



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.

15th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

11th/12th 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

This Sunday's gospel has three parts. The parable itself (vv. 1-9); Jesus' reason for speaking in parables (vv. 10-17) and then an interpretation of the parable (vv. 18-23). Why don't we just look at the first two sections. The third, the allegorical interpretation, seems to have been an added-on explanation by the early Christian community.

I wonder if Jesus' disciples weren't tempted at times to filter out people in the many crowds they encountered while they were with Jesus. Why not have Jesus focus on the most likely and receptive candidates, those who looked like they were well disposed to his message?

Jesus broadcasts his message to the crowds with their widely diverse personalities and religious types. Jesus is reaching far and wide to convince people that God loves them and is inviting them into a new way of living: what he calls, "the kingdom of heaven." From the way he is describing that kingdom you can tell that it isn't restricted to the few and select. You never know who in the crowd is going to get the message – have a light go off in them that stirs them to accept the fantastic story Jesus is revealing to them.

Thus, the parable of the Sower seems, first of all, to apply to Jesus and how he goes about his mission. He is speaking to the crowds and, like the Sower in the parable, he has been sowing the Word freely. One might even accuse him of being too indiscriminate. Shouldn't the Sower have been more circumspect and place the seed more carefully instead of cavalierly tossing the seed hither and yon? That might make good sense for a careful and parsimonious Sower. But when Jesus casts the seed of his word, he just isn't neat. Anyone who is open to it can receive it.

Those who "hear" and "see" through the parables are receiving something they could never have gotten on their own. Jesus says they are "blessed," they have been given the gift of seeing and hearing the wonderful mystery revealed in the parables.

This Sunday's parable shows how mysterious God's ways are. God reaches out, not only to the well-disposed and upright, but to the "rocky" and the "weedy" as well. All are offered God's expansive love communicated through Jesus' extravagant sowing of the Word. Jesus told this parable to "large crowds" – yet, from the disciples' perspective, the response to his preaching was minimal. Why wasn't there a mass number of dedicated disciples in response to Jesus' sowing? Jesus' followers must have been discouraged by the seeming small response he was getting.

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

PROPAGATING THE GOOD NEWS



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 13th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 14th	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 15th	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 17th	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
Saturday 18th	Reconciliation	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES JULY/AUGUST

Wednesday 15th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Thursday 16th	Our Lady of Mt Carmel	9.00 a.m.
Saturday 18th	Working Bee Bridgewater	9.00a.m.
Sunday 19th	Children's Mass	10.30a.m.
Wednesday 22nd	Feast of Mary Magdalene	9.00a.m.
Sunday 26th	Grand parents Day	10.30a.m.
Tuesday 28th	Liturgy Group meeting	11.00a.m.
August/ Saturday 1st	Sacramental workshop	1.00p.m.
Sunday 2nd	Ecology Meeting after mass	11.45a.m.
Tuesday 4th	Parish/school meeting	9.45a.m.
Wednesday 5th	Northern End meeting	9.45a.m.
Thursday 6th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Friday 7th	Feast of St Dominic Yr3/4	9.00a.m.
	First Friday of the month	11.00a.m.
Saturday 15th	The Assumption of Mary	
Sunday 16th	Holy Communion	10.30a.m.
	Children's Mass	

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord of all, tend to our earth.

Give it clean water

and seed for bread

for all your hungry children.

Tend to our souls.

Render them fertile and fruitful.

And please

send us out

to plant your Word

within the entire world.

Amen

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 19th July 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 26th July 8.30a.m
-----------------	---	---

Welcoming	Mary Nyeboer	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Gayle Raven	M. Smitherman
2nd Reader	Volunteer	Michelle Chua
Euch. Minister	Janet Harrison	Eric Toome
Cleaning	M/R Russell	

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 18th July 6.00pm	Sunday 19th July 10.30am
-------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------

Sacristan	Mark McGeough	Gina Kelly
Welcoming	Karen Heusler	John Leeton
Reader 1	Stephan Blake	Nathalie Irons
Reader 2	Joan Davey	Phil Schultz
Euch.Ministers	Mary Homann	Karen Dutton
		Deb Stapleton
		Paris Huffman
Musicians	Damien Mansfield	Powerpoint
Counters	Connie Golding & Janet Harrison	Janet Harrison
Our Lady		Collene Sim
Cleaning	Otta Kovac	
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly
Tea & Coffee		Volunteers Please

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

Welcoming	Annette Lamont	John Rodella
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

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.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

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.

CWL STIRLING MEETING

Next meeting is on Wednesday 15th July, 2026 at 12.30pm for 1.00p.m. (Please bring your sandwich) at OLAH Parish Hall, Bridgewater - Afternoon tea provided. ALL Parish Ladies Welcome. More information contact Pam Broadbridge - 8339 5013.

SOUTHERN CROSS

Please don't forget to collect your copy of the Southern Cross at the end of Mass. They are \$2 each and proceeds go towards fundraising for our Parish.

THE BRIDGE

The July edition of The Bridge is out now. Please take your copy from the back of the church.

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 \$600 and \$2,000 respectively for the renovation project at Bridgewater. Thank you.

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. 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. 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 on Sunday 12th July during the 5.30p.m. mass at the OLOR. Afterwards everyone one 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.

SEA SUNDAY APPEAL

Each year, Sea Sunday is set aside by many Christian Churches as a day to remember, celebrate, and pray for Seafarers and their families, and to give thanks for their lives and work. Seafarers work tirelessly in the high seas throughout the year bringing us more than ninety percent of the goods we need. In our Archdiocese Sea Sunday will be observed on Sunday, 19th July 2026. I encourage you to take this opportunity to highlight the significance of this day and to promote the Annual Sea Sunday Appeal within your Parish Community. Archbishop Patrick
There will be a special collection in all masses this weekend.

THANK YOU

The parish wish to thank Margaret Smitherman for her voluntary work as secretary of our parish for the time we were looking for a permanent secretary position. Her time and effort is appreciated as it ease a lot of pressure from the parish office. Thank you again Margaret and may God bless you.

WORKING BEE

Join up if you would like to be part of the Working Bee Group to help out with little projects around our Parish at Bridgewater on Saturday 18th July for a 9.00a.m. start.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The meeting was held last Thursday and we welcomed the news that Ben Sugars will be joining the PFC from next month. Fr Fred presented the Profit and Loss for the first six months of the year. The outcome shows things are going according to what we are predicting this year. Glad to accept Paul Robinson as the new parish secretary and a motion was presented to thank Margaret Smitherman for her time as secretary on a voluntary basis. The hot water system had to be changed at the parish house, Positive feedback for the new rails of the ramp at Lobethal, Sewage problems at Lobethal and Parish house at Birdwood are being taken care off, a separate water meter will be installed at Birdwood and positive feedback for the new lights at the OLOR church.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT SUNDAY

Last Sunday we celebrated the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Thanks to Paul & Gloria Howe, Paris Huffman who brought artifacts made by Aboriginal artists and craftsmen for our display at Bridgewater. May this day was a celebration and a moment of grace, healing, and transformation for all of us.

Weekly Income 4th/5th July 2026 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$581.00
Planned Giving Received:	\$1905.00
Loose Plate:	\$172.30

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:

BSB: 066-782 Account: 100000277
Account Name CCES ADEL HILLS
Refer payment as "donation"

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm:

*The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.*

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

R.

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth.

R.

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

R.

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat,
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

R.

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

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God,
Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me. 'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it. 'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK
16th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading	Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
2nd Reading	Romans 8:26-27
Gospel	Matthew 13:24-30