



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

17TH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

26th/27th JULY 2025

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Prayer is a strong theme throughout Luke. Not only does Jesus teach about prayer, but Luke frequently shows him at prayer during decisive moments. Jesus teaches us to pray regularly because prayer expresses our dependence on our "Abba" – that tender, familial name Jesus uses for God – both now and for our future.

Luke appears to have drawn together separate sayings and teachings on prayer. One of the prayers is the Lord's Prayer, the parable of persistence, or the brief teachings that conclude the passage.

If you choose the Lord's Prayer, notice its communal language. This is a "we" prayer: "Give us," "forgive us," "subject us not to the trial." A community anxiously awaiting the Lord's return prays this together. We pray it as people striving to remain faithful amid trials. We are "hanging in there," especially when the Church feels fragile and flawed. We pray that we will not lose heart or become lukewarm during testing times. This communal prayer reminds us that Christ has not abandoned us—and will return.

The petition, "Give us each day our daily bread," is the prayer of the poor. Luke emphasizes the poor throughout his Gospel—those who rely on God each day for sustenance. But the prayer also calls a whole community to solidarity, to share what they have so that none are in need. The preacher might reflect on the physical and spiritual hungers around us and how we are called to respond.

Today, our national response to the cries of the poor is deeply lacking. Benefits are being cut; homelessness is increasing. While part of the economy thrives, many are left behind. There is too much poverty and too little economic opportunity for all our citizens. Our Catholic faith tradition calls us to put the needs of the poor and the vulnerable before all else. In our job-oriented economy, this tradition is expressed in the security of "gainful employment."

We also pray for daily bread to respond each day to Jesus' invitation to take up our cross and follow him (Luke 9:23). Each day presents new challenges, and each day we need nourishment. The Eucharist offers strength for today's journey – a different strength than we needed yesterday. We come with outstretched hands, seeking food that sustains and deepens our joy.

This prayer for "daily bread" is a prayer for life's true essentials. In our society of abundance and excess, we are often hungry in ways we don't even understand. We chase satisfaction through wealth and power, only to find ourselves unfulfilled. To pray for daily bread is to admit our dependence on God for what truly matters. It is a prayer to let go of what is superficial, harmful, or unnecessary. It is a prayer to open ourselves – to empty our hands so that we can receive the Bread that truly sustains, the Bread that will sustain us no matter what trial we face.

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

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS/ELDERLY DAY



WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick: Margaret Carroll, Betty White, Anne MacDonald, June Harvey, Jeff Oliver, Gabrielle Morgan.

July Anniversaries: Linda Golding, Lew Brickhill, Joanne McFarlane, Gertrude Meyer, Dorothy Adkins, Sheila Chabrel, Noel Wilckens, Von Arthurson, Paul & Frederick Forster, Joan Somers, Bob Hill, Isabel Sykes, Geneveive Bellim, Jim White, Garry D. Phillips, Colleen M. Overton, Albin Wohlfart, Francis McAuliffe, Frank Wolff, Keith Messinger, Vera Marek, Elwyn Muldoon, Reginald Hewish, Christina Wicks.

Recently deceased Helen Healy, Neil Osborne

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 28th	Mass at OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 29th	Mass at St Catherine's	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 30th	Mass at Birdwood	9.00a.m.
Friday 1st	Mass at Bridgewater	11.00a.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES JULY/AUGUST

Sunday 27th	Grandparents day	
	Ecology meeting after Mass	11.30a.m.
Tuesday 29th	Liturgy Group meeting	11.00a.m.
Wednesday 30th	Northern End meeting	9.45a.m.
Friday 1st	First Friday of the Month	
Saturday 2nd	Sacramental workshop	1.30p.m.
Sunday 3rd	Volunteer Sunday	
Tuesday 5th	Baptist Group meeting	11.00a.m.
Friday 8th	Feast of Mary McKillop	
Sunday 10th	First Holy Communion	10.30a.m.
Tuesday 12th	Parish/school meeting	9.45a.m.
Thursday 14th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Friday 15th	Assumption of Mary	
Sunday 17th	Bridgewater community Meeting	11.45a.m.
Wednesday 20th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Friday 22nd	Queenship of Mary	
Sunday 24th	Social Justice Sunday	

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Jesus,
your father
stands at the door
waiting for us to knock,
never sleeping,
always seeking ways
to dote on us,
and fill us with
good things.
Help us
to persist
in our prayers
for climate,
immigrants,
starving children,
racism, and war.



ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 3rd August 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 10TH Aug 8.30am
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Welcome
1st Reader
2nd Reader
Euch. Minister
Cleaning

Jo Brickhill
Anne McEvoy
Michelle Thomas
M Smitherman
Aivee & Lauren Kelly

Gayle Raven
Gayle Raven
Michelle Chu
Eric Toome
Janet Harrison

BRIDGEWATER	Sat 26th July 6.00 pm	Sun 27th July 10.30am
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Sacristan
Welcoming
Reader 1
Reader 2
Euch. Minister
Musicians
Counters
Cleaning
Our Lady
Flowers
Tea & Coffee

Mary Homann
Ann Teteris
Mark McGeough
Mary Homann
Ann Teteris
Helen Cantwell
Connie Golding & Janet Harrison
Dwyer Family
Cantwell Family
Gloria Howe

Gina Kelly
Pam Broadbridge
Paul Robinson
Nolan Parodi
Pam Broadbridge
Powerpoint
Janet Harrison
Cantwell Family
Gloria Howe

OLOR	Sunday 3rd August 5.30pm	Sunday 10th Aug 5.30pm
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Sacristan
Welcoming

Debbie Somers
Debbie Somers

Debbie Somers
John Rodella

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

I would appreciate that in our parish those who wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue are asked to come at the end of the communion procession. FR FRED

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

A kindly reminder that we have Mass and adoration followed by benediction every first Friday of the month. On Friday 1st August mass at 11.00a.m. followed by 20 mins of silent adoration and benediction. Afterwards we meet at the OLAH parish hall for a light lunch.

RECONCILIATION

Fr Fred will be available for reconciliation every Saturday at 12.00p.m. Please go to Parish house first to alert Fr Fred so that he comes to church.

STELLA MARIS ANNUAL SUPPORT

Last Sunday we had a special collection for Stella Maris Group who works with seafarers who work tirelessly in the high seas throughout the year bringing us more than ninety percent of the goods we need. The amount collected was \$502.50c Thank you for your ongoing support.

NORTHERN END MEETING

The next Northern End meeting will be held next Wednesday 30th July after the 9.00a.m. Mass. The agenda: parish house in Birdwood, things needed during Fr Fred's absence, ramp at Lobethal for special needs etc.

GRANDPARENTS/ELDERLY DAY

This year, on the fifth celebration of 'World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly' on Sunday, 27th July 2025, The Holy Father Pope Leo XIV has chosen a passage from Sirach 14:2 *"Blessed are those who have not lost hope"*, as the theme in this year of the Jubilee of Hope. 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. A copy will be given to all grandparents/elderly attending Mass this weekend

TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

The new Safeguarding unit has requested that all volunteers, read and sign the document "In a Nutshell". This document is a brief review of Child Safety, taking the place of in-person briefings until a new on-line training session, is finalised. On the weekend of the 26th and 27th July, the "In a Nutshell" document will be distributed to all volunteers. This can be read through and returned at the next weekend Masses on 2nd and 3rd August. **Mark McGeough**

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering in church benefits members of the congregation *and* the church itself. Church volunteers perform tasks that staff members do not have the capacity or skills to accomplish. They use their time and talents for community service, fulfilling their desire to help others while ensuring the local church can direct more funds to its mission. Volunteer Week will be celebrated in our parish on Sunday 3rd August

FEAST OF ST MARY MCKILLOP

The Feast of St Mary of the Cross McKillop will be celebrated at Bridgewater on Friday 8th August. At Lobethal and the OLOR we will celebrate her feast in weekend 9th/10th August. After Mass we say special prayers in front of the image of St Mary of the Cross.

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

The Virgin Mary's entrance into heaven by God after her death is observed in Christian faith on the Feast of Assumption on August 15. This year the feast falls on a Tuesday. **It's a Holy Day of Obligation.** To make things easier, Masses: **Thursday 14th August Vigil OLOR at 6.00p.m. Friday Feast of the Assumption Mass at 11.00a.m. & 6.00p.m. at Bridge-water.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Sunday 10th August, the children in the Sacramental Programme will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Parishioners are invited to join with the children, their families and friends, to celebrate this important occasion by being present at the 10.30 am Mass and to participate in the celebration after Mass in the Parish Hall. It would be appreciated if you brought a plate to share. Please too, remember the children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

WORKSHOP

As part of the preparation for Holy Communion we will have our next workshop on Saturday 2nd August at 1.00p.m. at the OLAH Parish hall

NATIONAL VOCATIONS WEEK

Again, this year throughout the Church in Australia, we celebrate National Vocations Awareness Week from 2/3 August until 9/10 August. The theme of the first weekend is that every baptized Christian has a vocation and is called to holiness of life and to participate in the life and mission of the Church. We acknowledge the calling to Marriage and Family Life, the Single Life and Lay Ministry in the Church. It's on the second weekend that we specify this baptismal call further and celebrate and pray for an increase in the vocations of the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Consecrated Life.

HOMELESSNESS WEEK

Homelessness Australia hosts Homelessness Week annually to build community support and government commitment to end homelessness. During the week homelessness services and community groups raise awareness of the impact of homelessness, and the solutions needed to end homelessness, and advocate for change via national and local community events, media and social media activities. Homelessness Week 2025 will be held from Monday 4 August to Sunday 10 August. The theme for Homelessness Week 2025 is "Homelessness Action Now".

LITURGY GROUP

The parish liturgy group's primary responsibility is not to prepare liturgical ceremonies. Rather, the committee focuses on the full range of the parish's liturgical life. This includes long-range and short-range planning, establishing parish liturgy policy, evaluating liturgies and continuing the formation and education in liturgy for parishioners. We have been asking for new members to join in. Please consider the possibility of joining the group, we meet once a month on the last Tuesday morning of each month. **Next meeting Tuesday 29th July at 11.00a.m. at the Parish meeting room.**

SAINTS MARTHA, MARY, LAZARUS

To stress the family spirit of the home in Bethany where Jesus loved to stay, Pope Francis had established the memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus, replacing the previous memorial of Saint Martha on the 29th July. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments said, "In the household of Bethany, the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and for this reason the Gospel of John states that he loved them. Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the one who humiliated death." The memorial will be celebrated on Monday 28th July during the 9.00a.m. mass at the OLOR.

Weekly Income 19th/20th July 2025 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$592.15
Planned Giving Received:	\$2765.00
Loose Plate:	\$221.55

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:
BSB: 066-782 Account: 100000277
Account Name Adelaide Hills Parish
Refer payment as "donation"

17TH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.' The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.' Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No,' he replied, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will be only forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.' Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

R.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

R.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes.

R.

You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

R

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins. He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray: "Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."' He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it to him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants. 'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. what father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading	Ecc	1:2;2:21-23
2nd Reading	Colossians	3:1-5,9-11
Gospel	Luke	12:13-21