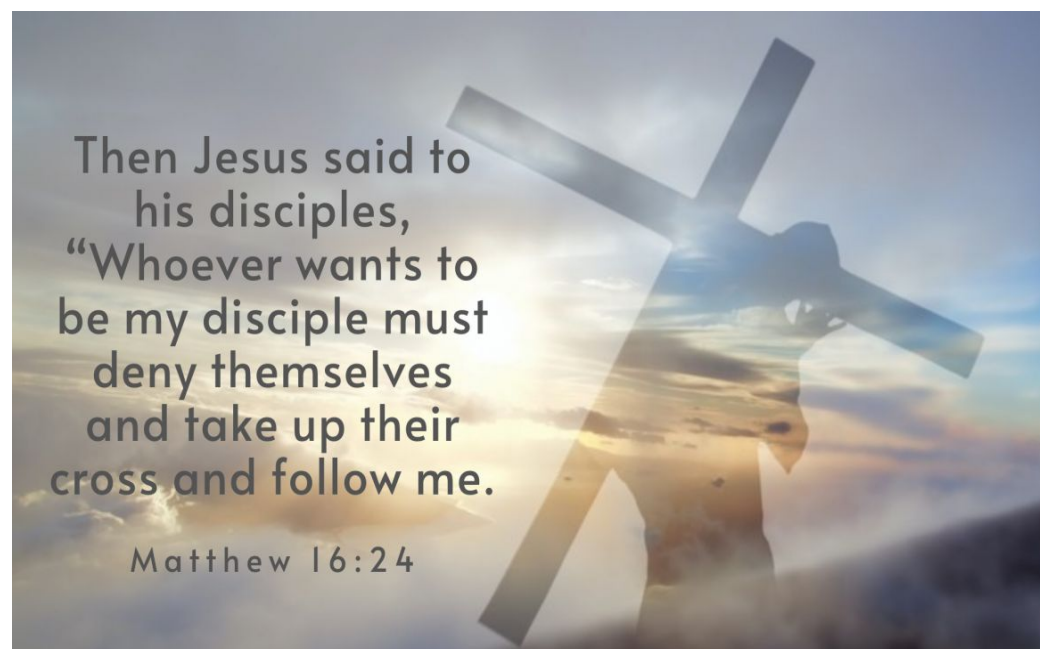
Telephone: (03) 9583 6161

Email: col@cam.org.au

Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

29th / 30th AUGUST, 2026



Then Jesus said to
his disciples,
"Whoever wants to
be my disciple must
deny themselves
and take up their
cross and follow me.

Matthew 16:24

In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus predicts his fate and then discusses the need for the disciples to bear their own suffering. Too often the opposition of Jewish leaders has led Christians to hold an anti-Judaic attitude. Instead we should recognise that Jesus was rejected for religious as well as for political reasons. The unrest that he caused was a political threat to Rome, and his bold claims greatly troubled the religious leaders. Peter objects to Jesus' words and Jesus accuses him of acting as an obstacle to the unfolding of God's will. Turning to the other disciples, Jesus insists that those who are prepared to take up their cross to follow him, will be saved.

Dianne Bergant CSA

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

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-SECOND SUNDAY-Year A

29th / 30th AUGUST, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Alex D'Cruz, Carol Davies,
Lo Ga Lung, John Cox,
and all who have died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Carmel Sier, Anne Rowena Joseph,
Antonia Zingale, Giuseppe Fucile,
Louise Rodrigues, Fr Frank Martin,
Sr Sue Shannon, Antonia Ragza,
John Ragza, Marzena Regulska,
Jadwiga Zolkos,

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. For
more information please visit:
melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

**SYNOD CORNER: Why the Church is
embracing synodality now** The call to
synodality is a response to the signs of the times.
In a fragmented world, God calls the Church to
witness communion, dialogue, and hope.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP. New boxed
sets of Envelopes for Thanksgiving and
Presbytery Giving, are available in each
church's foyer. Thank you.

† UPCOMING FUNERAL †

Funeral Mass for Carol Davies (RIP)

Tuesday 1st September at 11.30am

at St Agnes' Church

(Recitation of the Rosary prior to Mass: 11am)



**Next Sunday, 6th September
(Father's Day)** you're invited
to stay for a cuppa **after both
the 9am & 11am Masses**, in the OLA Church
Meeting Room.



Jesuit & Ignatian
Spirituality Australia

**FREE WEEKLY
EMAIL SERIES
FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION 2026**

Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia's
'Being with God in Nature' ministry offers us a
beautiful way of participating in this Season.
Beginning on Thursday 3rd September, a
prayer will be delivered to your inbox each
week throughout September. With Scripture,
silence, imagination and reflection, explore
images of wells, rain, rivers, wetlands and desert
springs as pathways into ecological awareness,
spiritual renewal and hope. There is no charge.
Register here:

<https://shorturl.at/syaes>



FETE DONATIONS can be dropped in to

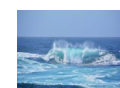
OLA School Office:

9 Centre Dandenong Rd, Cheltenham,
by the 2nd October 2026.

For more information please contact:

fete@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

**CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME -
PARISH UPDATE** This latest update looks
ahead to the 'Season of Creation2026', to
the recent Seminar on 'Saving Money on
Home Energy Bills'. The update looks at
this week's **Social Justice Sunday** (30/8),
and more! See the insertion in this week's
bulletin.

**IGNATIAN OCEAN RETREAT
ONLINE FOR SEASON OF
CREATION 2026**

Tuesdays 8th,
15th, 22nd & 29th September 2026. 6.30pm -
8.30pm AEST. \$80.00 for all four sessions,
including retreat facilitation and prayer
materials. Facilitated by Jesuit & Ignatian
Spirituality Australia, *Being with God in
Nature* Ministry. For further information
visit:

<https://jisa.org.au/retreat/ignatian-ocean-retreat-online-for-season-of-creation-2026/>



Christ Our Light Catholic Parish

Highett/Cheltenham

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME GROUP

PARISH UPDATE - 29 / 30 AUGUST 2026

Season of Creation 2026

Welcome to the Season of Creation 2026, celebrated around the world each year from 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:1, 12

This year's theme of "Living Water" is inspired by the words of the prophet Ezekiel, written when he and the people of Israel were exiled in Babylon. His vision is one of hope and ecological healing, both badly needed in our time. He sees living water flowing from God's sanctuary, revealing divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole of creation.

Pope Leo in his Message for the World Day of Prayer, calls for peace from the wars raging around the world, destroying lives and the earth for generations to come. He points out that peace, like war, starts in the human heart. He asks all people to turn to God who will reorder our desires, which will then flow to our relationships, communities, and the world.

In the weeks to come, we will celebrate the Season in displays, songs and prayer in the Mass, and collect goods for the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project to feed the poor. We hope you will find this a time of increased ecological awareness, spiritual renewal and hope.

Saving Money on Home Energy Bills Seminar

Our recent seminar on 'Saving Money on Home Energy Bills' was attended by about 20 people. The speakers, Cait O'Shea and Tom Rose from Solar Savers, gave a very informative presentation about practical energy efficiency tips, the benefits of electrification, and how making smart upgrades to a few key appliances can help you save money over time. A copy of the slides can be made available on request.

Social Justice Sunday - 30 August 2026

The Australian Bishops have issued two Social Justice Statements this year, “The Cost of our Living” and “Living the Gospel in times of Social Division”.

The first statement focusses on the hardships that many Australians face with the very high cost of living. We are called to see Christ in those who suffer, to walk alongside them with compassion, to share generously, to advocate for justice, and to build communities where no one is forgotten.

Catholic social service organisations across Australia provide assistance to around 700,000 people annually. The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides many different forms of support to thousands of people struggling to make ends meet. This includes providing around \$50 million in emergency relief a year.

The second statement notes that “we are living through an era of heightened community tension and a growing normalisation of abusive behaviour, incendiary language and violence”. The Statement sets out several good approaches we can use to live the Gospel in these times.

See: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Social-Justice-Statements>

A Visit to The Briars in November

Our Group is planning a visit to The Briars, near Mount Martha on the Mornington Peninsula. The Briars is a conservation park set across 230 hectares, offering plenty of things to see and do. We are thinking of a group visit on a Saturday in November, avoiding the Melbourne Cup. If you would like to join us, please contact Phillip Steele (see below).

Social Justice Prayer

Heavenly Father, You created every person in your image and You call us to live as one human family. Teach us to see one another not as strangers or opponents, but as sisters and brothers, worthy of dignity, respect and compassion. Help us to build bridges where there is distrust, to seek encounter where there is separation, and to work for justice with humility and mercy. Guide us to welcome the stranger, to reject all forms of hatred and racism, and become instruments of reconciliation in our communities. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

(adapted from ‘Living the Gospel’ Statement)

Please contact Phillip Steele E: phillipsteele1@gmail.com or M: 0419311582 for more information about any item in this Parish Update.