



ADELAIDE HILLS CATHOLIC 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

21st / 22nd FEBRUARY 2026

**ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH
Parish House**

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

The gospel reminds us that during Lent we can look death, or anything that threatens our vocation to follow God, in the face and not be afraid, because Jesus has entered our desert experience and come out triumphant. He has preceded us into the place of temptation, the desert, and can help us get through our own deserts, the places where, like the Israelites, we wandered from the path. We do not have to be afraid, we are not alone and today at this Eucharist Jesus will feed us himself, the desert bread that gives us life. There is consolation for us this Lent, even as we cast a sober glance over our lives, because we have been given hope that Jesus has looked into our darkness, seen us there and has come to pull us out. As God rescued the Israelites in their wanderings, so God comes again searching us out, bringing us home.

We have forty days ahead of us to make some choices. It is "focus time"— it's like going for an eye exam and the optometrist places those adjustable lens over your eyes and keeps asking, "Is it clearer now? How about now?" We have forty days to choose more positive ways of looking and acting. The scriptures will be like the lens the optometrist places before our eyes. We didn't think we had impaired vision, but then we were given a better lens and the blurred letters cleared up. So, it will be this Lent, as we listen to the scriptures and take them to heart, we will get our vision cleared. We will learn what Jesus taught us from the desert, "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." God wants to breathe new life into us again through the life-giving Word.

Thankfully we have not been left on our own. The gospel shows us that Jesus had more power than sin. With him we can overcome what we have not been able to on our own. Jesus resists the temptation to take care of his hungers by multiplying bread. He also resists the temptation to draw crowds by spectacular wonders and miracles. God will provide him and us the food we really need, when we need it – our "daily bread."

Jesus also resists the temptation to go through life on an easy ride; expecting no pain or harm to befall him. As the "beloved" shouldn't he expect God to protect him? And, if we are loved by God, why must we suffer? Jesus doesn't doubt God's love for him, even when he "falls" into the hands of those who hate him and reject his message.

Let's come to the Eucharist today aware of our deep-down hunger for God, who gives us Jesus' life for strength and his Spirit for guidance for our own particular wilderness struggle.

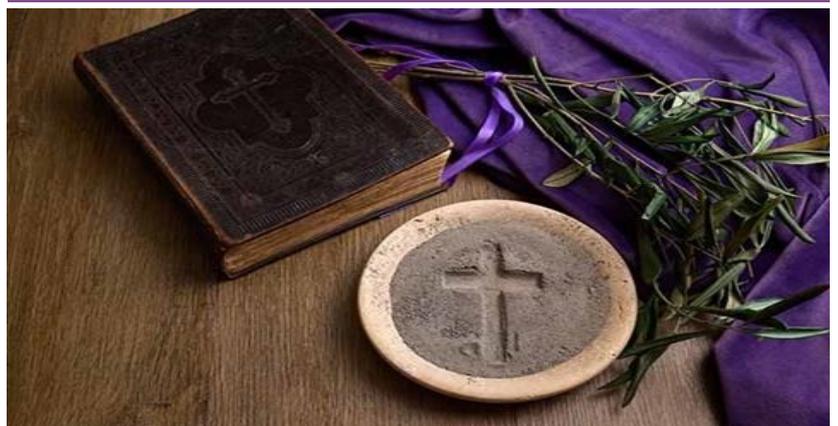
WEEKEND MASS TIMES

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

LENT—WELCOME GOD'S GRACE



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, Carol Irons.

February Anniversaries: John & Jill Balogh, Marianne Fischer, Ada Schultz, Margaret & Chappie Guthrie, Bob Disher, Fr Vincent Regan, Maureen Robinson, Marianne Fischer, Giulia Farrugia, Lino Farrugia, Bernarda Bonaci, Elisabeth Anderson, Bernie Leverington, Maria Scamoni, Valentine Sobecki, Eva Texler, Fred and Mary Tipler Brian and Margaret Tipler, Krystina Owerko, Maria Scamoni.

Recently deceased: Luzia Wohlfart

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 23rd	OLOR MASS	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 24th	St Catherine's—Liturgy	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 25th	BIRDWOOD MASS	9.00a.m.
Friday 27th	BRIDGEWATER MASS	11.00a.m.
Saturday 28th	RECONCILIATION	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Feb/Mar 2026

Sunday 22nd	First Sunday of Lent	
	Bridgewater comm. meeting	11.45a.m.
Tuesday 24th	OLOR community meeting	6.00p.m.
Wednesday 25th	DIALOGUE EVENING	6.00p.m.
Friday 27th	Working Bee Birdwood	9.00a.m.
Saturday 28th	Working Bee Bridgewater	9.00a.m.
	Volunteers Afternoon Tea	2.00p.m.
Sunday 1st	Second Sunday of Lent	
	Lenten Retreat	12.00p.m.
Tuesday 3rd	AGM—St Catherine's	6.00p.m.
Friday 6th	First Friday of the Month	11.00a.m.
	St Catherine's Yr 6 retreat	
	World Day of Prayer	10.00a.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus take us to the desert and stay with us.
 Speak to our hearts about all that matters.
 Chase away everything that doesn't.
 Caress our hearts so they know you better,
 see you more clearly in the suffering of your children and your planet.
 Let us say to all who suffer,
 "Your tears are my tears.
 Your pain is my pain."

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast meeting is scheduled for Saturday 2nd May 2026 at the OLAH Parish Hall, Bridgewater. Put this event on your diary and details will be given in due time.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 1st Mar 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 8th Mar 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Mary Nyeboer	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Roz Crossing	Anne Moore
2nd Reader	Simon Murphy	Marie Littler
Euch. Minister	Eric Toome	Janet Harrison
Cleaning	Michelle & Brett T	Gayle Raven

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 28th Feb 6.00pm	Sunday 1st Mar 10.30am
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Sacristan	Ann Teteris	Di Golding
Welcoming	Kathy Lloyd	John Leeton
Reader 1	Joan Davey	Christian D
Reader 2	Henry Duszynski	Paul Robinson
Euch.Ministers	Mary Homann	Paris Huffman
	Ann Teteris	John Leeton
		Deb Stapleton

Musicians	Helen Cantwell	PowerPoint
Counters	Kathrine Johnson & Ric Sachse	
Our Lady	Di Golding	Di Golding
Cleaning	Alan Miller & Ann Teteris	

OLOR	Sunday 1st Mar 5.30pm	Sunday 8th Mar 5.30p.m
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Welcoming	Debbie Somers	Sue Manchip
Cleaning	Jenny Johnstone	Deb Somers

PASTORAL LETTER FOR LENT By ARCHBISHOP

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, as we enter this holy season of Lent, we do so still walking in the grace of the Jubilee Year 2025.

Pope Leo's first words to the world were "Peace be with you". These words echo the greeting of the Risen Christ to his frightened disciples. These simple yet profound words are not merely a wish or blessing, but an encounter with the One who speaks them. They invite us to meet the Lord Jesus himself, the Prince of Peace, who stands among us even now, offering what only he can give.

1. Christ's Peace in a Troubled World: When Jesus appeared to his disciples on that first Easter evening, they were locked in a room, paralysed by fear. The One they had followed was dead. Their dreams lay shattered. The authorities might come for them next. Their world had collapsed. Into that locked room, into that paralysing fear, came Jesus. Not with recriminations, not with demands, but with a simple greeting: "Peace be with you." And in speaking those words, he showed them his hands and his side—the wounds of his passion, now transformed into signs of victory over death itself. This is the Lord Jesus who greets each of us today. Not as a distant memory from two thousand years ago; not merely as a moral teacher whose wisdom we try to follow, but rather as the Risen Lord who is alive, present, and actively offering us his peace. The Lord Jesus comes to us in our locked rooms: our anxieties, our divisions, our fears, and speaks the same words to each of us directly: "Peace be with you." (to be continued)



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

LENT 2026

1st Sunday of Lent Year A Gospel narrates to us Jesus' preparation for his Public ministry, spending forty days and forty nights in prayer and fasting after being led by the Spirit into the wilderness. During his stay in the desert, Jesus was tempted by the devil who used Scriptural passages. The 2026 Lenten Reflection booklets from the Archdiocese will be delivered to each family across our parish to make sure that each family has access to a prayerful resource that can be used in a group setting or at home this Lenten season.

PRAYER SERVICE

at the Northern End during Lent, Sunday gospel reflection of the coming Sunday in Lent is mediated on Wednesday after 9.00 a.m. Mass This is a wonderful opportunity to gather the community in prayer as together we journey through the weeks of Lent

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, every Friday at 11.00 a.m. followed by Mass. The 14 Stations are often prayed during Lent, The prayer consists of passing from station to station and meditating on each incident through prayer and reflection. This devotion is a good way to walk with Jesus and meditate on his passion and to allow Jesus to walk with us in our daily lives and struggles.

LENTEN RETREAT

The retreat will be held on Sunday 1st March at Bridgewater for 12.00p.m. with light lunch with 12.00p.m. start to finish around 2.00p.m. The retreat will be delivered by Fr Fred on the reflections by Bishop Barron.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising appeal. For more than 60 years, it has brought together schools, parishes, communities and individuals to reflect, pray and take action, helping to create a more just world for all. Your support through Project Compassion helps transform lives – bringing clean water, education, healthcare and opportunities to communities facing poverty and injustice. See how you can help **Unite Against Poverty**.

WORKING BEE BRIDGEWATER AND BIRDWOOD

Parishioners are asked to spare two hours on a Saturday 28th February morning for the Working Bee at St Matthew's, Bridgewater and on Friday 27th February at Birdwood both at 9.00a.m. Both in Bridgewater and Birdwood there are many jobs which need to be done to keep the church and hall precinct in good repair and appearance, and we rely on our parishioners to get the work done. The more volunteers we have, then the more we get done. If you can help, even if it is only for an hour. If you are available and willing to help, please contact John Leeton (Bridgewater) and Kevin Tipler (Birdwood) No particular skills or talents required just a willingness to help our Parish Community.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

This year we have 13 children doing the sacraments. Last Sunday at the picnic they did the Ritual of Belonging, reaffirm their commitment to the program which will take the children in their faith journey to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist. Let us pray for these children and their families as they continue to journey in their Christian faith.

DIALOGUE WEEK DAY

In our last PPC meeting held on Wednesday 4th February, we designated Wednesday 25th February as Dialogue Evening in preparation for the 2026 Archdiocesan Synod. The Dialogue Evening will be an open invitation to everyone to attend. This is another opportunity to gather, reflect on the themes and recommendations of the Synod, and provide feedback to the Archbishop and Synod members. The event will start at 5.30p.m. for a light supper for 6.00p.m start, at the OLAH parish hall and will finish by 7.30 p.m. My wish is that a good number of parishioners will attend this event and for catering purposes there is a list at the back of the church.

INTRODUCTION OF CUP FOR COMMUNION

Since the beginning of Covid-19, we have been missing that something. Withholding the chalice was a worthwhile precaution (even if there is little reason to believe drinking from the common cup brings a high risk of contracting Covid-19). But as restrictions on daily life during the pandemic continue to be dropped, the time has come as a parish to reconsider this sacramental restriction and recommit to the preciousness of receiving from the chalice of salvation. This will commence on Sunday 28th February in all the weekend masses.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 5th March, 2026 and the writing committee is Nigeria. The theme is "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Parishioners are invited to attend this Ecumenical service - please save the date and attend. The World Day of Prayer Service for the women of Nigeria will be held at Church of the Ascension, 2 Arkaba Rd, Aldgate, at 10.00a.m.

PARISH PICNIC

Thanks to all those who were involved in the Parish/School picnic last Sunday. The fine weather encourage many families who attended the event. Everyone had such a wonderful time together. It was such a good occasion for the parish and school to come together. Thanks to Cathy who organised the event, the music ministry, the CWL Birdwood/Stirling for providing coffee/tea, the men's group for the sausage sizzle and the games and the sound system and the Oakbank race course for allowing to have the picnic at their place

OLOR COMMUNITY MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th February at Paul Anderson's residence at 6.00p.m. On the Agenda: the artificial lawn in the Memorial Garden, the Lenten Program and Financial report 2026.

Weekly Income 14/15th February 2026 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$456.95
Planned Giving Received:	\$1891.00
Loose Plate:	\$209.50

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:
BSB: 066-782 Account: 10000277
Account Name CCES ADEL HILLS
Refer payment as "donation"

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

R.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

R.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

R.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

R.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

1st Reading	Genesis 12:1-4
2nd Reading	2 Timothy 1:8-10
Gospel	Matthew 17:1-9