



20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

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.

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

15th/16th August 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

The woman's blight in this Sunday's Gospel is not primarily one of religious doctrine. Her daughter, she says is "tormented by a demon." At its heart, this is a story of a mother with a terribly distressed child. Who knows what strange behavior the child was manifesting. Perhaps she was even there with the mother. The times have changed a lot since Jesus' day when illness or mental afflictions were attributed to roaming demons who happened to pounce upon and possess a person. But we don't have to look far to be able to name a father, mother or grandparent suffering because of a child. Notice the mother's request, "Have pity on ME..." ----such is the suffering a parent takes on when a child is distressed. Indeed, the parent would rather suffer in place of the child and is indeed suffering at least as much as the child. We pray for parents in the congregation today who are voicing a similar prayer for a child or grandchild, "Have pity on me, Lord....My daughter/son/grandchild is tormented."

Some children seemingly change overnight and exhibit clear signs of torment--- from drugs, alcohol, sexual addiction, abuse, rebellion, etc. They show "possessed behavior": turning on parents, family, friends and teachers; becoming violent, drifting, turbulent, troublesome at school; associating with a new and rough element; becoming indifferent in class and rejecting activities they once loved. What a torment for those who love them! Most often, even before we pray for ourselves, we offer desperate prayers for these children we love so much and can't seem to help. How many parents, desperate to help their children, like the Canaanite woman, have accompanied them to talk to teachers, or sit hours with them in the company of counselors and therapists to calm their troubled and tormented spirits? All the while, voicing in these or other words, this Canaanite mother's prayer, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David. My daughter/son is tormented." The woman's story also reminds us that we too have come to Jesus through the Jews. We share the same faith; we see the hope this faith gave our ancestors in their wait for salvation. We are reminded we have no claim to priority with Jesus. With the woman and her daughter, we are recipients of grace---all has been freely bestowed on us. What we see with this gift of sight is the God Jesus reveals to the woman; a God who would draw us close, sees our distress and helps us.

GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY ARE FOR EVERYBODY

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



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.

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: Philip Glynn.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 17th	Our Lady of the Rosary	9.00am
Tuesday 18th	Mass at St Catherine's	9.00am
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00pm
Wednesday 20th	St Matthew's Birdwood	9.00am
Friday 22nd	St Matthew's Bridgewater	11.00am
Saturday 23rd	Reconciliation	12.00pm

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 18th	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 5th	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

FATHER'S DAY

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's Masses, please put his name in the list provided at the back of the church.

COFFEE MACHINE AND INTERNET

I am looking to buy a coffee machine for the OLAH parish hall at Bridgewater for about \$1000. Can someone who is an expert on coffee machines help me to buy a good one. I will also appreciate it if someone takes the responsibility of installing the internet into the hall.
FR FRED

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	LOBETHAL Sunday 23rd August 8.30am	LOBETHAL Sunday 30th August 8.30am
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Welcoming 1st Reader 2nd Reader Euch. Minister Cleaning	Gale Raven Simon Cox Eric Toome M. Smitherman	Gayle Raven Anne Moore Maria Littler Janet Harrison
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BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 22nd August 6.00pm	Sunday 23rd August 10.30am
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Sacristan Welcoming Reader 1 Reader 2 Euch.Ministers	Joan Davey Karen Heusler Joan Davey Mary Homann Stasia Duszyński	Gina Kelly Gina Kelly Paul Robinson Phil Schulz Nolan Parodi Colleen Sim Karen Dutton
Musicians Counters Cleaning Our Lady Flowers Tea & Coffee	Helen Cantwell K Johnson/R Sachse K Dutton/volunteer Paula Zanchetta Gloria Howe	Youth Group K Johnson/R Sachse K Dutton/volunteer Paula Zanchetta Gloria Howe

OLOR	Sunday 23rd August 5.30pm	Sunday 30th August 5.30pm
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Welcoming Cleaning	Jenny Johnston Paula Kulas	Kathy Decosta Paula Kulas
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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, who have prepared
for those who love you good things
which no eye can see,
fill our hearts,
we pray, with the warmth
of your love, so that,
loving you in all things
and above all things,
we may attain your
promises, which surpass
every human desire.
Amen

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The August issue of The Southern Cross newspaper is now in parishes, as well as online at This issue carries interviews with renowned esuit priest Fr Frank Brennan, Aboriginal rights activist 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.

CWL STIRLING

Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 19th August, 2026 at 12.30pm with sandwich for 1.00pm start - OLAH Parish Hall - Look forward to seeing CWL members and interested ladies parishioners. Pam Broadbridge - 8339 5013.

CWL STIRLING FATHERS' DAY RAFFLE

The CWL will be holding its usual Father's Day Raffle. Tickets are \$2 each and available before or after Mass. Thanks to OFFE Jewellers for kindly including a gift. Thanks to all parishioners for supporting the raffle.

QUEENSHIP OF MARY

Queenship of Mary Feast Day is 22nd August. In this feast, particularly cherished by the Popes of modern times, we celebrate Mary as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Pope Pius XII in the Papal Encyclical *Ad Coeli Reginam* proposed the traditional doctrine on the Queenship of Mary and established this feast for the Universal Church eight days after the Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. Mass of the Queenship of Mary will be celebrated on Friday 21st August at Bridgewater during the 11.00am Mass.

THE BRIDGE

The August edition of The Bridge is now available at the back of the church. Please take your copy. You can spread good news by placing the magazine in the waiting room when you go for any appointment such as those at medical or dentist clinics. You can also hand the magazine to your friends. God works in mysterious ways!

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHANGE OF DATE

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th August at the OLAH Parish Hall at 6.00pm.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

The team would like to thank all parishioners who came to hear our guest speaker from Orange Sky last Sunday. Mikaela Rawlings spoke of the work which the Orange Sky team of volunteers do throughout Australia, providing warm showers and clothes washing facilities to the homeless. A very generous \$620 was donated by those who attended to support the work of Orange Sky. Thanks to the group who provided lunch to all who attended.

SAFEGUARDING COURSE MESSAGE FROM KERRY TANTALOS:

What a fantastic effort, and some impressive numbers! I think Adelaide Hills currently has the highest training completion rate, so congratulations to you and your team (only 29 left).

Although Adelaide Hills has not officially been within my zone for the past few months due to a shuffle of zones, I have been happy to continue assisting while we've been waiting to recruit another Training and Safeguarding Officer.

Now that Caroline has stepped into the Assistant Manager role, we are finally in a position to fill the vacant Training and Safeguarding Officer position. Once the successful applicant commences, I'll be able to do a handover with them, and they will be in touch to introduce themselves.

ECOLOGY GROUP

The group met on Sunday 2nd of August after the 10.30am Mass at Bridgewater. While we had a couple of apologies, in the end, John Leeton, Fr Fred and Liz Faggotter attended the meeting. We discussed the Season of Creation program - the online workshop on 3rd and 4th of September, a national online gathering to listen deeply, reflect faithfully and act courageously in care for all creation; Saturday 5th of September, the Contemplative Walk besides the OLOR at 9.00am; Ecology Sunday at St Catherine's on Sunday 18th October at 10.30am; the Mt Pleasant RECREATE visit on Friday 16th of September, with Mass at Birdwood at 9.00am before proceeding to the Centre, followed by lunch.

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 a 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

We congratulate our 13 children who this Sunday at Bridgewater during the 10.30am Mass will receive for the first time Holy Communion. We pray for the children and their families that they continue in their journey of faith strengthened by the Eucharist.

NORTHERN END COMMUNITY

A big thanks you to the community who donated \$1,200 for the processional cross for the Lobethal church. Thanks also goes to Paul Anderson from the OLOR community who donated the two processional candle holders and Joh Leeton who made the stand for the candle holders.

LOOKING FOR A BELL

have been trying all possible means to find a suitable bell for our new belfry at Bridgewater. The size of the bell is around 16kg, 295mm, dis3. I have asked other Christian denominations but without any success. Maybe you know someone who has a hidden bell in his shed. At this stage I am looking at the possibility of having a new bell if I don't succeed in getting a second hand bell.

FR FRED

WEEKLY INCOME 8TH/9TH AUGUST 2026

THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$561.60
Planned Giving Received:	\$1685.00
Loose Plate:	\$233.35

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

BSB 066 782

Account: 100000277

Refer payment as "Donation"

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. R.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. R.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. R.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

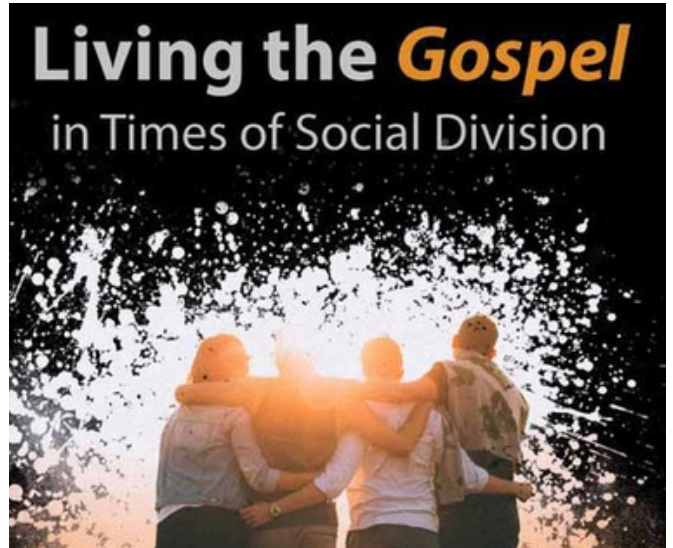
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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



Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division was released on 7th August and is the second of two Social Justice Statements for this year. Released for reflection and discussion in the lead-up to Social Justice Sunday the 30th August.

NEXT WEEK READINGS
21st SUNDAY YEAR A

FIRST READING Isaiah 22:19-23
SECOND READING Romans 11:33-36
GOSPEL Matthew:16:13-20

