



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

1ST SUNDAY of ADVENT YEAR A

9TH / 30TH NOVEMBER 2025

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Each week we will light another candle on our Advent wreath – a small sign of Christ's light growing stronger as his coming draws near. Though we wait in darkness, we are not without light. We can name the darkness in our world and in our hearts, but we also recognize the light of Christ already guiding us—step by step, Sunday by Sunday – until his light fills the world and no shadows remain.

Isaiah's grand vision may seem at odds with Jesus' words in Matthew, where he warns that the coming of the Son of Man will be sudden, as in the days of Noah, when people were unaware of what was coming. Isaiah's message is full of serene hope; Matthew gives a sharp warning. Yet, they complement each other. Isaiah shows us what we are waiting for – God's reign of peace and justice when hearts are converted and creation is healed. Matthew shows us how to wait – with alertness, readiness, and faithfulness in our ordinary lives.

Jesus says that in Noah's day people missed God's signs because they were absorbed in daily life – eating, drinking, marrying. There is nothing wrong with those things, but amid the humdrum, we must keep our hearts awake to God. Advent calls us to do just that – to live ordinary lives with extraordinary awareness.

Advent is not a season of anxious waiting, but of awakened living. If we want Isaiah's vision of a world transformed by God's peace, that transformation must begin within us. We prepare for Christ's coming not by wistful gazing at the heavens, but by living each day with love, mercy, and attentiveness – walking in the light God provides, especially in our Advent Eucharists, in Scripture, and in our conversations with one another.

Here is a prayer for Advent. I'm sorry I do not know the source.

Loving God,

you call us in this holy season to wake from our sleep and walk in your light. You promised peace for our world and hope for our hearts. As we begin our Advent journey turn our eyes toward your coming and make us ready to welcome you in every moment of grace.

Blessing:

"May the God of hope fill us with peace as we await God's coming. May God's light guide our steps and God's love make us one in faith and service.

Isaiah calls us to "beat swords into ploughshares." Advent challenges us to prepare for Christ's coming not merely through external observances, but through inner conversion – transforming whatever is harmful or divisive into something that nurtures life. Christ came to bring long-promised peace and calls us to become signs of that peace now.

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 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, Mirla Mills, Judith McPhee, Krystina Rowland, Carolyn Whitfield, Tanya Farrugia.

November Anniversaries: Thelma Smerdon, Fr Brian Schmidt, Stella Dacko, Frank Clements, Stephen Manna, Susanne Movat, Daniel Clements Tony Nichols, Mario Della Torre, Colin Sutton.

Recently deceased:

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 1st	OLOR MASS	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 2nd	Liturgy at St Catherine	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 3rd	BIRDWOOD MASS	9.00a.m.
Friday 5th	BRIDGEWATER MASS	11.00a.m.
Saturday 6th	RECONCILIATION	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Nov/Dec

Sunday 30th	Beginning of Advent	
Wednesday 3rd	Advent Reflection Birdwood	9.00a.m.
	Northern End meeting	10.00a.m.
Friday 5th DEC	First Friday of the month	11.00a.m.
Saturday 6th	Baptism Afternoon tea	2.00p.m.
Sunday 7th	Second Sunday of Advent	
	Stirling Christmas Pageant	11.00a.m.
Monday 8th	Feast Immaculate Conception	9.00a.m.
Wednesday 10th	End of year Mass St Catherine	9.15a.m.
Thursday 11th	Advent Reflection Birdwood	9.00a.m.
	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Friday 12th	Advent Penitential Rite	6.30p.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Come,
 Father, of all,
 wake us up for the
 coming of his kingdom.
 Let us find him now,
 in the crimson-coloured dusk,
 in his crescent moon and flying geese,
 see him in laughing children,
 and in brothers and sisters
 wherever we find them.
 Always awake, watching for him.
 with our hearts open wide,
 so we each and all can
 "greet him
 the days I meet him,
 and bless when I understand."



ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 7th Dec 8.30a.m.	LOBETHAL Sunday 14th Dec 8.30a.m
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Welcome`	Mary Nyeboeur	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Lea Crosby	Jo Brickhill
2nd Reader	Roz Crossing	Margaret S
Euch. Minister	Janet Harrison	Anne Moore
Cleaning	Lea Crosby	Connie Golding

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 6th Dec 6.00pm	Sunday 7th Dec 10.30am
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Sacristan	Joan Davey	Di Golding
Welcoming	Kathy Lloyd	Gina Kelly
Reader 1	Alan Miller	Christian D
Reader 2	Joan Davey	Paul Robinson
Euch. Minister	Deb Stapleton	Paris Huffman
Musicians	Helen Cantwell	PowerPoint
Counters	Maria Thompson &	Di Golding
Our Lady	Orma Paine	Orma Paine
Cleaning	Alan Miller & Ann	Teteris
Flowers	Gloria Howe	Gloria Howe
Tea & Coffee	Farrugia Family	

OLOR	Sunday 7th Dec 5.30pm	Sunday 14th Dec 5.30p.m
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Sacristan	Paul Anderson	Paul Anderson
Welcoming	Tom Kenyon	Debbie Somers

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE

Masses will be offered for the deceased relatives and friends for:

Lew Brickhill, Rita & Frances Gourley, Charles, Agnes, Norman & Veronica Davey, Bill & Margaret Guthrie, Terry, Eileen, Ann & Cyril Deed, Duszynski & Naraniecki families, Valentina & Zenon Sobocki, Maria & Adam Jezioranski, Malcolm Golding, Shirley Forster, Neil Osborne, John, David & Selena Murphy, Stephanus & Bernarda Bennink, Guilia, Paul & Lino Farrugia, Puntoriero & Thompson Families, Ermino & Maria Tarca and Families, John Ritz, Linda Radic, Tommy Moore, Catherine & Patrick Rooney, Eilish & Louis Donachy, John Crosby, Kerry-Anne Leewton, Troy Broadbridge, Janis Evans, Susan McLeans, Christine Evans, Ralph, Sylu & John Papandrea, Kath & Dan Nichols, Tony Clifford, Catherine & Alec Raven, Dorothy & John McKeown, Gay & Arthur Morris, Mary & Hubert Biggs, Brian Mackenzie, Brian Sachse, Claire O'Connor, Michael Grohs, Karmenu Farrugia, Olga, Karmenu & Carmelo Schembri, Jane Harrison, Kath & George White, Rosemary Hood, Audine & Julian Andrews, Neil Faggotter, Roos & Alma Anderson, Paul Millhouse, Sue Crabb, Ralf Lightfoot, Ruth & Les Howe, Glenda Le Gallant, Francis & Patrick O'Flynn, Paul Waul, the Preece family, Bill & Neil Guthrie, Greg & Elizabeth Rohan, Noel Dermody, Eva Burton, Brian Pyn, Margaret Pyne, Dr Remington Pyne, John & Joan Evans, John & Beverley Twelftree. Departed members of Huffman and family.

O Lord Jesus Christ, grant to the souls of the faithful departed, the full remission of their sins. Be mindful, most merciful Saviour, of that Soul in Purgatory who was most devoted to Thee in the Holy Eucharist. Shorten the moment of his deliverance, that he may glorify Thee, and aid me in my journey toward eternity. Amen.

NORTHERN END MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd December. We will commenced with Mass, morning prayer and the Advent reflection at 9.00a.m. followed by our usual meeting.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2025

This weekend marks the beginning of the Advent season. Advent is the beginning of the Church's Year. It is a time of promise, expectation and participation as we prepare for the great celebration of the birth of Jesus. Advent is the time we wait in joyful hope for our God to be born in our hearts. The season of Advent recognizes the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, in a special way. God's Son became one of us and one with us, to share our human experience fully and completely.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent. It is a circular candle holder that typically holds five candles. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday until all of the candles, including the fifth candle, are lit on Christmas Day. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Most Advent wreaths use three colors of candles – purple, pink, and white.

1st CANDLE – (purple) CANDLE OF HOPE We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. "And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:12-13)

PRAYER & REFLECTION DURING ADVENT

During Advent, every Wednesday at Birdwood during the 9.00a.m. Mass, we recite the morning prayer and meditate and share the Sunday's Gospel.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Friday 8th December. The Feast centers on the belief that Jesus' mother, the Virgin Mary, was conceived without sin. We will celebrate Mass of the Immaculate Conception next Monday at 9.00a.m. and 6.30p.m. the OLOR.

COLOMBAN CALENDARS

These calendars are at the back of the church. Profit goes to Vinnies and the parish. It's a perfect gift for Christmas for those who still prefer to have a calendar.

CHRISTMAS 2025

A Nativity tableau will form part of the Vigil Mass celebrations at St Matthew's Bridgewater on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December 2024 at 6.30 pm. Parents of children who are interested in participating in the Nativity Play should contact Fr Fred. Costumes provided. There will be one or two rehearsals prior to the performance with dates to be confirmed.

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Next Friday 5th December is the first Friday of the month. There will be the usual mass at 11am. at Bridgewater followed by 20 minutes of silent adoration and benediction. Afterwards everyone is invited for light lunch.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Just a kindly reminder to bring the envelope for the Vinnies Christmas appeal if you haven't done through Direct Debit. This is the time of year when we remember those who are less fortunate or are going through financial difficulties. God bless your generosity.

STIRLING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Sunday 7th December from 11.00a.m., the Stirling Community Christmas Pageant, Market and Fair will bring delight to all of the Hills Community. The parade commences on Druid Ave Stirling and makes its way to the Stirling Oval for the Fair and Market. The Fair and Market food stalls and many market stalls. Our Catholic community will participate in one of the food stalls offering egg and bacon sandwich and we will set up a Nativity Crib.

BAPTISM AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday 6th December at 2.00p.m. The Parish invites all families who have had their children baptised in the Adelaide Hills Parish to attend a Get Together/Christmas Afternoon Tea in the Parish Hall. St Nicholas will make an appearance during the afternoon with special treats for the children. For catering purposes please RSVP indicating numbers of adults and children to Cathie Oswald before Wednesday 3rd December.

NET FUNDRAISING FUN RUN

This year three of our youths Nathan Sachse, Georgia and Arabella Farrugia have returned from the NET experience. They wish to thank parishioners who supported them. Now they are asking if you could help them in this initiative to fundraise money for NET. This is happening on 7th December, 2025 for a fundraising fun race at John Miller Reserve, Somerton Park. People are asked for a 5:00pm arrival as the race starts at 5:30pm. You can run, walk or simply come along and enjoy the evening with some awesome people. Prices for registration are: Adults: \$20, Spectators: \$10 and Children Under 10: Free. There will be prizes. All proceeds go towards the mission of NET Ministries Australia and New Zealand. If interested speak to Nathan after Mass at Bridgewater.

VOLUNTEERING (1)

The benefits of volunteering in our parish are many. It nurtures a feeling of belonging, fosters spiritual growth, and contributes to personal fulfilment. Through volunteering experiences, you can develop valuable skills, uncover a greater sense of purpose, and build meaningful relationships. Very importantly, your actions as a volunteer can generate much positivity, bringing joy and support to our parish community and those you help.

Weekly Income 22nd/23rd November 2025 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$504.00
Planned Giving Received:	\$2401.00
Loose Plate:	\$96.45

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:
BSB: 066-782 Account: 100000277
Account Name CCES ADEL HILLS
Refer payment as "donation"

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come, the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains, and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David.

R

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!'

R

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

R

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light.

Let us live decently as people do in the day-time: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

1st Reading	Is 11:1-10
2nd Reading	Rom 15:4-9
Gospel	Mt 3:1-12