

TODAY:

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Psalm103:1-2,3-4,24-25,27-30; Titus2:11-14;3:4-7; Luke3:15-16,21-22

NEXT WEEK:

Isaiah62:1-5; Ps95:1-3,7-10; Corinthians12:4-11; John2:1-11

PURIFIERS:

13th January: Linda Foley

20th January: Helen Haggarty

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Bill Collins, Maria Bisogni, Joan Nolan, Patrick Kelly, Hugh Bell.

ANNIVERSARIES: Cornelio Rovira, Josephine Kearney, Antonino Violi, Jacqueline and Angelo Nisajon, Eva Koronoth, Malcolm Coutts, Alfredo Monteron, Tony McMahon, Vincent and Nazha Dib, Vincent and Helen Rosso.

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 Boonwurrong people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. May we walk gently here.

PSALM REFLECTION:

O bless the Lord, my soul!

How do you understand God's "greatness"?
In what way does the greatness of God touch your life, change your life?

Liturgy times: January 7th – January 22nd

MONDAY – FRIDAY:

9.15am Communion Service

SATURDAY:

9.00am Communion Service

6.30pm Mass

SUNDAY:

9.am Mass

11.am Mass

A chain of grace

"I ask you a question: can a person baptize him or herself? No one can be self-baptised! ... We can ask for it, desire it, but we always need someone else to confer this sacrament in the name of the Lord. ... Throughout history, one baptises another, another, and another ... it is a chain. A chain of grace. I cannot baptise myself: I must ask another for baptism. It is an act of brotherhood, an act of filiation to the Church. In the celebration of baptism, we can see the most genuine features of the Church, who like a mother continues to give birth to new children in Christ, in the fecundity of the Holy Spirit."

Pope Francis

Reflection: Recall a time when you were present at someone's baptism. What was your relationship to the one being baptised? Have you continued to support that person in growing as a disciple of Christ and an active member of the Catholic community? If yes, how?



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham

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

Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

www.olacheltenham.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Matheson

Pastoral Associates: Frances North and Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

The Baptism of the Lord – Year C 13th January 2019



We welcome Fr. John O'Reilly, who will be celebrating Masses with us over these next two weekends, while Fr. Peter is in the Holy Land.

A number of people returned to work earlier this week, enjoying the respite from last week's extreme heat. For them another year has begun.

The school does not resume until the end of the month, until after the Australian Open has been played and won. For those still on holidays, enjoy the rest, and hopefully the peace.

This weekend we gather to celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. With the feast of the Baptism we make a swift transition from Jesus' childhood to the event that, in all four gospels, inaugurates his adult public ministry, the beginning of the proclamation of the reign of God.

Luke always presents Jesus as praying before making major decisions. It's no surprise then that we find him praying during his baptism. In response to his prayer, the Holy Spirit descends on him at the beginning of his mission, just as it will come upon the apostles at Pentecost at the beginning of their mission. God puts a seal of approval on Jesus and on the mission he is about to begin.

Today's feast is about us as well. From a spiritual point of view, baptism is the greatest thing that can happen to us. There are many vocations in the Church. But the most important vocation is common to all the baptised. It is the vocation we receive at baptism – the vocation to be disciples of Jesus. Every baptised and confirmed believer can hear the Father's voice from heaven: "You are my beloved son; you are my beloved daughter; in you I am well pleased."



GREETINGS FROM FR. PETER: Passing through the ancient territory of the Moabites to Mt Nebo where Moses stood over 3000 years ago, we looked over the Jordan valley below to the Promised Land where the Israelites settled after their long trek from slavery in Egypt. The Franciscans have just finished a seven year building project to erect a basilica on the Mountain and that was where our first Mass was celebrated. The day was fine and sunny but bitterly cold 700 metres up. Moses died on that mountain so tradition says but no one knows where he is buried. We descended the mountain to the shores of the Dead Sea 400 metres below sea level to a very comfortable hotel. We rose early to go to Bethany across the Jordan where John the Baptist operated. On a small platform

under a shade cloth by the banks of the river we celebrated our second Mass in less than 24 hours. I filled a water bottle from the river and poured it over the fingers of our tour group for the penitential rite. That day ended here at Tiberias. Today we “did” Nazareth and Cana. It is hard to reconcile Nazareth of today with its 85,000 people to the village of 200 at the time of Jesus, but they have done a marvellous reconstruction of the 1st century village based on their archaeological discoveries.

(The picture above is of the OLA group at the ruins of the old Synagogue at Capernaum. This is day 4 and they are all surviving very well!).

PARISH MISSION 16th – 22nd February. Home Gatherings

Following the great success of our first Passionist Mission and the opportunities for renewal it brought, we very much look forward to welcoming Fr. Ray Sanchez CP back among us for Mission Mach II. In preparation for our last Mission, much was gained from the Home Gatherings prior to the Mission. They proved to be a really good opportunity for people to gather in an informal setting, to listen to others, to share something of their own faith journey, and to consider the topics to be covered, this time: - Dealing with the pressures that work against a strong family; communication, sharing faith with our children; grief and loss, and finding meaning in suffering through the eyes of faith; prayer and spirituality; Eucharist. Thank you to the 2017 hosts/leaders who have agreed to again lead/host a group. Additional hosts/leaders are always welcome. If you would like to volunteer to host/lead, please let Frances or the Parish Office know (9583 6161). If possible, we would like to have sign-up sheets out next weekend.

MINISTRY SHEETS: This weekend is the last opportunity to fill in the ministry sheets. We are especially low on powerpoint operators. Thank you again for your support.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING ENVELOPES:

Thank you to all who contribute to this important and necessary facet of Parish Life. Your financial support enables us to meet ongoing operating costs. In the foyer there are letters of acknowledgment for **ALL CONTRIBUTORS**, those who pay via envelopes (your letter is accompanied by a set of envelopes for the next quarter), and those who pay by Direct Debit or Credit Card. **PLEASE COLLECT YOUR LETTER FROM FOYER.** Again, sincere thanks for your continued generous support of our Parish.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF US IN AUSTRALIA AT THIS TIME?

This is the question that has been directed to the people of Australia; and the Bishops sincerely wish to hear the views of everyone. They guarantee that every submission will be read. Our Parish has forwarded a submission, but if you would like to submit your own, or have had further thoughts, there is still time for you to have your say by Wednesday 6 March, 2019.

To find out more visit <http://www.cam.org.au/plenary> which has information regarding the Plenary Council, latest update, listening sessions and what’s happening around Melbourne. **WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF US IN AUSTRALIA AT THIS TIME?**

FOR THE DIARY IN MARCH:

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

ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL: You are all most heartily invited to attend the Vigil Mass to celebrate the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita and to mark the International Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking. Mass will be celebrated:

Time: 7.30pm

Date: Thursday 7th February 2019

Place: St Patrick’s Cathedral

Principal Celebrant:

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli.

RSVP/Enquiries: justice@cam.org.au

ALL WELCOME

FREE: Single Bed, Mattress and Base in good condition. Enquiries Sr. Margaret 95845585



Thanks to Brian Melles 03-31-2006
SOME TACTFUL SOLUTIONS FOR THE AGE-OLD PROBLEM OF DRAWING ADAM AND EVE BEFORE THEY STARTED WEARING CLOTHES