



Catholic Communities of:  
St Matthew's, Bridgewater.  
Our Lady of the Rosary, Stirling East  
St Joseph the Worker, Lobethal.  
St Matthew's, Birdwood.  
St Catherine's Catholic School, Stirling.

12th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

20th/21st JUNE 2026

## ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH Parish House

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John Low

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Marianne Berry  
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## SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Gospel challenges us to ask what fears keep us from living our faith more openly. Sometimes we remain silent when we should speak a word of kindness or truth. Sometimes we hesitate to forgive, to serve, or to stand with those who are suffering because we fear criticism or discomfort. Jesus calls us to live with confidence, knowing that our lives rest in the hands of a faithful God.

The courage ordinary Christians need today is often quiet and steady rather than dramatic. Most believers will not face prison or martyrdom, but they do face pressures that test their faith every day. It takes courage to remain honest in a dishonest environment, to forgive when resentment feels easier, to defend the dignity of the poor and forgotten, to remain faithful in marriage and family life, and to continue praying when God seems silent.

Christians also need the courage not to be ashamed of their faith. In many places, believers are tempted to keep religion private, avoiding any mention of hope, mercy, justice, or the Gospel for fear of criticism or rejection. Jesus' words, "Do not be afraid," are spoken precisely for moments like these. He reminds us that we belong to God and are precious in God's sight.

Can we trust God where we are? The Gospel says yes—not because life is easy, but because God does not abandon us in the middle of it. God is present in hospitals, prisons, schools, workplaces, broken homes, lonely apartments, and uncertain futures. Trust does not mean that we understand everything. It means that we believe that even when we feel weak, forgotten, or afraid, God still holds us in loving hands.

Many ordinary Christians carry hidden burdens: caring for aging parents, struggling financially, grieving losses, worrying about children, facing illness, or trying to hold on to faith in a divided world. The courage Christ asks of us is to keep walking with him through all of it. Sometimes the greatest act of faith is simply getting up each day and believing that God is still with us.

Jesus points to the sparrows and reminds us that not one of them is forgotten by God. Then he says, "You are worth more than many sparrows." That is the foundation of Christian courage: not confidence in ourselves, but confidence that we are known, loved, and accompanied by God every step of the way.

In summary, the Gospel for this Sunday tells us not to be afraid. Jesus knows that his disciples will face opposition, misunderstanding, and even rejection. Courage is not something needed only by martyrs and saints of long ago. Ordinary Christians need courage every day: courage to forgive, to speak honestly, to remain faithful in difficult marriages and families, to defend the vulnerable, to resist dishonesty at work, and to continue believing when prayers seem unanswered.

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Matthew's Birdwood

8.30 am: 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month

St Joseph's Lobethal

8.30 am: 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month

St Matthew's Bridgewater

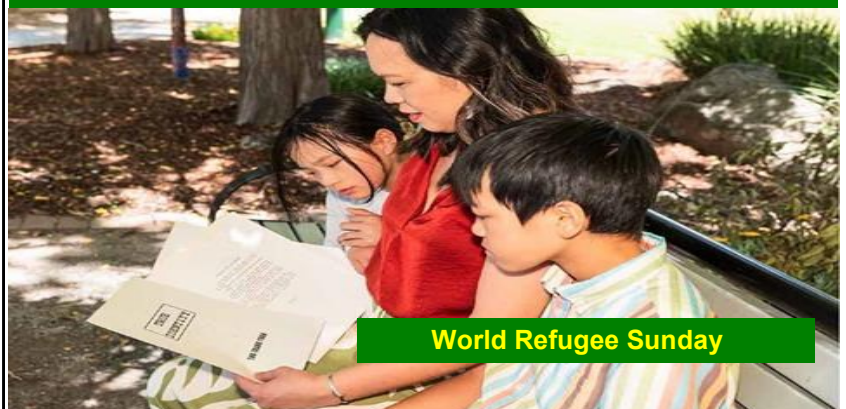
6pm Saturday Evenings

10.30 am Sunday

Our Lady of the Rosary East Stirling

5.30 pm Sunday

## LISTEN TO THEIR STORIES



World Refugee Sunday

## WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

**For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick:** Margaret Carroll, Betty White, Anne MacDonald, June Harvey, Jeff Oliver, Mirla Mills, Judy McPhee, Krystina Rowland, Carolyn Whitfield, Margaret Surguy, Damon Currow, Frank Berra.

### **June Anniversaries:**

Phyllis Richards, Gene Dearman, Peter Begg, Gordon Surguy, Jack & Christine Mundy, Kingsley & Trixie Moyle, Anton Meyer, Isabel Scougall, Anya Siebert, Hanafin Families, Pam Thompson, Theresa Moyle, Jim O'Dea, Greg Golding, Maria Feijen, Heather Dimas, Robin Harrison, Brian Medhurst, John Mott, Frank D'Angelo, Valentina Sobolewski.

**Recently deceased:** Jim Rooney. Freddie Aquilina.

## MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 22nd	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 23rd	Mass at St Catherine's	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 24th	BIRDWOOD	10.00a.m.
Friday 26th	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
Saturday 27th	Reconciliation	12.00p.m.

## UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES JUNE/JULY

Sunday 21st	Souper Sunday	
	Migrant Refugee week	
Wednesday 24th	Regional Meeting CWL	10.00a.m.
Friday 26th	Confirmation	7.00p.m.
Monday 29th	Feast of St Peter and St Paul	
Tuesday 30th	Liturgy Group	11.00a.m.
	Social Justice group	5.00p.m.
Friday 3rd July	First Friday of the month	11.00a.m.
Sunday 5th	Aboriginal week	
Thursday 9th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 15th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Thursday 16th	Our Lady of Mt Carmel	
Sunday 19th	Children's Mass	10.30a.m.
Sunday 26th	Grand parents Day	

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Heavenly Father,  
**we pray for refugees struggling with fear, anxiety, and despair. Grant them emotional resilience to endure their challenges and maintain hope. Strengthen their hearts to overcome feelings of hopelessness and depression. Surround them with compassionate people who offer encouragement and understanding. Let them feel Your comforting presence in every moment of struggle. Teach them to rely on You for strength, guidance, and endurance. May Your love restore their inner peace, giving them confidence to face each day despite uncertain circumstances. Amen.**

## ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 28th June 8.30a.m	BIRDWOOD Sunday 5th July 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Gayle Raven	Mary Nyeboeur
1st Reader	Simon Murphy	Eric Toome
2nd Reader	Michelle Chua	Simon Murphy
Euch. Minister	Eric Toome	Anne Moore
Cleaning	Connie Golding	Mike and Rosie R

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 27th June 6.00pm	Sunday 28th June 10.30am
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Sacristan	Ann Teteris	Gina Kelly
Welcoming	Karen Heusler	John Leeton
Reader 1	Mark McGeough	Paul Robinson
Reader 2	Mary Homann	Nathalie Irons
Euch.Ministers	Ann Teteris	Di Golding

Musicians	Helen Cantwell	Youth Group
Counters	Katherine Johnson & Ric Sachse	Orrma Paine
Our Lady	Orma Paine	Dwyer Family
Cleaning	Dwyer family	Jane McCaffrey
Flowers	Jane McCaffrey	Volunteers please
Tea & Coffee	Volunteers please	

OLOR	Sunday 28th June 5.30pm	Sunday 5th July 5.30p.m
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Welcoming	Rosie Jones	Jenny Johnston
Cleaning	Rachel	Debbie Somers

**We recommend that volunteers who cannot commit to their ministry, are asked to find someone else or send an SMS to Fr Fred or Cathy. Thanks**

## THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

**EXISTING GIVERS:** Please collect your new set of envelopes from the back of the Church.

**NEW GIVERS:** If you would like to start contributing to our Planned Giving Program via weekly envelopes or Direct credit/Debit please speak to Fr Fred.

## THE BRIDGE

The latest edition of The Bridge is out. Please take your copy from the back of the church. Please support those businesses who support through their adverts our parish magazine.

## THE SOUTHERN CROSS

There are still some copies of the June edition of The Southern Cross. Each copy costs \$2 and for each copy sold the parish gets \$1 back.

## CWL REGIONAL MEETING

The CWL regional meeting will be held next Wednesday 24th June 2026. Mass will commenced at 10.00a.m. in the church followed by quick cuppa and meeting at Mary O'Dea Community Centre.

## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 30th Liturgy Group at 11.00p.m. and Social Justice group at 5.00p.m.both at the Parish meeting room

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Each year on 20 June, the world celebrates World Refugee Day (WRD). WRD is designated by the United Nations to honour refugees who have been forced to flee their homes and to promote solidarity with them for a “world where refugees are welcomed.” The Church encourages us to welcome, promote, accompany, and integrate those who knock on our doors. Under the theme “A Million Stories”, Pope Leo XIV invites us to unite in prayer and action to respond to the urgent challenges faced by displaced people amid war, climate crises, and economic inequality. He urges us to renew our commitment to peace, dignity, and shared responsibility.

## NEW PARISH SECRETARY

We are pleased to announce that Paul Robinson will be joining us as our Parish Secretary. Paul brings with his many valuable skills and talents to serve our parish community. We wish him every success in his new role and ask everyone to join in welcoming him. We thank everyone who showed an interest in the role.

## CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday 26th June at St Matthew's Bridgewater. Fr Dean Marin, Vicar General will administer the Sacrament to 13 children. Lets keep them all in our prayers by reciting this prayer:

***We thank You for the gift of each candidate who will soon be confirmed in our parish. You have called them by name, and You have walked with them from the moment of their baptism. Now, as they prepare to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we ask You to pour out Your blessings upon them.***

***Fill them with wisdom to see the world through Your eyes, with understanding to know Your truth, with courage to stand firm in their faith, with knowledge to grow in love for Your Word, with reverence to honour You in all they do, and with wonder and awe at the greatness of Your love. May they always feel the support of this parish community, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the deep joy of walking with Christ every day. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen***

## FEAST OF ST PETER & ST PAUL

On Monday June 29th, the Church will celebrate the martyrdoms of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles and martyrs. Mass will be celebrated on the day at the OLOR church at 9.00.a.m.

## MOBILE NUMBERS

If you are interested to receive parish information and activities through SMSs, please fill the Mobile form at the back of the church. All mobile numbers given will be strictly confidential.

## NEW LIGHTENING AT THE OLOR

A new lightening system has been installed at the OLOR. The new IChurch lighting has been changed to enhance the spiritual ambiance of this sacred space. The new light not only affects the visual aesthetics but hopefully influences and ensuring that both congregants and clergy can participate in religious services comfortably and reverently.

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRENS STRAIT WEEK

On Sunday 5th July we celebrate Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islanders Sunday. This year invites us into reflection. We mark 40 years since St Pope John Paul II spoke to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Alice Springs, and we celebrate 50 years of NAIDOC Week. These milestones are more than anniversaries — they are reminders of enduring faith, resilience, and our shared call to walk together. At times, it is important to look back. Not to dwell in the past, but to recognize the path that has been travelled — to see the strength, the challenges, and the grace that have carried us forward. In this, we trust in God's providence, present in every step of our journey. Our theme, Walking Together in Christ: 40 Years On!, speaks to this moment. It calls us to continue the journey with humility and hope - listening deeply, and walking side by side as one Body in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Important points from the meeting: we commenced the process to appoint a new Chairperson for the Council after John Leeton did his term in office. The council expressed it's thanks to John for his service as PPC Chair and his contribution during his tenure. The Council will ensure appropriate leadership continuity and a smooth transition for the Council. Discussion of our current parish communication, first step in engaging a IT technician to design and install the use of SMSs to send information to our parishioners. Safeguarding: there are still around 50% of our volunteers who haven't completely their Safeguarding training on line. Deadline is up to Monday 30th June. Financial, Ecology and school reports were presented during the meeting.

## BRIDGEWATER CHURCH RENOVATION

The Adelaide Hills Council advised that Decision Notification Form (DNF) for Development Application has been issued. Planning Consent has been granted for addition and renovation at our church at Bridgewater.

## HOLY FATHER'S APPEAL

Holy Father's Appeal will be on the weekend of 27th and 28th June 2029. At this significant time in the life of our Church, it is good for us to do all that we can to support Pope Leo's ministry among us. The Holy Father's Appeal enables the Pope to respond to emergency situations throughout the work and provide financial aid to those who desperately need it. Peter's Pence is an expression of our communion and participation in the Pope's mission and our shared commitment to proclaiming the Gospel, promoting peace, and spreading Christian charity.

**Weekly Income 13th/14th June 2026  
THANK YOU**

**First Collection: \$698.30  
Planned Giving Received: \$2105.00  
Loose Plate: \$135.30**

**If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:  
BSB: 066-782 Account: 10000277  
Account Name CCES ADEL HILLS  
Refer payment as "donation"**

**First reading from the prophet Jeremiah**

Jeremiah said: I hear so many disparaging me, "'Terror from every side!' Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, 'Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!' But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

**The Word of the Lord**

Thanks be to God

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

It is for you that I suffer taunts,  
that shame covers my face,  
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,  
an alien to my own mother's sons.  
I burn with zeal for your house  
and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**

This is my prayer to you,  
my prayer for your favour.  
In your great love, answer me, O God,  
with your help that never fails:  
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;  
in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**

The poor when they see it will be glad  
and God-seeking hearts will revive;  
for the Lord listens to the needs  
and does not spurn servants in their chains.  
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,  
the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

**The word of the Lord**

Thanks be to God

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me,  
says the Lord,

and you also will be my witnesses.

**Alleluia!**

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

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops. 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows. 'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



Refugee advocate Thanush, who sought asylum in Australia in 2013 and spent 7.5 years detained on Manus Island before being transferred to Australia under the Medevac program. Since then, Thanush has become a leading advocate for people seeking asylum through JRS Australia's Refugee Leadership Program, sharing his story in schools, churches and community forums. "Half of my life has been spent fighting for freedom," he said. "There are hundreds of people like me. We have built lives here and are part of the community in Australia. But we still do not have the right to stay in the place we call home.

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK  
13th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading	2 Kings 4:8-11
2nd Reading	Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
Gospel	Mt 10:37-42