

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

56:1.6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ O God, let all the nations praise you!

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Jesus preached the Good News
of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



**CHRIST OUR LIGHT
CATHOLIC PARISH**

HIGHETT / CHELTENHAM

Parish Office:

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9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham

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25 Spring Road, Highett

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

15th/16th AUGUST, 2026



The overarching theme derived from today's readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus' openness to 'the other' finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshipping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of messianic fulfilment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

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
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 & 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.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY-Year A

15th / 16th AUGUST, 2026

PRAYING FOR:

Brian Octigan, Michael Jackson
and all who have died recently.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Carolina Ramirez, Paul Aviles, Leila Smith,
Benito De Luca, Erlinda Madrid,
Anthony Borg, Angles Chan,
Sean McGurn, Maria Fucile, Carlo Paoli,
Irin Scohy, Ennie Chan, David Atanacio,
David Florentina, Jose Canlas, Joanne Day,
Sophia Lang, Jack De Luca, Noel Austin,
Sarah Christensen, Roy Butler,
Geoffrey Doyle, Nicholas Gori,
Patrick Melia, John Melia, Barry Jones,
Arthur Lalicki, Dagma Puccetti

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: Synodality and joy

When people are invited to participate
meaningfully, joy increases. A synodal Church
is not weighed down by bureaucracy but
energised by shared mission..

PARISH STEWARDSHIP. For those who
contribute to our parish via “**Envelopes**”,
new boxed sets of Thanksgiving /
Presbytery Giving envelopes (starting
Sept 26) are available for collection in each
church foyer. Thank you most sincerely,
once again.

**THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN**

This week we ask everyone to consider a one
time or monthly pledge to support the vital
ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures
with more information can be found at the
church. Online (direct debit or credit card)
donations are the most secure and preferred
method and can be made via the QR code
below. You can also donate via the supplied
envelopes this weekend, or anonymously via
cash directly into the collection plate during
the campaign weekends.

PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH. The next
Parish social lunch will be held Thursday
27th August, 12noon. The venue is Highett
RSL. All are most welcome. Please RSVP by
Tuesday 25 August to: Tricia Hickey on
0421 275 853, Adrian Foley: 0497 780 233

**CATHOLIC EARTHCARE SEASON
OF CREATION GATHERING 2026**-an
online ecology event. Listen, Reflect, Act, a
national online event **on 3–4 September
2026**. The Gathering offers inspiring
keynote presentations and practical
workshops to help participants deepen their
faith and respond to the call to care for our
common home. Parishioners can register
individually for \$20. Learn more and
register: www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering

**COL CARE FOR THE COMMON
HOME GROUP** – next meeting to be held
is this Sunday in Exodus Hall, 10am 16th
August. Anyone wishing to learn more about
the activities of the group is very welcome to
attend.

**SEOULFEST: ONE YEAR TO GO
UNTIL WYD SEOUL 2027.** Thursday 20
August 2026, 6.30pm, St Patrick's Cathedral
Join Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and
young people from across the Archdiocese
as we launch the Archdiocese of
Melbourne's pilgrimage to WYD Seoul
2027. The night begins with Six30 Holy
Hour in the Cathedral and continues with
food trucks, music and celebrations in the
Cathedral grounds. You are encouraged to
invite youth groups or a group of young
representatives. For enquires, contact
wyd@cam.org.au

**RCIA LEADERS GATHERING:
NAVIGATING PASTORAL
REALITIES.** Wednesday 26 August 2026,
7.30pm-9pm, Online, Zoom. Clergy, RCIA
coordinators, team members and all
interested are invited to an online evening of
practical formation and conversation. The
session will explore how to welcome
enquirers including holding meaningful first
conversations, responding to canonical
issues and Sherry Weddell's Thresholds of
Faith. We encourage whole RCIA teams to
attend together. Register here:
www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1623167