

**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.

8th/9th 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

We are tempted to ask a question faithful people have always faced: Where is God when I am in need? Where is Jesus in the midst of the storm? Matthew tells us he came to his disciples "during the fourth watch of the night." What took him so long? We don't understand the delay, especially considering the intensity of the struggle.

Maybe Jesus is not supposed to be "Mr Fix-it." He may not immediately end the storm, but instead enables us, with him, to walk on the stormy seas. He reprimands his disciples for not trusting his presence and strength while the seas were raging. It turns out they may not have felt his presence, but still, they were getting through the storm.

Jesus sent his disciples off in the boat, dismissed the crowds and then went off to pray. Jesus' powers are manifested right after prayer. The power to overcome storms seems to come from praying. Jesus prays at crucial points in the gospels: before important decisions; before and during his suffering and here, before he calms the storm. He is praying his disciples through the storm.

Would some of the storms we face be more manageable if we put aside time for prayer? To others, that might seem like a waste of time during an emergency. But the prayers and expressions of dependency on Christ aren't made on a retreat in the mountains somewhere, but in the midst of the crisis – brief prayers expressing trust and dependency on the God who speaks to us in whispers of assurance.

What are we doing in church today? We are storm walkers – asked to walk the stormy seas of involvement in complex issues, as well as family and community need. The waters may not be calm, but we are not alone. We keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and one another. He reaches out to each of us through the hands of this church community. We have gathered again to be reminded that we have company. Our companions are those who break bread with us today. Sometimes, we are the ones in need, and they offer us the bread of their lives to help us get through the storm. Other times we see someone who needs us for strength, courage and assistance and we reach out to them. After all, we are companions in the boat on stormy seas who share the Bread of Life in many ways with one another.

Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven

Honour this
 feast by
 attending
 Mass.

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick: Margaret Carroll, Betty White, June Harvey, Jeff Oliver, Mirla Mills, Judy McPhee, Krystina Rowland, Margaret Surguy, Damon Currow, Philip Glynn.

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 10th	Our Lady of the Rosary	9.00am
Tuesday 11th	Mass at St Catherine's	9.00am
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00pm
Wednesday 12th	St Matthew's Birdwood	9.00am
Friday 14th	St Matthew's Bridgewater	11.00am
Saturday 15th	Reconciliation	12.00pm

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sunday 16th	Holy Communion	
	Children's Mass	10.30am
Wednesday 19th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00pm
Tuesday 25th	Liturgy Group Meeting	11.00am
Tuesday 1st	School Board	6.00pm
Friday 3rd	Online season of Creation	
	First Friday of the month	11.00am
Saturday	Contemplative walk OLOR	9.00am
Sunday 6th	Father's Day	
Thursday 10th	Parish Finance Council	4.00pm

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	BIRDWOOD Sunday 16th August 8.30am	LOBETHAL Sunday 23rd August 8.30am
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Welcoming
1st Reader
2nd Reader
Euch. Minister
Cleaning

Gayle Raven
Brett Thomas
Michelle Thomas
Anne Moore
Ivy/Lauren Kelly

Mary Nyeboer
Simon Cox
Eric Toome
Margaret Smitherman

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 15th August 6.00pm	Sunday 16th August 10.30am
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Sacristan
Welcoming
Reader 1
Reader 2
Euch.Ministers

Joan Davey
Karen Heusler
Stephan Blanke
Mary Homann
Kathy Lloyd

Di Golding
John Leeton
Jordan Gansan
Paul Somers
Karen Dutton
Gina Kelly
Colleen Sim

Musicians
Counters
Cleaning
Our Lady
Flowers
Tea & Coffee

Damien Mansfield
M Feijen/K Dutton
Dwyer Family
Paula Zanchetta
Gloria Howe

PowerPoint
M Feijen/K Dutton
Dwyer Family
Paula Zanchetta
Gloria Howe
FIRST COMMUNION

OLOR	Sunday 16h August 5.30pm	Sunday 23rd August 5.30pm
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Welcoming
Cleaning

Sue Manchip
Paula Kulas

Jenny Johnston
Paula Kulas

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.

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The August issue of The Southern Cross newspaper is now in parishes, as well as online at The Southern Cross | South Australia's Catholic News. There are interviews with renowned Jesuit priest Fr Frank Brennan, Aboriginal rights activist John Lochowiak and four pages devoted to the upcoming Vocations Awareness Week. There is also a look-back at July's hugely successful NAIDOC Week.

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.

FATHER'S DAY

Is a time to celebrate fatherhood in all its forms - both individual fathers and the impact of fathers on society. Father's Day will be celebrated on Sunday the 1st of September in Australia. If you wish to have your father/grandfather/husband mentioned in that weekend, please put his name in the list provided at the back of the church.

FEAST OF ST MARY MCKILLOP



The Feast of St Mary of the Cross McKillop will be celebrated at our parish this weekend of the 8th/9th August during all our weekend Masses. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first canonised saint, was an ordinary woman who lived an extraordinary life.

As a woman of faith, courage and hope, she overcame many obstacles and challenges to create a legacy that continues to inspire today. After Mass, we will say special prayers in front of the image of St Mary of the Cross.

ASSUMPTION OF MARY

Next Saturday, August 15th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, our Mother. Although not questioned by Catholics, faith in the assumption of Mary became defined only in 1950 as belonging to Catholic faith. This was the highwater mark of Catholic devotion to Mary in the life of the Church. In a Church where women were its core in nurturing faith and in pastoral activities, while the visible and aspects of the Church was represented by men, the austerity of Catholic life and devotion was softened by praying to Mary as mother. Women, whose role in society was largely confined to the home, could identify with Mary's experience of childbirth and raising Jesus, with Mary as the mother whose child had left home, with her pride and anxieties as she followed his life, with her final cruel waiting with him at his public execution, and with Mary in hope of sharing in Jesus' glory.

To make things possible for everyone to attend Mass as it's a DAY OF OBLIGATION, 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.

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. In the context of the call to all the baptised, we especially pray for an increase in vocations to the Consecrated Life of Sisters and Brothers, to the Diaconate and to the Priesthood.

WALK A MILE

Leon and Leonie Holmes will be walking seven miles to raise money for the Hutt Street Centre for the Homeless. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Leonie. Thank you.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th August at the OLAH Parish Hall at 6.00pm.

GABRIEL MORGAN

The Ashes of Gabrielle & Michael Morgan will be interned on Friday 25th September at the OLOR Memorial Garden after the celebration of the Mass at the OLOR. Mass at 11.00am will be offered for the repose of the soul of Gabrielle and her husband, Michael. Please place this event in your diary.

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 also remember the children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Social Justice Sunday is observed every year on the final Sunday of August. This year's commemoration falls on 30th August. The Catholic Church in Australia has a long tradition of commemorating Social Justice Sunday. The Catholic Bishops have issued an annual Social Justice Statement practically every year since 1940. The social justice remarks are made on behalf of the entire bishops' conference in time for Social Justice Sunday. These declarations are issued with the hopes of provoking thought and action throughout the year.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The last meeting held last Thursday we welcomed Ben Sugars as a new member in the Council. The project of the renovation of the Bridgewater church we are waiting for the engineer report. We looked for the purchase of a coffee machine and the internet in our parish hall, the new sewage system at the Parish house in Birdwood has cost \$4991.43 Inc GST, the TOUCHSMS system that we are using to send SMSs to our parishioners, the development of a memorial Garden at Bridgewater and new hot water system for the Lobethal kitchen.

WEEKLY INCOME

1ST/2ND AUGUST 2026

THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$506.90
Planned Giving Received:	\$3275.00
Loose Plate:	\$143.00

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

BSB 066 782

Account: 100000277

Refer payment as "Donation"

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Kings

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.*

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. R.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven R.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps R.

SECOND READING

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

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ - it is the truth - my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it, too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed!
Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It is a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said, 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come,' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat, the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

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



We are being called on to find new and better ways to build community. Pope Leo's intention for this month is asking for prayers for evangelization in the city, Pope Leo touches on issues that concern the Church and our society. He also acknowledges that we do not have all the answers.

NEXT WEEK READINGS
20TH SUNDAY YEAR A

FIRST READING	Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
SECOND READING	Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
GOSPEL	Matthew:15: 21-28