



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.

14th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

4th/5th JULY 2026

## ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH Parish House

1 Wembley Avenue (P O Box 718)  
BRIDGEWATER S A 5155  
Telephone 08 8359 0674

Email:

stmatthew@adelaidehillsparish.com.au  
Website: adelaidehillsparish.com.au  
Facebook: Adelaide Hills Parish

Parish Priest

Fr Alfred (Fred) Farrugia  
email: a281657@hotmail.com

Parish Secretary  
Paul Robinson

Cathie Oswald  
Pastoral Coordinator  
Custodian of Parish hall  
catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com.au

St Catherine's Catholic School:  
John Low  
Principal:

Telephone: (08) 8238 8238  
www.stcaths.catholic.edu.au

Safeguarding Officer  
Mark McGeough  
mcgeough@internode.on.net

WHS Parish Officer  
Marianne Berry  
marianne3079@gmail.com

## SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

In this Sunday's gospel we have some of the most tender words in the Scriptures: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." These words are not spoken from a distance. They are not a command, advice, or instruction. They are an open invitation—not for a select few, but for anyone. Jesus opens a door and invites all who are in need to enter. And when someone responds, they are not handed a list of rules or a book of instructions; they are given Jesus himself.

Notice to whom the invitation is directed. Not first to the successful, the self-sufficient, or the spiritually accomplished, but to the burdened and weary. And honestly, who among us is not carrying some burden? Illness, financial strain, wounded relationships, difficult decisions. Others carry burdens not visible from the outside: regret, anxiety, exhaustion, shame.

Jesus does not begin by telling people to fix themselves before coming to him. He simply says, "Come."

There is a surprising contrast in today's Gospel. Jesus thanks the Father because these things are hidden from "the wise and learned" and revealed to "little ones." We have a long tradition of scholarship and theological reflection in the Church, so Jesus is not being anti-intellectual. His words are a spiritual diagnosis.

Some people possess knowledge that has become closed, self-assured, and self-protective. They are convinced they already understand everything. In contrast, there is a kind of openness that still knows how to receive, how to listen, and how to be surprised by God. The "little ones" Jesus speaks of are not necessarily naïve or uneducated. They are those who have learned – often through suffering – that life cannot be mastered or controlled. They have discovered their limits. And, hard as it may be to believe, that is often where revelation begins.

Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart." A yoke is not a symbol of ease. It is a tool of labour, joining two together to pull a load. Yet Jesus offers a yoke that is "easy" and a burden that is "light."

Much of our exhaustion comes not only from the weight we carry, but from trying to carry it alone. Jesus is not promising a life without responsibility. He promises his presence within our responsibilities. We are yoked to him and he to us. To take up the yoke of Christ is to allow our life to be joined to his.

The "rest" Jesus promises is not inactivity. Discipleship asked much of his followers. Rather, it is the rest that comes from trust – a rest that no longer needs to prove everything, control everything, or justify everything.

## 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

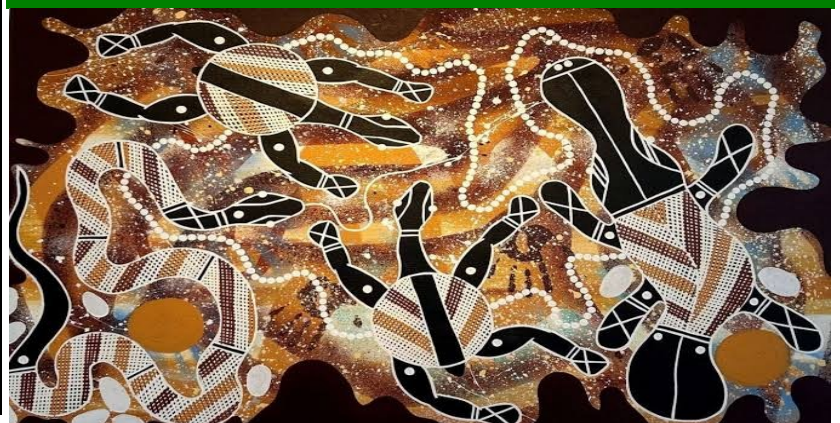
6pm Saturday Evenings

10.30 am Sunday

Our Lady of the Rosary East Stirling

5.30 pm Sunday

## ABORIGINAL AND STRAIT TORRES SUNDAY



## WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

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

### **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** Anne McDonald.

## MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 6th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 7th	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 8th	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 10th	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
Saturday 11th	Reconciliation	12.00p.m.

## UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES JULY

Sunday 5th	Aboriginal week	
Thursday 9th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Sunday 12th	Celebration at the OLOR	5.30p.m.
Wednesday 15th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Thursday 16th	Our Lady of Mt Carmel	
Sunday 19th	Children's Mass	10.30a.m.
Wednesday 22nd	Feast of Mary Magdalene	
Sunday 26th	Grand parents Day	

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Christ  
came that  
The Bread might hunger,  
that The Fountain might thirst,  
that The Way might be tired on his journey,  
that The Truth might be accused of false witness,  
that The Healer might be  
wounded."

Lord,  
You know our humanity well, and all the trouble  
we can get into. So, Jesus, we come to you.  
Please show us your heavenly Father,  
who loves every hair on our head.  
Let us learn from you,  
and follow you,  
and find  
rest.  
Amen.

## THE NICENE CREED

In the last Liturgy group meeting we discussed that we will continue to recite the Nicene creed in our weekend masses. The Nicene Creed is a fundamental statement of Christian faith, affirming the belief in the Trinity and the divinity of Jesus Christ.

## ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 12th July 8.30a.m	BIRDWOOD Sunday 19th July 8.30a.m
-----------------	---	---

Welcoming	Gayle Raven	Mary Nyeboer
1st Reader	Simon Murphy	Gayle Raven
2nd Reader	Simon Cox	Jo Brickhill
Euch. Minister	Janet Harrison	Janet Harrison
Cleaning	Janet Harrison	M/R Russell

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 11th July 6.00pm	Sunday 12th July 10.30am
-------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------

Sacristan	Mark McGeough	Gina Kelly
Welcoming	Lyn Norris	John Leeton
Reader 1	Mary Homann	Nathalie Irons
Reader 2	Mark McGeough	Phil Schultz
Euch.Ministers	Kathy LLOYD	Karen Dutton

Musicians	Stephan Blanke	Damien Mansfield
Counters	Karen Dutton and Mary Feijen	
Our Lady	Colleen Sim	Colleen Sim
Cleaning	Rhiannon Dimasi & Dan DeFazio	
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly
Tea & Coffee		

OLOR	Sunday 12th July 5.30pm	Sunday 19th July 5.30p.m
------	----------------------------	-----------------------------

Welcoming	Kathy DeCosta	Annette Lamont
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**

## ADELAIDE FIRE 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. Bookings essential:  
<https://app.tickets.org.au/afw/26>  
More info: [adelaidefireweekend@gmail.com](mailto:adelaidefireweekend@gmail.com)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

**Super Sunday:** The Social Justice team wish to thank all parishioners for supporting our fundraiser. We exceeded our target of \$1400, raising \$1700 which will be sent to the Kopanang Community in South Africa to buy blankets.

**Missing tablecloths:** The Social Justice team are missing a number of white tablecloths; the cloths are stored in a plastic tub in the OLAH hall storeroom. We would appreciate their return as we need them for our next function.

## SOUTHERN CROSS

The July edition of *The Southern Cross* is out. This month's edition has a centrespread on the 2026 Diocesan Synod and all the latest news from parishes and schools. .

## PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The next PFC meeting will be held on Thursday 9th July at the OLAH parish hall at 4pm.

## **ABORIGINAL AND TORRENS STRAIT WEEK**

This 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.

## **HOLY FATHER'S APPEAL**

Last weekend there was a special collection for the Pope's Appeal. The amount collected was \$604. The money will support Pope Leo's ministry among us. The Holy Father's Appeal enables the Pope to respond to emergency situations throughout the world and provide financial aid to those who desperately need it. Thanks for your generosity.

## **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 there to help to open the church and prepare for mass whenever it's needed.

## **THANK YOU**

Anonymous benefactors donated \$500 for the renovation project at Bridgewater and another \$1000 for the new lighting system at the OLOR church. Thank you.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Last chance to complete the Safeguarding Essentials course is being offered by Mark McGeough. Meet at the Our Lady of the Adelaide Hills hall at 4.00pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July. He will operate the computer and those completing the course will be marked down as attending.

## **NATIONAL CENSUS Tuesday 11th August 2026**

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics counts every person and household in Australia. The next Census is on Tuesday, 11th August 2026. The Census form asks questions about your age, country of birth, cultural background, living situation, work and education. The Census data is used by the Government and others to inform decisions about transport, schools, health care, infrastructure and business. It also helps plan local services for individuals, families and Communities. From an Archdiocesan perspective it is important that you identify yourself as Catholic in the Census. This information contributes to the Parish Social Profiles and assists with Pastoral Planning for the future.

## **FIRST WITNESS TO THE LIGHT**

Mary Magdalene's experience with darkness and desolation helped her seek out the new dawn of the Resurrection. The Gospels portray Mary Magdalene, whose feast day is 22nd July, as close friend of Jesus, and first witness to the light of the resurrection. Her name reveals a glimpse of her importance among the disciples as alongside Peter the 'Rock' she holds her own as Mary the 'Tower' of faith. Mass to celebrate the feast of St Mary Magdalene will be celebrated on Monday 20th July during the morning mass at OLOR., and on its feast day at Birdwood.

## **WELCOME INTO THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

Thomas and Connor after going through the RCIA in our parish will be accepted into the full communion into the Catholic Church. The celebration of their baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion will be next Sunday 12th July during the 5.30p.m. mass at the OLOR. Afterwards everyone is invited to join Thomas and Connor, their families and friends at the back of the church for refreshments. A gazebo canopy will be erected near the shed for the occasion.

## **WORKING BEES**

A huge thank you to all volunteers who last Saturday helped with cleaning, gardening and other tasks at Bridgewater. Our parish would not look as great as it does without the constant support we receive from our community. Whether you have helped at one of the working bees or on the roster for any various ministries. Thank you.

## **Weekly Income 27th/28th June 2026 THANK YOU**

<b>First Collection:</b>	<b>\$542.55</b>
<b>Planned Giving Received:</b>	<b>\$2265.00</b>
<b>Loose Plate:</b>	<b>\$98.05</b>

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"**

**A reading from the prophet Zechariah**

The Lord says this: 'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.'

**The Word of the Lord**  
Thanks be to God

**Responsorial Psalm:**

*I will praise your name for ever,  
my king and my God.*

I will give you glory, O God my King,  
I will bless your name for ever.  
I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.

**R.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures.

**R.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God.

**R.**

The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and loving in all his deeds.  
The Lord supports all who fall  
and raises all who are bowed down.

**R.**

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

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you. So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

**The Word of the Lord**  
Thanks be to God

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

**Alleluia!**

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

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.

**The Gospel of the Lord**  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



The Bishop of the Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne, Ukrainian-born Cardinal Mykola Bychok brought the suffering of Ukraine's people to Pope Leo XIV on 24 June, as he gifted him a flag and cross belonging to a soldier who fought in the war. Cardinal Bychok is in Rome for the Extraordinary Consistory, held in the Vatican on 26-29 June. He gave the Pope the items at the end of last week's Wednesday General Audience. Let us pray for the people of Ukraine.

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**  
**15th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading	Isiah 55:10-11
2nd Reading	Romans 8:18-23
Gospel	Matthew 13:1-23