

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

**49:3. 5-6**

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Here I am, Lord;  
I come to do your will.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

**1:1-3**

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Word of God became flesh  
and dwelt among us.**

**He enabled those who accepted him  
to become the children of God.**

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to John**

**1:29-34**

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'



**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

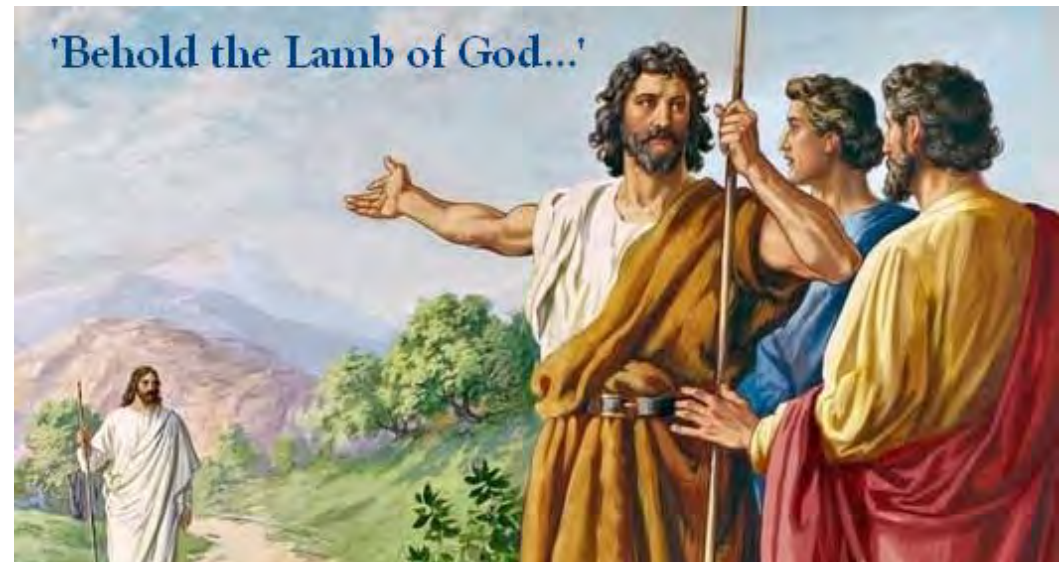
Telephone: (03) 9583 6161

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Website: [www.olacheltenham.org.au](http://www.olacheltenham.org.au)

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

**17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2026**



To understand the full significance of what John is saying we have to look forward to the climax of the Fourth Gospel. The moment of Jesus' death upon the cross is not simply a final expiration of breath; it involves a majestic imparting of the Spirit (19:30). In the person of his Mother and the Beloved Disciple, the Church comes to birth at this moment through the gift of the Spirit and then in the hint of the sacraments (Baptism and Eucharist) in the flow of water and blood from his pierced side (19:33-34). Because his legs are not broken, Jesus dies as the Paschal Lamb. In the evening two days later, the risen Lord will stand among his disciples, breathe upon them and say, 'Receive, the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained' (20:22-23). Only when we have learned all this at the close of the Gospel will we truly grasp why John the Baptist points out Jesus, as 'the Lamb, that takes away the sin of the world' (1:29; cf. v 36). In this way, as Isaiah foretold, he is the instrument of salvation for the entire world.

*Brendan Byrne SJ*

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: Vino Krishnan Blair  
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
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##### 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 IN ORDINARY TIME YR A - 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2026

##### PRAYING FOR:

Marinetta Romeo, Kay Walker,  
Carmelina Grech, Winifred McDevitt,  
Myriam Ridd,  
*and all those who died recently.*

##### WE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Eileen Fitzsimons, Alex Marasigan,  
Annette Clarke, Monica Cashin,  
Kevin Andrews, Moya Milesi, Joe Ingles,  
Marie Appleby, Yolande Bonnefin,  
Agostino Sofo, Cornelio Rovira,  
Serge Dada, Claudia Dada, John Wagstaff,  
Kathleen Blair, Tony Maccora,  
Gregorio Cajeric, Gustavo Rivera,  
Joan Stackpole, William O'Reilly,  
Ben Ramirez, Carolina Ramirez,  
Maree Cameron, Monica Harris,  
*...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.



#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

##### Christmas 2025 'Giving Tree' We

extend our sincere gratitude to all who contributed so generously to the 2025 Christmas "Giving Tree" appeal. Your support is invaluable and helps Vinnies to further their mission and help ease the burdens vulnerable people in our community are experiencing at a time such as Christmas. Both the Cheltenham and Highett Conferences of St Vincent de Paul **thank all parishioners** who donated retail gift cards. Your support for the Vinnies' work is both appreciated and vital.

*Thank  
You!*

**THANK YOU** for your many Christmas wishes, cards and gifts. Thank you too to all those who assisted with the liturgies over Advent and Christmas. Much happens behind the scenes, and as always, the parish staff and myself are very appreciative of the efforts and generosity of so many within our parish community. With two churches, two schools, a hospital and more than a dozen aged care facilities within the boundaries of the parish, its heartening to know our Christ-like outreach is very much alive in our many volunteers. Thank you again and I wish all parishioners a great 2026. – Fr Alan

#### MARY MACKILLOP SPIRITUALITY CENTRE - RECOLLECTION AND REFLECTION DAY

Join us for a Day of Recollection - a peaceful retreat to deepen your connection with God through prayer, meditation, and reflection. Take time away from daily routines to nurture your faith, gain clarity, and renew your purpose. Activities include guided meditations, spiritual readings, and personal prayer time. Book now and nurture your soul in this sacred day of quiet reflection. Facilitated by Clare Shearman.  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30am - 3pm.  
Cost: \$180 excl. GST | \$198 incl. GST  
To book please visit:

[mmsm.org.au/retreats/recollection-reflection-day-melb/](http://mmsm.org.au/retreats/recollection-reflection-day-melb/)

## Living the gospel

### Pointing the way

*John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.*

#### ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

184 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1842, in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Mary Helen MacKillop was born. This great Australian, and indeed to date, Australia's only Saint, dedicated her life to improving the quality of life of many of Australia's poor through education and practical assistance. The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the religious congregation Mary established, remains a lasting testament to her work. To read more about the life of St Mary of the Cross, visit:

[melbournecatholic.org/news/on-this-day-in-1842-a-saint-is-born](http://melbournecatholic.org/news/on-this-day-in-1842-a-saint-is-born)

or the Sisters of St Joseph's website:

[sosj.org.au/founded-to-respond/mary-mackillop/](http://sosj.org.au/founded-to-respond/mary-mackillop/)

*'May God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ send you  
grace and peace'.*

(1 Cor 1:3)