

**SCRIPTURE:** Micah5:1-4;Psalm79:2-3,15-16,18-19;Hebrews10:5-10;Luke1:39-44

**NEXT WEEK:** 62:1-5;Psalm88:4-5,16-17,27,29;Apostles13:16-17,22-25'Matthew1:18-25

**PURIFIERS:**

23<sup>rd</sup> December: Marjorie Connolly  
30 December: Sylvaine De Robillard

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Kathleen McGraht, Maureen Jensen, Melrene Cramer, Margaret Clark, Mary Ryan, Nada Hahdinjak, John Avzangelis, Sr Maryrose Dennehy fcj

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Vincenzo Luppino, Mollie Christopher, Don Cameron, Cliff Watt, Veronica Francis, Kevin Maloney, Mario Flego, Noelia Cimador, Claudia Dada, Fedelina Chan, John Grossi, William Joseph O'Reilly, William John O'Reilly, Joe Brennan

**ARE YOU NEW TO OLA PARISH?**

Please take a copy of our Welcome Kit which includes a copy of our Parish History, then tell us about yourself by completing our new parish census card with all relevant details.

**PLEASE FILL IN THE FAMILY BOOK:**

You are invited to write in the names of those you would like us to include in our prayers. When entering names of deceased loved ones we ask parishioners to please **PRINT**, and add your name and phone number even if the deceased is not a family member.

**BAPTISMS/WEDDINGS:**

Baptisms are celebrated at 12.15 pm most Sundays of the year with 4/5 weeks' notice required for bookings. Any Catholic is very welcome to use OLA Church for their marriage celebration. 95836161.

We, the people of OLA, acknowledge and pay respect to the Boonwurong people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. May we walk gently here.

**Liturgy times**

**Monday Dec 24**

9.15 am Communion Service  
6.30 pm 1<sup>st</sup> vigil Mass of Christmas  
9.00 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> vigil Mass of Christmas

**Tuesday Dec 25**

9.00 am Mass of Christmas morning  
11.00 am Mass of Christmas day

**Wednesday Dec 26**

9.15 am Mass (St Stephen)

**Thursday Dec 27**

9.15 am Mass (St John)

**Friday Dec 28**

9.15 am Mass (The Holy Innocents)

**Saturday Dec 29**

9.00 am Mass  
6.30 pm Mass (The Holy Family)

**Sunday Dec 30**

9.00 am Mass  
11.00 am Mass

**Confessions:**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec** 10.00am

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Elvie McKinley (Cheltenham Manor) turned 90 on the 18<sup>th</sup> December. The OLA Parish congratulate Elvie reaching this wonderful age.

**PSALM REFLECTION:**

Lord make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.  
This psalm calls on God's care.  
Have you experienced God's caring for you? How?  
How did you pass it forward?



**Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham**

**Parish House:**9583 6161 **Parish School:**9584 9488

**Email:** [Cheltenham@cam.org.au](mailto:Cheltenham@cam.org.au)  
[www.olacheltenham.org.au](http://www.olacheltenham.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Peter Matheson

**Pastoral Associates:** Frances North and Christine Dunne

**Psychologist:** AnneMaree Eddy

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C (Dec 23, 2018)**

Christmas can be a sad time for many. **Peter Hoey**, husband of Ursula, one of our parish receptionists, suffered a massive stroke earlier this week and is not expected to survive. Please keep him and Ursula and their family in your prayers at this time. An Advent highlight this week was the Advent Communal Reconciliation Service on Wednesday night. It was a wonderful penitential reflection based on light which was largely put together by Frances, one of our pastoral associates. Thank you Frances. We had a full church and everyone was moved and grateful for the experience.

Christmas is a wonderful time each year, especially for children. There are a number of wonderful story books for children around that reflect the Christmas stories found in the gospels of Luke and Matthew. One I came across the other day was entitled "The Shepherd who couldn't Sing." This week we farewelled **Christine Holdsworth** who has been librarian here at OLA for the last 16 years. She has left a touch of magic for the children in the world of literature in that school library from which she is retiring. Her final touch was a decoration involving a large shooting Christmas star at the entrance made up of 390 silver stars, each made by each of the 390 school children. It is a reminder to all of us that there is a star to follow.

The spotlight of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent turns towards Mary. After the Annunciation she journeys to visit her cousin Elizabeth. This is our gospel scene this weekend. And Bethlehem too is mentioned in the first reading from the prophet Micah, "the least of the clans of Judah, for out of you will be born ... the one who is to rule over Israel." In January I will be part of a tour of Israel for two and a half weeks with a group organised by St Bede's, particularly by **Ria Greene**, the deputy principal for identity, community and action. We will be staying for a couple of days at the Bethlehem University which is run by the De La Salle Order. Half a dozen of our OLA parishioners are joining us on that tour.

With Christmas only a couple of days away I, and the parish team, want to wish you all the joys and peace of Christmas, and the blessings of a New Year that is soon to dawn. Once again we thank everyone who has volunteered throughout 2018 in various ministries around the church and parish. There are an amazing number of people in this "volunteer team" and the parish only survives joyfully, and with some vigour because of you all. Thank you if you have volunteered for jobs in 2019. The rosters will be available towards the end of January. For those of you who are off on holidays have a great and safe time.

**Fr.Peter**

### **POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF PEACE, JAN 1, 2019:**

Pope Francis has issued his message for the 52<sup>nd</sup> World Day of Peace for January 1. He has entitled it “**Good Politics is at the Service of Peace.**” The gist of the 4-page message is that the world urgently needs peacemakers and politicians who protect and lovingly serve others in today’s climate of mistrust, rejection and nationalism. Obviously there are echoes here reflecting on Australia’s politicians. “Terror exerted over those who are most vulnerable contributes to the exile of entire populations who seek a place of peace,” he said. “Political addresses that tend to blame every evil on migrants and to deprive the poor of hope are unacceptable.” Thoughts of Nauru and Manus Island come to mind. The refugees have been scapegoated by politicians. Pope Francis wrote, “One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.” He warned that when political life is not seen as a form of service to society as a whole, it can become a means of oppression, marginalization and even destruction. “The thirst for power at any price leads to abuses and injustice,” the pope said. He warned that political vices detract from the credibility of political life. “These vices, which undermine the ideal of an authentic democracy, bring disgrace to public life and threaten social harmony.”

### **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI**

Every baby born comes with a promise: that life is always stronger than death. This promise is a powerful gift – the gift of hope. At Christmas we remember one baby, who was born for all: one life, stronger than any death. The birth of Jesus is the world’s greatest gift of hope, for it is not a new thing or idea or plan that Jesus brings, but a new life, his own. The birth of the Saviour brings the light of hope into each of our lives. And we are the ones for whom Christ has come to be with. This is a hope worth welcoming, defending and protecting. Amazingly, Jesus has now entrusted the gift of himself to us, that we might share his life with others. At a time when our institutions – political, social and religious – are damaged, it is a person who can bring to us renewed reasons to find hope for ourselves, and offer hope to others. Hope in the person of Jesus Christ opens up to us new horizons of goodness and rightness; the birth of Jesus challenges the mirages of dominance and self-centredness. In Jesus our hope is born: He is good for us now; We can find our future in Him; Our trust is assured through Him; And we are invited to work with Him.

Continue to believe in Jesus Christ, born from God and born of Mary; for he offers us his life so that we might find our lives in him. Friends, never lose hope in the birth of Jesus Christ. **Happy Christmas.**

The Christmas period provides OLA another opportunity to participate into the Plenary process. There will be specially-themed Advent Plenary response cards for you to fill out during the Christmas masses. Look out for them in the foyer. Thank you

### **PARISH MISSION PART II**

Fr Ray Sanchez C.P. is returning to OLA from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February to conduct the second phase of the Parish Mission that took place in February 2017. He says that the thrust of this mission is different to the first one. Where the first mission sets out to help people understand the changes in the church since Vatican II, the second mission sets out to help people come to terms with changes in the world. Thus there will be topics including: the pressures that work against a strong family; what we can do about it as a parish community and how we can communicate better; how to share our faith and communicate it better with our children’ grief and loss and finding meaning in suffering through the eyes of faith; prayer and spirituality; and finally the Eucharist. As in the couple of weeks before the previous mission there will be opportunities to come together in home groups to share some of your own feelings about some or all of the above topics. In the New Year we will be seeking volunteers to run a meeting in your own home prior to the mission. The last mission was a great success and we look forward to welcoming Ray back among us in February next year.

### **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:**

Students who do not attend OLA Primary school, we are now accepting names of children who will be in Year 3 (Reconciliation and First Holy Communion), and Year 6 (Confirmation) in 2019. Please remember, children need to be baptised. Lessons will be held on Monday afternoons from 4-5pm. Please ring the parish office on 95836161 to enrol.

**THANKYOU:** To all the wonderful volunteers who have given communion to those in their home, or in aged care facilities within the OLA community, you have been so supportive and welcoming throughout 2018. Thank you once again, and look forward to seeing you all in the new year. **Christine Dunne**

### **FOR THE DIARY IN MARCH NEXT YEAR:**

HELDER CAMARA LECTURES: BECOMING A HUMBLE, LISTENING AND LEARNING CHURCH. Friday 22 March, 10am–1pm, The Oratory, Newman College, 887 Swanston St, Parkville. A seminar with input from Dr Austen Ivereigh, Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez SDB and local theologians and bishops. A contribution to the forthcoming Plenary Council of the Church in Australia. For further information, contact Br Mark O’Connor.

**Email:** [mark.oconnor@marists.org.au](mailto:mark.oconnor@marists.org.au)



Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2011  
**THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!**