

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
61:1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/: My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News
to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



Third Sunday of Advent

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish **Cheltenham**

Parish Office: 9583 6161
9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. 3192
Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au
Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au



Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox
Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne
Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

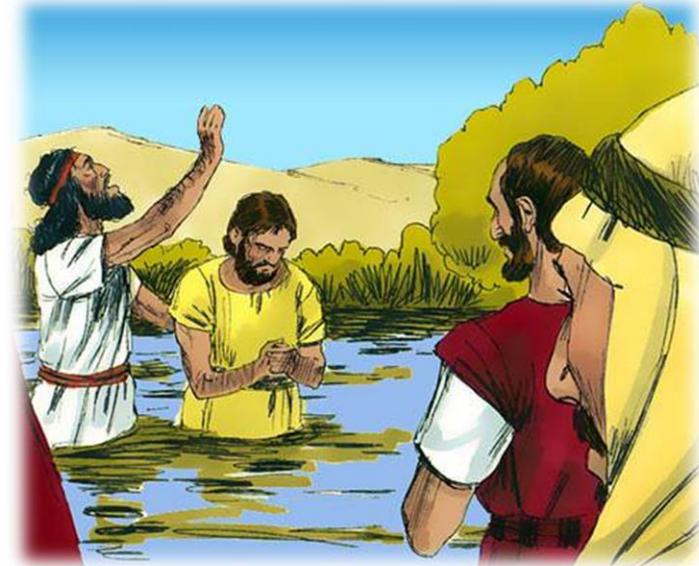
St Agnes' Parish **Highett**

Parish Office: 9532 1794
1 Locinda Street, Highett. 3190
Email: Highett@cam.org.au
Website: www.sahighett.org.au



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

12th / 13th December, 2020



In contrast to last week's text on John the Baptist, this one comes from the last of the written gospels. The Gospel of John was penned at the very end of the first century. One common characteristic, however, is clear: the Baptist is again presented as the forerunner. John the Baptist rejects all messianic or quasi-messianic titles. He throws human expectation into chaos. He claims for himself only the role of the 'voice' of Isaiah 40, but the evangelist presents him as the most reliable of witnesses, 'Sent by God ... to speak for the light'. The only other person in John's Gospel to come from God is Jesus himself. Before an audience of the leaders of the religion of Israel, John witnesses with an authority and a truthfulness that has its source in God. In what ways can you speak with authority about Jesus? What truths have you come to recognise about Jesus? How do you give witness to Christ?

PARISH PRIEST: CHELTENHAM / HIGHETT
Fr Alan Fox 9583 6161 / 9532 1794
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9583 6161
Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm
Secretary: Lisa Harris

OUR SCHOOLS:

Our Lady of the Assumption 9584 9488
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques
Email: principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott
Email: lfoott@isahighett.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES – CHELTENHAM & HIGHETT

SATURDAY VIGIL & SUNDAY MASSES:

Limitations on the No. of attendees apply – please book in.

Saturday [St Agnes] 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

The following remain suspended

COMMUNION SERVICES – OLA / St Agnes:
Monday 9.15 am / 9.00 am

RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: 9.30am

BAPTISMS: *limitations on the No. of attendees apply*

Please direct all enquiries for the Sacrament of Baptism to the Office: 9583 6161

WEDDINGS: *limitations on the No. of attendees apply*

By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays).

The clergy, employees and volunteers of our two parishes 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 ADVENT – YEAR B 12th / 13th December, 2020

PRAYING FOR:

Betty Ferrier, Anthony Curtis
...and all who died recently.

We also remember:

Susan Duke, Frank Devine
Craig Blair, Fr Michael Flanagan

...and all whose anniversaries
occur about this time

We also keep in our prayers all who are sick.

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.

UPDATED COVID RESTRICTIONS:

Stage Four restrictions now apply. General Guidelines from the Archdiocese (Update #22: 24th November, 2020) are available online at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/covid-19>

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Please consider putting your Thanksgiving Offerings into one envelope with your number written on it and the amount. Please do the same for your presbytery offerings. This will reduce unnecessary work for the counters. Thank you for your understanding and assistance. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: Thank you to all parishioners who continue to support both the Thanksgiving and Presbytery collections through your generous contributions. Both OLA & St Agnes are now registered for online contributions.

The **CDF Pay** link for **OLA, Cheltenham** is:
<https://melbourne.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=222>

The **CDF Pay** link for **St Agnes, Highett** is:
<https://melbourne.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=190>

Thank you most sincerely to all who support the mission of both parishes.

Broadcast & Online Masses: 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral continues to be **televised live (free to air) on Channel 31** (Ch. 44 Digital TV). This Mass is also live-streamed on the Melbourne Catholic website:
melbournecatholic.org/connect/mass-online

MASSES: Masses indoors may now be celebrated for up to '2 people per square metre', subject to quotient densities & electronic check-in.

This week's Mass Timetable across the two parishes...

Tuesday	15/12	9.00am (St Agnes)
Tuesday	15/12	6.00pm (OLA)
Wednesday	16/12	9.15am (OLA)
Thursday	17/12	9.15am (OLA)
Friday	18/12	9.00am (St Agnes)
Saturday	19/12	9.00am (OLA)
Saturday	19/12	6.00pm (St Agnes)
Sunday	20/12	9.00am (OLA)
	20/12	11.00am (OLA)

Bookings for Weekend Masses are essential, and can be made via the TryBooking.com platform:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNADH>

There is no need to book in for **Weekday Masses**, however a record of attendees must still be taken.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR O.L.A. & ST AGNES

Christmas Eve: 24th	6.00pm (OLA)
	8.00pm (St Agnes)
Christmas Day: 25th	8.00am (OLA)
	9.30am (OLA)
	11.00am (St Agnes)

SCRIPTURE READINGS for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) online:
www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass Navigate the daily Scripture readings for the week ahead using the right-hand column

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week during school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding at the end of January. Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact) www.mercyworks.org.au or Tel: 9326 1895.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS ANNUAL APPEAL: Thank you for your support which has, over the years, made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has been provided in clean water, health, education and improved living stands to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year. This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating. Please visit <https://mom.org.au> for more information, or to donate. Envelopes are also available in the foyer of both churches.

The Legend of the Candy Cane

Look at the Candy Cane, what do you see?
Stripes that are red,
like the blood shed for me.
White is for my saviour, so sinless and pure,
'J' is for Jesus, my Lord that's for sure!
Turn it around and a staff you will see,
Jesus my shepherd, was born just for me!

