



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.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

25/26th July 2026

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Each of this Sunday's parables is introduced in the same way, "The kingdom of heaven is like..." (Matthew prefers "kingdom of heaven" so as to avoid using God's name; Mark and Luke use, "kingdom of God.") First a reminder. When a parable begins in this way it is not saying the kingdom is like a treasure, a pearl or a net. Rather, the kingdom is like what happens in each complete story. Jesus' basic message was that God's kingdom/reign/dominion had come near. The kingdom is present when God's sovereignty, actions and presence are felt. It is where and when God's will is being done and God's rule accepted and acted upon. Those who live in accordance with God's will might then hope to enter the kingdom when it finally comes in its fullness.

We are of an age and culture that looks for things neatly defined and clearly described. If only Jesus had satisfied our need for exactness and given a precise definition of what the kingdom is and exactly where and when it occurs. If he had, we would have a precise measurement, or standard to apply. We would then be able to say, "This is definitely of the kingdom of God; this definitely not." Of course, that would put us in control. Then other people and events would depend on us for our stamp of approval where and in whom God was acting. Instead, with parables like this Sunday's, we have the opposite. We hear that God's reign is multi-colored and multi-layered. We see only part of it; just when it seems to be only here...it pops up over there too--- in the most unlikely places and occasions. You just can't box in God's movements and inspirations.

The parable of the buried and found treasure. Listeners to this parable have countered by saying the one who found the treasure is dishonest. They claim he should have reported the find to the "rightful owner." Jesus uses worldly stories to open our eyes to the acts of the divine in our midst. He is focusing on a person's finding a treasure, realizing its value, rejoicing and selling everything to get what is so precious.

The second parable varies slightly from the first; we have a merchant out searching for fine pearls. Yet, the two parables have some common elements: the discovery, joy (which we presume for the merchant since he finds what he has been searching for) and a follow-up action. The first parable has a clear element of surprise to it. How often have we found in a person, or a situation, something so good that we realize, even though we weren't aware we were searching, we have found a treasure? Or, have we ever searched for something meaningful for our lives, found it and it was even better than we had ever hoped? While we put so much into our search, we realize we received so much more than our efforts warranted. When things like this happen, we can hear an echo of Jesus' introduction to the parables - with a slight modification, "There, that's what the kingdom of God is like!"

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY DAY



ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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 Marianne Berry
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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

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, Jo Brickhill.

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, Neil Osborne

Recently deceased:

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	BIRDWOOD Sunday 2nd August 8.30a.m.	LOBETHAL Sunday 9th August 8.30a.m.
Welcoming 1st Reader 2nd Reader Euch. Minister Cleaning	MaryNyerboer Jo Brickhill Roz Crossing Lea Crosby Ivy/Lauren Kelly	Gayle Raven Liz O'Flynn Gayle Raven Eric Toome Janet Harrison
BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 1st August 6.00p.m.	Sunday 2nd August 10.30a.m.
Sacristan Welcoming Reader 1 Reader 2 Euch.Ministers	Mark McGeough Kathy Lloyd Henry Duszynski Mark McGeough Stasia Duszynski	Gina Kelly Gina Kelly Nolan Parodi Paul Robinson Di Golding Colleen Sim John Leeton
Musicians Counters Cleaning Our Lady Flowers Tea & Coffee	Stephan & Jordan Connie Golding Rhiannon Dimasi Gloria Howe Family Farrugia	Ric Irons Janet Harrison Dan De Fazio
OLOR	Sunday 2nd August 5.30p.m.	Sunday 9th August 5.30p.m.
Welcoming Cleaning	Tom Keeyon Paula Kulas	Debbie Somers Paula Kulas

WEEKEND MASSES

Monday 27th Tuesday 28th Wednesday 29th Friday 31st Saturday 1st	Our Lady of the Rosary Rosary at the OLOR St Matthew's Birdwood St Matthew's Bridgewater Reconciliation	9.00a.m. 4.00p.m. 9.00a.m. 11.00a.m. 12.00p.m.
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UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sunday 26th	Grandparents Day	10.30a.m.
Tuesday 28th	Liturgy Group Meeting	11.00a.m.
Saturday 1st	Sacramental Workshop	1.00p.m.
Sunday 2nd	Ecology Meeting	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.
	The Assumption of Mary	
Saturday 15th	Holy Communion	
Sunday 16th	Children's Mass	10.30a.m.

BAPTISMS

St Matthew's Bridgewater	1ST and 3RD Sunday of the month during the 10.30a.m. Mass or 1ST and 3RD Sunday of the month at 12.15p.m.
St Matthew's Birdwood	1ST & 3RD Sunday of the month during 8.30a.m. Mass or 1ST & 3RD Saturday of the month at 11.30a.m.
St Joseph Lobethal	5TH Sunday of the month during 8.30a.m. mass OR 1ST & 3RD Saturday of the month at 11.30a.m.
Our Lady of the Rosary Stirling East	1ST & 3RD Sunday of the month at 12.15p.m.

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS TRAINING

The Safeguarding unit will host two face-to-face sessions for the Safeguarding Essentials Training in August. The first session is at Henley Beach Parish (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Henley Beach) on the 5th of August from 10:30am-12:30pm. The second session is at the Adelaide Cathedral Hall (39 Wakefield Adelaide) on the 20th of August from 10am-12pm. Please note that we unfortunately cannot offer parking to our volunteers as the car park is used for employees only. Please email Kerry Tantalos:@adelaide.catholic.org.au to register so that they can provide the correct amount of resources.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Solomon asked you, not for
a long life for himself,
nor for riches,
and not for the life of his enemies,
but for understanding,
to know what was right.
O God, give us, this day,
the understanding we crave
to see the wrongs that surround us.
Give us the will and the
courage to make them right.
Lord, give us the wealth of an
understanding heart.
Amen.

ECOLOGY MEETING

The group is inviting everyone to attend this meeting on Sunday 2nd August after the 10.30a.m. Mass at Bridgewater. This is an important group which came about after one of the proposals of the Parish Assembly.

The group at this stage is organising Working Bees every month at Bridgewater, recycling leaves into compost and plans to create a reflection garden. Please encourage the group with your presence.

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 7th August, Mass at St Matthew's Bridgewater at 11.00a.m will be followed by 20 minutes 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 know you are there and makes his way to the church.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY

On Sunday, we celebrate the sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. In his message for the day, which this year coincides with the Feast of St Joachim and Anne, Pope Leo XIV said: 'The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognise ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them.' We pray for all our grandparents, the elderly and those who play a mentoring role in our lives. May they know how much they are loved and appreciated.

ST DOMINIC FEAST

As our school is founded in the Dominican tradition, this term we celebrate the Feast Day of St Dominic, which falls on Tuesday 8th August. On Friday 7th August at 9.15am as part of St Dominic's Week celebrations, the Years 3/4 will travel to Bridgewater for Mass followed by morning tea at the OLAH Parish Hall. With this Friday being the First Friday of the month, there will still be the usual 11.00a.m. Mass.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

A kindly reminder to parents and children of our next workshop on the Eucharist that it is vitally important to attend this workshop as preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The workshop will be held at the OLAH Parish Hall at Bridgewater from 1.00p.m. on Saturday 1st August.

EUCHARIST 28

The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centered on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music – a truly 'once in a lifetime' experience, and a transformative moment for our nation. The theme for Eucharist28 is 'This is My Body, Given For You', which invites us to reflect on the words that Christ spoke as he instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Throughout the Church in Australia, we celebrate National Vocations Awareness Week from 1/2 August until 8/9 August. The theme of the first weekend is that every baptised Christian has a vocation and is called to holiness of life and to participate in the life and mission of the Church. On the second weekend, we specify this baptismal call further and celebrate and pray for an increase in the Vocations of the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Consecrated Life.

NORTHERN END MEETING

The next Northern End meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th July after the 9.00a.m. Mass. Agenda: use of the cup during weekday and weekend Masses, volunteers who have yet to complete the 90-minute online Safeguarding course, Northern End light lunch, thanks to CWL Birdwood for their help and contribution towards the Northern End churches.

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 2026 will be held from Monday 3rd August to Sunday 9th August. The theme for Homelessness Week 2026 is "Homelessness Action Now".

FEAST OF ST MARY MCKILLOP

The Feast of St Mary of the Cross McKillop will be celebrated at our parish on the weekend of the 8th/9th August during all our weekend Masses. After Mass, we will 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 the Assumption on 15th August. This year, the feast falls on a Saturday. It's a Holy Day of Obligation. To make things easier, a Vigil Mass will be held on Friday 14th August at OLAH at 6.00 p.m. and a Feast of the Assumption Mass on Saturday 15th August at Bridgewater at 9.00 a.m.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Sunday 16th August, the children in the Sacramental Programme will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Parishioners are invited to join the children, their families and friends to celebrate this important occasion by being present at the 10.30 a.m. Mass and to participate in the celebration after Mass in the Parish Hall. Please remember the children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

LITURGY GROUP MEETING

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-term 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. **Our next meeting is on Tuesday 28th 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 St Martha on the 29th of 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 Wednesday 29th July during the 9.00a.m. Mass at Birdwood.

WEEKLY INCOME 18TH/19TH July 2026

THANK YOU!

First Collection:	\$599.900
Planned Giving Received:	\$1801.00
Loose Plate:	\$149.00

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit, use the parish account below:
BSB 066 782
Account: 100000277
Refer payment as "Donation"

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Kings

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

RESPONSE

Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more
to me than silver and gold. R.

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight R.

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. R

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. R



The Sacramental Programme Class of 2026 reached a significant milestone in their faith journey on Friday 26 June when receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation from Vicar General Fr Dean Marin.

SECOND READING

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

We know that by turning everything to their good God cooperates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They said 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

READINGS NEXT WEEK 18th Sunday - Year A

FIRST READING	Isaiah 55:1-3
SECOND READING	Romans 8:35,37-39
GOSPEL	Matthew:14: 13-21