

**ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH**

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.

1st/2nd AUGUST 2026**ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH**

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Safeguarding Officer
 Mark McGeough
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 Marianne Berry
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WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Matthew's Birdwood
 8.30am: 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month

St Joseph's Lobethal
 8.30am: 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month

St Matthew's Bridgewater
 6pm Saturday Evenings
 10.30am Sunday

Our Lady of the Rosary East Stirling
 5.30pm Sunday

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

The disciples are overwhelmed by what they see and the seeming insufficient resources they have. In this version of the story, there is no boy to provide the loaves and fishes for this miracle. The disciples have the food. Was it their own food for the trip? Is Jesus asking them to share out of their supplies? Is he asking them to risk it all, to take a chance at extravagant generosity? And they do – maybe this too is the miracle; the change in the disciples who now have learned that whatever they have, it will be more than enough in collaboration with Christ? They are learning to cast their lots with him, to risk what they have in his service. As we heard last week, the person who discovers the treasure in the field goes out and sells everything to buy the field and have the treasure. The disciples too are being invited to invest their all in Christ. Are we? Sell it all. Invest yourself in the One who will not disappoint.

We have Eucharistic ministers in our parishes who take the bread of communion beyond our assembly to those in "deserted places." That's often how the sick, dying, imprisoned and elderly feel in our society - deserted. They feel on the fringe of life, less than appreciated, less than valued. We send our Eucharistic ministers out to them with communion to tell them that they are part of us, part of the people being fed by God. They are not forgotten in their difficult places. The bread from our altar extends Christ's presence to them but also extends our presence. We invite the Eucharistic ministers today to share this Gospel story with the sick and to tell them that the community has prayed for them and shares with them our life and hope sustaining bread.

Many of us have sat beside the bedsides of the sick and dying. We have seen them with tubes in their nostrils and with needles in their arms. We feel useless and fragile before the enormity of their suffering and fears. We feel we should step aside and let the professional medical experts do their specialties; what can we do, after all? The disciples in the Gospel experience that same helplessness; so many hungry and so little to give them. Yet, Jesus urges, "give them something to eat yourselves." Give them what you can. We feel we have nothing to offer in the enormity of their need. Yet we do have something to give, the gift of our presence, as meagre as that feels. And so, we make the offering of ourselves. But Christ takes what we have to offer, blesses it, breaks it and gives more than enough nourishment to the hungry in a deserted place. And in giving ourselves, we become the "true presence" of Christ to others. Aren't we being challenged to look into our own resources, as insignificant as they may seem, and take the risk for "the crowd"?

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, Mirla Mills, Judy McPhee, Krystina Rowland, Carolyn Whitfield, Margaret Surguy, Damon Currow, Jo Brickhill.

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:

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 3rd	Our Lady of the Rosary	9.00am
Tuesday 4th	Mass at St Catherine's	9.00am
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00pm
Wednesday 5th	St Matthew's Birdwood	9.00am
Friday 7th	St Matthew's Bridgewater	11.00am
Saturday 8th	Reconciliation	12.00pm

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sunday 2nd	Ecology Meeting	11.45am
Tuesday 4th	Parish/school Meeting	9.45am
Wednesday 5th	Northern End Meeting	9.45am
Thursday 6th	Parish Finance Council	4.00pm
Friday 7th	Feast of St Dominic Yr3/4	9.00am
	First Friday of the Month	11.00am
Saturday 15th	The Assumption of Mary	
Sunday 16th	Holy Communion	10.30am
	Children's Mass	

BAPTISMS

St Matthew's Bridgewater	1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during the 10.30am Mass or 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 12.15pm
St Matthew's Birdwood	1st & 3rd Sunday of the month during 8.30am Mass or 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month at 11.30am
St Joseph Lobethal	5th Sunday of the month during 8.30am Mass or 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month at 11.30am
Our Lady of the Rosary Stirling East	1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 12.15pm

NATIONAL CENSUS

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics counts every person and household in Australia. The next Census is on **Tuesday 11 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.

Your assistance is appreciated.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	LOBETHAL Sunday 9th August 8.30am	BIRDWOOD Sunday 16th August 8.30am
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Welcoming
1st Reader
2nd Reader
Euch. Minister
Cleaning

Gayle Raven
Liz O'Flynn
Gayle Raven
Eric Toome

Mary Nyeboer
Brett Thomas
Michelle Thomas
Anne Moore
Ivy/Lauren Kelly

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 8th August 6.00pm	Sunday 9th August 10.30am
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Sacristan
Welcoming
Reader 1
Reader 2
Euch.Ministers

Mary Homann
Lyn Norris
Alan Miller
Joan Davey
Mary Homann

John Leeton
Di Golding
Nathan Sachse
Jordan Gansan
Deb Stapleton
Nolan Parodi
Nathalie Irons

Musicians
Counters
Cleaning
Our Lady
Flowers
Tea & Coffee

Stephan & Jordan
A Miller/B Robertson
B Sugars/O Kovac
Paula Zanchetta
Gloria Howe

Damien Mansfield
A Miller/B Robertson
B Sugars/O Kovac
Paula Zanchetta
Gloria Howe

OLOR	Sunday 9th August 5.30pm	Sunday 16th August 5.30pm
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Welcoming
Cleaning

Debbie Somers
Paula Kulas

Sue Manchip
Paula Kulas

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

O loving Father,
we thank you for inviting us
to partake in the heavenly feasting
and for the delicious banquet
you have prepared for us in Christ Jesus.
He is both the host.
He is the bread of the Word
and the bread and wine
of the Eucharistic sacrifice on the cross.
Strengthened by Jesus and
the power of the Holy Spirit,
we now overcome all kinds of trials,
difficulties and distress
through the love of God in Christ Jesus.
He is our Lord
and he lives and reigns,
forever and ever.
Amen.

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 11.00am 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 12.00pm. Please go to Parish House first to alert Fr Fred so that he knows you are there and can make his way to the church.

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 4th 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 11.00am Mass.

SOCIAL JUSTICE INVITATION - 9 AUGUST

There is nothing quite like the joy of a warm shower and the feeling of comfort when putting on freshly laundered clothes. However, for the homeless and for many facing hardship these simple pleasures/necessities do not exist. Orange Sky is a volunteer organisation which provides a free shower and laundry service to the homeless. If you would like to hear first-hand from an experienced volunteer from Orange Sky, please join the Social Justice team in the Parish Hall after 10.30am Sunday Mass at Bridgewater on 9th August. Homemade soup and fresh bread will be served (perhaps cake and coffee, too!). There is no charge but there will be the opportunity to donate to support the work of Orange Sky.

For catering purposes please email Cathie Oswald at: catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

If you or someone you know is celebrating a milestone (5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th) 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 20th September 2026, to be held in our parish at the weekend Masses.

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 5th August after the 9.00am 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".

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Our next meeting is on Thursday 6th August at 4.00pm at the OLAH Parish Hall in Bridgewater. This month's meeting has been changed to the first Thursday of the month.

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 OLOR at 6.00pm and a Feast of the Assumption Mass on Saturday 15th August at Bridgewater at 9.00am.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Sunday 16th August, the children in the Sacramental Programme will receive 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 10.30am Mass and to participate in the celebration after Mass in the Parish Hall. It would be appreciated if you bring a plate to share. Please too, remember the children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

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.

FIRST COLLECTION

Parishioners who intend to contribute to the First collection through Direct Debit are asked not to use the parish bank account. Please send your donation directly to the Presbytery Fund through Direct Debit Account name: CCES Dio Presbytery fund - BSB 085005 - A/C 58 535 3994 - Reference is parish name (Adelaide Hills)

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE

Season of Creation Gathering 2026

Caritas Australia and Catholic Religious Australia warmly invite you to participate in the Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Gathering 2026: Listen, Reflect, Act, a national online event on 3&4 September 2026.

The Gathering offers inspiring keynote presentations and practical workshops to help participants deepen their faith and respond to the call to care for our common home. Parishioners can register individually for \$20. Learn more and register: www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering

ALPHA COURSE

The Faith and Formation team plans to once again organise an Alpha course. This will be the fourth course that the parish will undertake. The first session is planned between October and November, on Saturday afternoons between 1.00pm and 3.00 pm. Alpha is an eight-week course that creates a space, in person, where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life and God. Think about it.

WEEKLY INCOME 25/26TH JULY 2026

THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$574.35
Planned Giving Received:	\$2985.00
Loose Plate:	\$95.55

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

BSB 066 782

Account: 100000277

Refer payment as "Donation"

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

RESPONSE

*The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.*

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.

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.

You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live R.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts R

SECOND READING

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

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God.

Alleluia!

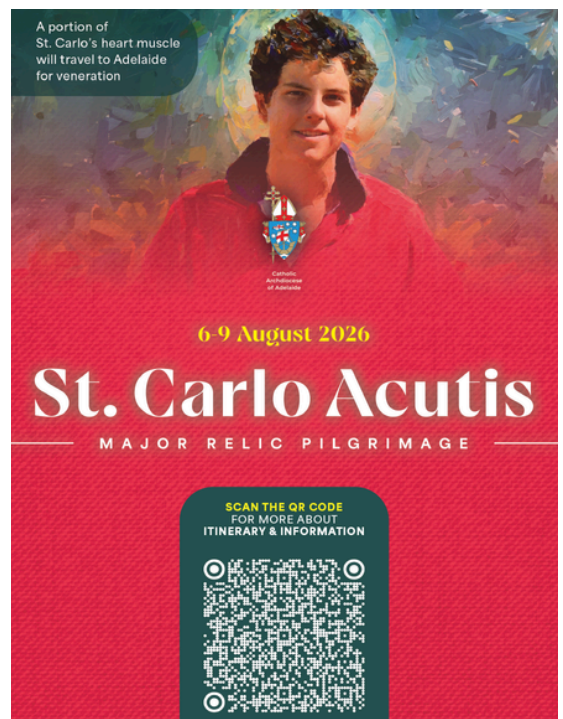
GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



NEXT WEEK READINGS

19TH SUNDAY YEAR A

FIRST READING	1 Kings 19-9, 11-13
SECOND READING	Romans 9:1-5
GOSPEL	Matthew:14: 22-33