



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

18TH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

2ND/3RD AUGUST 2025

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

A man comes to Jesus with a legal concern. "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Did he think Jesus was a lawyer? A judge? Or perhaps just one of the rabbis well-versed in the Law? Maybe he hoped for a wise ruling. But Jesus sidesteps the request, as if to say, "There are courts for that." Still, he seizes the moment to teach. A parable follows, giving us a chance to reflect on our values, our priorities, and how we perceive life. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest..."

The story begins well enough. Who wouldn't want to be in the rich man's shoes? Security, abundance, prosperity. Picture his ample table, laden with food, surrounded by important guests. Picture his vast estate. His biggest problem? Where to store all his grain. Who wouldn't want such a problem? It's like winning the lottery—and now you have to decide how to spend it. But here comes the turning point: Just when we are lulled into comfort and admiration for this successful man, the parable turns. A verdict is delivered—harsh and sudden. God speaks: "You fool, this very night your life will be demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—to whom will they belong?"

What matters is this: In the midst of comfort and self-congratulation, the man's life utterly collapses. All is lost. Why? What caused his downfall? One striking detail: He speaks only to himself. "What shall I do?" "I will tear down my barns..." "I will say to my soul..." There is no one else in his world. No wife. No family. No mention of neighbours, friends, workers—or God. He is a man wrapped in his own echo chamber. He consults no one but himself. God calls him a fool.

He is deluded by his possessions. He calls them "good things." Today, we might say "blessings." "I'm so blessed," we say in comfort. But if we equate possessions with God's favour, what does that say about the poor—those who lack such "blessings"? What of their place in God's sight?

Let us remember: this man's logic earned him God's rebuke—"You fool. "In the light of this parable, being "rich in what matters to God" means something deeper. It means not making life's big decisions in isolation. It means discerning what God desires. It means praying—and listening. It means asking, "What next?"—and inviting others into the conversation, especially those whose lives are affected by our choices: spouses, families, colleagues, communities.

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

HOMELESSNESS WEEK



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.

August Anniversaries: Flo Wilckens, Ruth Howe, Peggy Starr, Liz Kenyon, Tommy Moore Jack Powell, Elda Frazer, Frank Russell, Christopher Way, Maria Tarca, Stella Fletcher, Sally Porter, Domenic, Nancy & Tony Puntoriero, Garry Phillips, Beth Smith, Kathleen White, Ray Miller, Rod White, Gwen Noye, Freda O'Brien, John Ostigh, Frank Smerdon.

Recently deceased Helen Healy, Neil Osborne

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 4th	Mass at OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 5th	Liturgy at St Catherine's	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 6th	Mass at Birdwood	9.00a.m.
Friday 8th	Mass at Bridgewater	11.00a.m.
Saturday 9th	Reconciliation	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES JULY/AUGUST

Sunday 3rd	Volunteering journey Bridgewater	
Tuesday 5th	Baptism 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	
Monday 25th	Fr Fred leaves for Malta	

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

If you owned all the clothes in the mall but you would not clothe the naked;
if you sipped tasty wines but didn't give up a glass of cold water;
If you took time to rake in money but did not spread love;
then, what would you have?
Lord help us to have what we need and anything else.



ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 10TH Aug 8.30am	BIRDWOOD Sunday 17th August 8.30a.m
Welcome	Gayle Raven	Jo Brickhill
1st Reader	Gayle Raven	Brett Thomas
2nd Reader	Michelle Chu	Michelle Thomas
Euch. Minister	Eric Toome	Eric Toome
Cleaning	Janet Harrison	Aivee & Lauren Kell

BRIDGEWATER	Sat 9th August 6.00 pm	Sun 10th August 10.30am
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Sacristan	Ann Teteris	Gina Kelly
Welcoming	Kathy Lloyd	Di Golding
Reader 1	Volunteer	Phil Schultz
Reader 2	Mark McGeough	Nolan Parodi
Euch. Minister	Kathy LLOYD	Gina Kelly
Musicians	Powerpoint	Damien Mansfield
Counters	Maria Thompson & Di Golding	
Cleaning	Otta Kovac & Hong Kim	
Our Lady	Di Golding	Di Golding
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kely
Tea & Coffee		

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

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.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

If you or someone you know is celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, we invite you to let the Parish Office know of their details so they can be acknowledged at the Anniversaries Mass on Sunday 28th September 2025 to be held in our Parish at the weekend Mass.

WALK A MILE IN MY BOOTS

Homelessness Week 2025 will be held from this Monday 4 August, to Sunday 10 August. It is the focus of the Hutt Street Centre's annual "Walk a Mile in My Boots" appeal. As a challenge to raise funds for this appeal, Alan Miller will be walking 10 miles (16 km) on each of the 7 days of this coming week. If you would like to support Alan in this fundraising effort, please visit his fundraising page by Googling 'walkamile/fundraisers/alanmiller'.

You can remain anonymous, if you wish. The Hutt Street Centre and Adelaide's homeless people will appreciate your generosity."

VOLUNTEERING JOURNEY

Volunteering can be an amazing journey for people to take. It's a great way to get out and get involved in your community. It's a journey where you can meet new people and discover talents that you may have never known you had. This journey is designed to help anyone prepare and take the first steps on their volunteering journey. This will commence in Bridgewater this coming weekend.

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 Bridgewater.**

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

Over the next two weekends throughout the Church in Australia we celebrate National Vocations Awareness Week. Today, we acknowledge the unique call and vocation that God has for each of us through our Baptism. We celebrate, affirm and pray for and acknowledge those called to the committed Single Life, Married Life and Family Life, as well as all Lay Ministries within the Church. We renew our commitment to be pilgrims of hope as we journey together each day. We pray that hearts will be transformed with Christ as our Anchor.

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 & LITURGICAL MUSIC CONFERENCE

The Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and the National Liturgical Council will present a joint National Conference at the Hilton Adelaide from 1st to 3rd October 2025. The Conference theme, Pilgrims of Hope: Transformed Through Sacrament & Song reflects and builds on the theme of the 2025 Jubilee Year. A vast array of workshops from expert Liturgists, Theologians, Composers, Educators and Musicians are on offer, promising to provide valuable formation for everyone involved in Parish liturgy, liturgical music and School liturgical life. This Conference presents an opportunity to renew, re-energise and revitalise liturgy and liturgical music in our Parishes. For full Conference information and registration, please visit:

<https://pilgrimsofhope.com.au/>.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

In our last PPC meeting Mark Simpson and Carla Thomas Mark provided a comprehensive report on school life. A discussion about how the parish currently supports Fr Fred in both liturgical and administrative areas. Council members acknowledged that while the current structure has served the parish well for many years, it is no longer fit for purpose in its present form. The growing complexity and volume of responsibilities, along with changes in volunteer capacity, require a thoughtful and forward-looking approach. A follow-up was provided on the safeguarding recommendations discussed at the June meeting. As parish-wide information sessions on safeguarding are not currently being offered, an interim solution has been introduced: all volunteers are to read and sign a safeguarding commitment form. Fr Fred presented a detailed financial update. The parish is in a healthy financial position, with sufficient funds to support ongoing maintenance and improvement projects.

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday 7th September	Father's Day
Sunday 14th September	Safeguarding Sunday Bridgewater/Family mass
Sunday 28th September	Feast of St Matthew Birdwood/Bridgewater
Sunday 5th October	Feast of St Francis
Sunday 12th October	Social Justice activity Lunch/speaker/Bridgewater Feast at the OLOR
Sunday 19th October	Jubilee celebration Parish Assembly Both at Bridgewater
Sunday 26th	Ecology Sunday St Catherine's School

Weekly Income 26th/27th July 2025 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$467.35
Planned Giving Received:	\$1350.00
Loose Plate:	\$157.15

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"

18TH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity! For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. .

You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. *R.*

You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. *R.*

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. *R.*

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. *R.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him. That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies.

You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and, in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to, do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say, to my soul: 'My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time.'" But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading	Wisdom	18:6-9
2nd Reading	Hebrews	11:1-2, 8-19
Gospel	Luke	12:32-48