



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.

13th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

27th/28th JUNE 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH Parish House

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Do we trust Jesus enough to let go as we grow older, experience losses, face health challenges, grieve loved ones, and eventually surrender our own lives? Jesus says that those who lose their life for his sake will find it. He invites us to place our future in God's hands. For the regular churchgoer, this Gospel is not a call to do more things but to renew our first love – Jesus. He is asking us to trust him and follow him wherever he leads.

Hearing his words anew today, I want to ask myself: What currently occupies my heart more than my relationship with Christ? And as I look ahead to the coming week, to whom can I show Christ's love through a simple act of welcome or kindness?

This Gospel is not addressed only to new disciples, nor is discipleship something we accomplished years ago. Rather, being Jesus' disciple is a choice we must make again each day. Even though we have been following him for a long time, he continues to say, "Follow me." When Jesus says, "Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it," it sounds like a contradiction. But he is speaking about two different ways of living. The person who tries to "find" life by making self-preservation, comfort, security, success, reputation, or personal advantage the highest goal will eventually discover that such a life is too small. In trying to save oneself at all costs, one can lose what matters most: a relationship with God, love for others, and the deeper purpose for which God created us.

By contrast, the person who "loses" life for Christ's sake is willing to place faithfulness above self-interest. This does not usually mean physical martyrdom. For most Christians, it means daily acts of self-giving: forgiving when it is difficult, serving without recognition, speaking the truth when it is unpopular, remaining faithful to commitments, caring for the vulnerable, and following Christ even when it costs something.

Jesus is teaching a paradox: life becomes fullest when it is given away in love. The more tightly we cling to ourselves, the less alive we become. The more we entrust ourselves to God and spend ourselves for others, the more we discover the life God intends for us.

The saints discovered the truth of Jesus' words. They did not become less themselves by giving their lives to Christ; they became more fully themselves. In God's kingdom, the path to life is not grasping but giving; not holding on but trusting; not self-centeredness but love.

Jesus is not asking us to hate life. He is inviting us to stop making ourselves the centre of life. When we lose ourselves in love for God and neighbour, we finally find the life we have been searching for all along.

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

JESUS ALWAYS WELCOMES US



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 29th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 30th	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 1st	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 3rd	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
Saturday 4th	Reconciliation	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES JUNE/JULY

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

For our whole earth it is clean air.
 For war's end it's a peace treaty.
 For the hungry it's a meal.
 For our racial problems
 it is justice and love.
 For all who thirst,
 it's a cup of water.
 O God, you ask little of us.
 Please help us give each other
 the "cup of water" we all need.
 Give us desire and your knowledge
 and insight to fix all the problems we have.
 Let us not ignore those souls that thirst.
 We all thirst for your living water. Amen



FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Lately the numbers attending the first Friday mass and adoration has fallen dramatically. We lost a number of parishioners who use to attend due to sickness or have passed away. We urge to those who can attend next Friday 3rd July for the 11.00a.m. Mass followed by 20 mins of silent adoration and benediction. Everyone is invited to attend in the parish hall for a warm delicious soup and bread.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 5th July 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 12th July 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Mary Nyeboeur	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Eric Toome	Simon Murphy
2nd Reader	Simon Murphy	Simon Cox
Euch. Minister	Anne Moore	Janet Harrison
Cleaning	Mike and Rosie R	Janet Harrison

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 4th July 6.00pm	Sunday 5th July 10.30am
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Sacristan	Mark McGeough	Di Golding
Welcoming	Ann Teteris	Gina Kelly
Reader 1	Henry Dusznski	Paul Somers
Reader 2	Alan Miller	Paul Robinson
Euch.Ministers	Stasia Dusznski	Paul Huffman

Musicians	Stephan Blanke	PowerPoint
Counters	Di Golding & Maria Thompson	
Our Lady	Colleen Sim	Colleen Sim
Cleaning	Alan Miller & Ann Teteris	
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly
Tea & Coffee	Paris Huffman & Marie Littler	

OLOR	Sunday 5th July 5.30pm	Sunday 12th July 5.30p.m
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Welcoming	Jenny Johnston	Kathy DeCosta
Cleaning	Debbie Somers	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.

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. Please consider to join the Liturgy group, we are looking for new members. If interested speak to Fr Fred after the weekend masses. Thank you.

ADELAIDE CHARISMATIC WEEKEND

Adelaide Fire Weekend - from Saturday 11th July 9am-9pm & Sunday 12th July 9.00am-2.00pm. Deepen in the Holy Spirit and gather with a vibrant Catholic community over two days of talks from interstate speakers, charismatic praise and worship, Masses, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and fellowship. Youth, young adults, families and all are welcome! Venue: Blackfriars Priory School, Prospect. Suggested donation (covers all meals, event costs and children's retreat): \$39 school students, \$49 concession, \$59 adults, pre-schoolers free, family discounts available. Bookings essential: <https://app.tickets.org.au/afw/26> More info: adelaidefireweekend@gmail.com

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.

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.

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.

HOLY FATHER'S APPEAL

Holy Father's Appeal will be this 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.

GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY DAY

This year, on the sixth celebration of 'World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly' on Sunday, 26th July 2026, The Holy Father Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme "I will never forget you" taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Is 49:15), express God's unconditional fidelity towards his people and reveal how the Lord's love for each of us never fails, even in the fragility of old age. The theme chosen by the Holy Father is intended to be a message of consolation and hope for all grandparents and the elderly, especially those who live in solitude or feel forgotten. At the same time, it is a call to families and Ecclesial Communities not to forget their elderly, recognising in them a presence and a blessing. In the Holy Father's message, we are invited to recognise the elderly not as recipients of pastoral care, but as witnesses of hope who are active protagonists in the life of the Church.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Thursday 16th July is the feast of the Scapular; tradition says that Our Lady gave it, herself, about the year 1251, to the blessed Simon Stock, an Englishman; this devotion has since spread all over the world. Mass in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be celebrated on Thursday 16th July at 9.00am. at Our Lady of the Rosary at East Stirling. Thanks to the OLOR community especially Paul Anderson who are always their to help to open the church and prepare for mass whenever it's needed.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the backbone of church operations, helping with everything from worship teams and children's ministry to hospitality and outreach programs. Without volunteers, many church activities would be impossible to sustain, and the church could not function effectively. They often take on leadership roles after gaining experience, ensuring smooth operations and mentoring others, which strengthens the overall ministry. Their service allows pastors and staff to focus on teaching, counselling and strategic planning. Volunteers help build a strong sense of community within the church. Working alongside others who share similar values fosters relationships, mutual support, and a sense of belonging. Their outreach efforts, such as assisting the needy or supporting local programs, extend the church's impact into the wider community, creating a ripple effect of goodwill and service. Thanks to all the volunteers who have completed the Safeguarding Essentials course on line. There are still **47 volunteers** who haven't done the on line course. For these volunteers we once again ask to complete the on line course, please go to www.caasava.com and follow the prompts to access the on line course. If you have any problems please contact the Safeguarding operations team on:

8210 8150 or email:

caasafeoperations@adelaide.catholic.org.au and they can help.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Adelaide Hills Catholic Parish serves the communities of
St Matthew's Bridgewater, Our Lady of the Rosary Stirling East, St Matthew's Birdwood, St Joseph's Lobethal and St Catherine's Catholic School.

Our parish lives the Gospel through a strong and enduring faith. We strive to be a vibrant community that welcomes all, celebrates diversity, reaches out to those in need and cares for God's creation.

Weekly Income 20th/21st June 2026 THANK YOU

First Collection: \$543.05
Planned Giving Received: \$2,335.00
Loose Plate: \$118.05

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 second book of the Kings

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.' One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm:

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R.**

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me. 'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward. 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Patience does not come easily, particularly in cultures that have perfected the art of haste. We want growth before the season is right and this impatience extends beyond the unseasonably 'fresh food' in our grocery stores, or the Easter eggs that appear one week into January. We want our children to mature before they have lived and we want answers before questions have been contemplated. We scroll while the kettle boils, we wish the traffic to clear, we can't wait for Christmas to arrive and then we wonder where all the time has gone. Many are even tempted to rush the slow work of God. Like a gardener pulling the stem of a plant to make it grow faster, the result is damage not growth. Yet patience should not be confused with passivity. It's strength under pressure and that requires a deliberate choice to remain steadfast and to trust in God. Patience is formed in waiting rooms, in unanswered prayers, in misunderstandings, in the slow ache of uncertainty.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK
14th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading	Zechariah: 9:9-10
2nd Reading	Romans 8:9, 11-13
Gospel	Matthew 11:25-30