



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

19TH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

9th/10th AUGUST 2025

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus proposes the parable of the late return of the master of the house-hold. The master expects the servants to be ready for him whenever he comes. But what an unusual master! When he arrives and finds them prepared, he puts on an apron to serve them. Is this a reminder for us to be vigilant and persistent in our service to others? When we are, we can be assured that the Lord is in our very midst, indeed, joining us in our service.

When can we expect the Lord to come to serve us, his disciples? Certainly at this Eucharist where Jesus feeds us his very life in his word and the bread and wine. But, according to the parable, he will also show up at times we do not expect him to enable us to serve him in the poor, among our coworkers and at our family dinner table, where his Spirit provides wisdom and sustains our desire to be his alert and faithful wit-nesses.

The servants who wait their master's return from the wedding are consistent in their waiting. They expect his return and are congratulated when he arrives. They did not know when he would come, but that did not diminish their vigilance, or expectation. The unusual feature of the master serving them may be a figure of Jesus' own death for us. It also directs us to the meal he serves us at our Eucharistic table. It is a meal for the present, but also for the coming days when we servants must return to our work responsibility as Jesus' vigilant laborers in the world. We want to be diligent in our work in the Kingdom here on earth. Jesus encourages us to sell and give our possessions to the poor. It is his Spirit that empowers us to trust in his being with us as we focus on our work for the Kingdom now and until he returns.

Let's join the Master's servants in their surprise. Who among them could have anticipated what they experienced; mere servants being treated with honour and dignity and served at the table by their master? What does that suggest to us servants in the Kingdom? Well, those servants didn't do anything extraordinary or praiseworthy. They just stayed faithful to their assigned tasks. The surprise came by way of an unexpected gift, the master served them.

Day by day we do what is expected of us: we serve the Lord in ways he has shown us by his life and death. Are we prepared to be surprised when he shows up? Do we sense his presence, for example, when a simple service project we work on evokes unexpected results we would never have anticipated? Or, when we have done our best to raise our kids and have felt inadequate to the task. Yet, they do something, or choose a way of life, that swells us with pride. How did that happen? The parable tells us: the Master surprises ordinary servants just doing the best they can. Surprise is another name for grace.

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

YOU ALSO MUST BE READY



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: Edward Woods

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 11th	Mass at OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 12th	Liturgy at St Catherine's	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 13th	Mass at Birdwood	9.00a.m.
Thursday 14th	Vigil/Mass/Assumption OLOR	6.00p.m.
Friday 15th	Feast of the Assumption	
	Mass at Bridgewater	11.00a.m.
	Evening mass at Bridgewater	6.00p.m.
Saturday 16th	Reconciliation	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES AUGUST

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	

ST MARY MACKILLOP PRAYER



Ever-generous God, You inspired St Mary MacKillop to live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and constant in bringing hope and encouragement to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.

With confidence in your generous providence and joining with St Mary MacKillop, we ask that you grant our request....

We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust, and openness.

Ever-generous God, hear our prayer. We ask this through Jesus Christ.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 17th Aug 8.30am	LOBETHAL Sunday 24th August 8.30a.m
Welcome	Jo Brickhill	Gaylr Raven
1st Reader	Brett Thomas	Anne Moore
2nd Reader	Michelle Thomas	Joan Murdoch
Euch. Minister	Eric Toome	M. Smitherman
Cleaning	Aivee & Lauren Kelly	Janet Harrison

BRIDGEWATER	Sat 16th August 6.00 pm	Sun 17th August 10.30am
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Sacristan	Mark McGoough	Di Golding
Welcoming	Karen Heusler	Gina Kelly
Reader 1	Mark McGeough	Nolan Parodi
Reader 2	Allan Miller	Phil Schultz
Euch. Minister	Anne Teteris	Di Golding
Musicians	Damien Mansfield	Powerpoint
Counters	Connie Golding & Janet Harrison	
Cleaning	Dwyer Family	
Our Lady	Di Golding	Di Golding
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly
Tea & Coffee	Volunteers	

OLOR	Sunday 17th August 5.30pm	Sunday 24th Aug 5.30pm
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Sacristan	Debbie Somers	Debbie Somers
Welcoming	Tom Keeyon	Debbie Somers

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.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Next meeting on Thursday 14th August at the OLAH parish hall at 4.00p.m. Agenda: the refurbishment of the parish house in Birdwood.

ROSARY AT THE OLOR

A kindly reminder that every Tuesday at 4.00p.m. we recite the rosary at the OLOR church. The business of life and the cold weather sometimes hinder us for attending. When you can, come join us as we recite the rosary for the intentions of those who attend.

HOLY COMMUNION

This Sunday 10th August during the 10.30a.m. Mass, our parish family celebrates First Communion. We congratulate our children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion. This will bring an end to this year sacramental program. We pray for the 18 children who were in the program that with their families they will continue in their commitment to receive the sacrament whenever they can as a family.

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.**

NATIONAL VOCATIONS WEEK

Today, the second weekend of National Vocation Awareness Week throughout the Church in Australia, we celebrate, affirm and pray for all vocations to the Consecrated Life of Sisters, Brothers and Priests, as well as to the Diaconate and Diocesan Priesthood.

We pray that each of these unique calls be heard and responded to with great generosity of heart as we journey together during this Jubilee Year with Christ as our Anchor.

There is a leaving collection today to support those studying for the Priesthood in our Archdiocese. Our seminarian, Godwin James is currently studying at the Holy Spirit Seminary in Brisbane. Please remember him in your prayers, as well as those preparing for the Permanent Diaconate.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Social Justice Sunday is observed every year on the final Sunday of August. This year's commemoration falls on August 31. The Catholic Church in Australia has a long tradition of commemorating Social Justice Sunday. The day is celebrated to remind everyone about the significance of social justice in our society. It addresses various issues, including poverty, inequality, and environmental concerns. The goal is to ensure that every person has access to basic human rights and opportunities, regardless of their background. By focusing on these topics, Social Justice Sunday aims to create a fairer, more equitable world where everyone can thrive. Social Justice Sunday also serves to educate people about the importance of solidarity and community support. It promotes understanding and action towards making positive changes in society.

This day is not just about recognizing problems but also about taking steps to solve them. By engaging in activities such as community discussions, charitable donations, and advocacy, individuals can contribute to a more just and inclusive society.

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
Sunday 19th October	Feast at the OLOR Jubilee celebration Parish Assembly Both at Bridgewater
Sunday 26th	Ecology Sunday St Catherine's School

SOUTHERN CROSS

Please buy a copy of the Southern Cross for this month. There is an interesting article about Des and Deb Stapleton on the pilgrimage they did in Italy. Each copy cost \$2 and \$1 goes to the parish.

IN A NUTSHELL

This document "In a Nutshell" was distributed a fortnight ago during all the weekend masses. All volunteers are asked to take a copy, read the document, and sign the last page. A kindly reminder to those who forgot to bring back their forms. Please bring the signed form as soon as you can. Those who did not attend these last two weekend masses and missed out, there will be copies at the back of the church. The signed form needs to be brought back to the church.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT & RETENTION Workshop

This practical workshop, 90 minutes, explores best practices for recruiting and retaining volunteers within Parish life and will be held on Thursday the 28th of August at 7pm at the Monastery in the Sebastian Centre behind the church. Everyone is welcome to come along and hear from Orla Wright about volunteers. Please RSVP to Sue Schulz, 83381277 or sue.schulz@themonastery.net.au for catering purposes.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our deeply sorry to Marianne Berry and her family on the loss of their father Edward (Ted) Thomas Woods who passed away on the 3rd August. Let us pray for Ted that God gives him eternal rest and to the family in this moment of grief.

BRIDGEWATER COMMUNITY MEETING

Our next Bridgewater community meeting will be held on Sunday 17th August after the 10.30a.m. The Agenda will include: Social Justice activities, things need to be done during Fr Fred's absence—Father's Day, Safeguarding Sunday. Feast of St Matthew, Parish Assembly, Jubilee celebration, & Ecology group.

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF GAZA

Caritas Australia invites us to light a candle and pray for the people of Gaza: God of light, you meet us in the darkest places. Every year, when we light our Easter candle, we pray 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.' We pray today that all people may work with you to dispel the darkness of violence and war. May this fragile light be a sign of our hope for the people of Gaza. May they find healing and lasting peace. (We also pray that the hostages living in captivity and dreadful conditions, will be released by Hamas and be reunited with their dear ones). Amen.

If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, please donate online at www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413.

Weekly Income 2nd/3rd August 2025 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$570.60
Planned Giving Received:	\$3530.00
Loose Plate:	\$209.30

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"

19TH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

A reading from the book of Wisdom

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own. R.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. R.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. R.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended. It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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