



21st 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

22nd/23rd August 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Peter responds, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." People may have had differing opinions, but they seem to have agreed that they saw Jesus in the line of the great prophets. His words and life had revealed to them that he must be speaking with the authority of God. High praise indeed! But Jesus disregards those opinions and asks the question more directly to his disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" Jesus says Peter's response, that Jesus is the Son of God, is not a conclusion mortals can attain on their own. We cannot come to the faith we profess at the Eucharist without being called and gifted by God. That gift of sight is something to give thanks for at this celebration.

The faith Peter and the disciples come to profess in Christ should not be kept to themselves. They must not form a secretive and isolated sect that will strive to avoid contamination from the world. Quite the opposite. Peter speaks the faith of the post-resurrection church. This is the faith Jesus will send them out to proclaim. Peter will bear the keys, like Eliakim in our first reading, who carried "the key of the House of David." Peter will have the mission of stewardship to lead the early church by his preaching, teaching, example and his ultimate martyrdom.

Peter's faith will be accepted by many and those who profess it will be strengthened as they face persecution; the long wait for Jesus' return; internal conflicts that would shake the church to its foundation and pastoral disputes. Peter and the disciples will be instructed to do as Jesus did for them; to be a servant church and wash the feet of others. Their task will be to lead others to accept Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God," and to sustain and serve the community as its members attempt to live out the faith in the One they profess.

Jesus said he would build his church on rock. Sometimes it feels that the church is less on rock and more on sand. We have all sorts of divisions that distract our energies and create an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust. It doesn't feel like a rock-solid church, does it? A quick survey of our history reminds us that we aren't going through anything those before us didn't also go through in one way or another. From the very beginning, we have had both saints and sinners among our popes, bishops, priests, religious and laity. At times it is very discouraging. At those low moments, when we feel our dreams and ideals are under siege, we might want to repeat as a mantra what Jesus promised, "...the gates of the nether world shall not prevail against it."

We give praise today that, despite our less-than-stellar performance as the people of God, Christ has not abandoned us. We can praise God today for the prophetic leaders we have had in our past and have today who: speak out against war and the death penalty; defend innocent and unborn life; protect the rights of those displaced by famine and civil war; provide shelter for the homeless and abused; etc. In our church, while there are signs of our shaky faith, there are also ample reminders that Christ is very much with his church. Just as he promised he would be.

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

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN



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 24th	Our Lady of the Rosary	9.00am
Tuesday 25th	Mass at St Catherine's	9.00am
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00pm
Wednesday 26th	St Matthew's Birdwood	9.00am
Friday 28th	St Matthew's Bridgewater	11.00am
Saturday 29th	Reconciliation	12.00pm

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 25th	Liturgy Group Meeting	11.00am
Tuesday 1st	School Board	6.00pm
Thursday 3rd	Online Season of Creation	9.00am
Friday 4th	First Friday of the Month	11.00am
Sunday 6th	Father's Day	
Wednesday 8th	Birth of the Virgin Mary	
Thursday 10th	Parish Finance Council	4.00pm
Saturday 12th	Contemplative Walk	9.00am
Sunday 13th	Feast of St Matthew	
Tuesday 15th	Baptism Team Meeting	11.00am
	Faith & Formation Team	6.00pm
Thursday 17th	Parish/Team Meeting	10.00am
Sunday 20th	Safeguarding Sunday	
Tuesday 22nd	Parish/School Meeting	9.45am
	Ministers of the Sick	11.00am
	OLOR Community Meeting	6.00pm
Tuesday 29th	Liturgy Meeting	11.00am

THE HOLY ROSARY

A kindly reminder that every Tuesday at the OLOR church, we recite the Holy Rosary at 4.00pm. Pope Leo has asked all Catholics to recite the Rosary. Sometimes it's difficult to stop what one is doing in the fast world we live in. Still, we need to remember that it's so important to find time to pray with the community to honour the Virgin Mary.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday on Sunday 13th September a day on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that builds and supports safe communities for all people. As a parish in conjunction with the Children's Mass at Bridgewater, we celebrate it on Sunday 20th September.

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF MARY

Details on what we are planning to celebrate the feast of the Virgin Mary on Wednesday 8th September will be shared in due course. Hopefully, we have Mass at St Matthew's Bridgewater followed by a celebration in the OLAH Hall.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	LOBETHAL Sunday 30th August 8.30am	BIRDWOOD Sunday 6th September 8.30am
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Welcoming
1st Reader
2nd Reader
Euch. Minister
Cleaning

Gayle Raven
Anne Moore
Marie Littler
Janet Harrison

Mary Nyeboer
Roz Crossing
Simon Murphy
Eric Toome
Anne Moore/Eric Toome

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 29th August 6.00pm	Sunday 30th August 10.30am
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Sacristan
Welcoming
Reader 1
Reader 2
Euch.Ministers

Kathy Lloyd
Lyn Norris
Henry Duszynski
Stephan Blanke
Mary Homann

John Leeton
Gina Kelly
Phil Schulz
Christian Dumancelu
John Leeton
Di Golding
Jenny Porter

Musicians
Counters
Cleaning
Our Lady
Flowers
Tea/Coffee

PowerPoint
MThompson/DGolding
Volunteer needed
Paula Zanchetta
Gloria Howe

PowerPoint
MThompson/DGolding
Volunteer needed
Paula Zanchetta
Gloria Howe

OLOR	Sunday 30th August 5.30pm	Sunday 6th September 5.30pm
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Welcoming
Cleaning

Kathy Decosta
Paula Kulas

Rosy Jones
Sue Manchip

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God,
who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love
what you command
and to desire what you promise, that,
amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found.
Amen

CWL STIRLING FATHER'S 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.

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 6th 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

HOLY COMMUNION

We congratulate our 13 children who last Sunday at Bridgewater during the 10.30am Mass received 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.

LOOKING FOR A BELL

I 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. I have asked other Christian denominations but without any success. Maybe you know someone who has a hidden bell in his or her shed. At this stage, I am looking at the possibility of buying a new bell if I don't succeed in getting a second hand one.

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!

SOUTHERN CROSS

There are still some copies left of the Southern Cross. Please buy a copy for \$2, and 50% goes to the parish.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Please support the Catholic Charities 2026 Appeal – a brochure will be handed to each family next weekend. You can also make donation online www.adelaide.catholic.org.au or via Catholic Charities Appeal, Reply Paid 912, Adelaide SA 5001. Or visit Catholic Charities pages on their website. Donations of more than \$2 are tax deductible.

PARISH PASORAL COUNCIL

The meeting always commence with a moment of prayer by reflecting and sharing on the Sunday's Gospel. We continue to discuss the role of the Chairperson of the PPC. The minutes of July meeting were approved. Mark McGeough, in absentia, gave his report on Safeguarding, mentioning that he and Fr Fred met with Karen Dahmen, who is collecting data on the safeguarding course. Special mention was made that our parish is one of the leaders in the area of safeguarding. The school report by John Low, also in absentia, reported on St Dominic's Week, CESA Catholic Identity & Mission Strategic Workshop, attendees committed to strengthening Catholic identity and mission as schools plan for 2027, as well as the Learning Fair and Instrumental Evening, which provides students with an opportunity to share their learning journey with their parents and celebrate their achievements. Fr Fred presented the July financial profit and loss report, while the Northern End and OLOR reports were given by Eric Toome and Deb Somers respectively.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt prayers and condolences to the Glynn family who are grieving the loss of their loved one Philip, especially his wife Anne and Philip's children. May the Lord's comfort and peace surround you, and may you find strength in His promise of eternal life. Philip's funeral Mass will be held on Friday 28th August at St Matthew's Church, Bridgewater at 2.00p.m.. Philip was a regular parishioner who attended the Sunday evening Mass at the OLOR. May God give him eternal rest.

INVITATION

The Most Reverend Archbishop Patrick O'Regan DD has the pleasure of inviting the parishioners of the Adelaide Hills Parish to join him on the occasion of Fr Alfred Farrugia's 40th Anniversary of his priestly ordination at the Mass for Jubilarian Priests, on Wednesday 16th September at 5:45pm at St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide.

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE

Season of Creation Gathering 2026

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September.

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. Our parish, together with Mt Barker Parish, will feature the sessions at OLAH Parish Hall. Lunch will be provided.

Time: 10.00am to 4.30pm

This is a two-day online gathering designed to support both shared formation and practical action:

- Thursday Formation for All - Keynote presentations offer shared formation, encouraging participants to deepen their understanding of integral ecology.
- Friday Workshops - Workshops exploring current environmental challenges and opportunities for action, helping participants identify tangible ways to care for our common home across parish, organisation, school and ministry contexts.

If you plan to attend any of the sessions, please add your name to the list provided at the back of the church.

CONTEMPLATIVE WALK FOR ADULTS

This is a 15-minute guided contemplative walk focusing on Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* and selected scripture. It is inspired by St Francis' Prayer of Creation and designed to be a guided walk for a group prayer experience. Our parish will be organising this contemplative walk on Saturday 12th September at the grounds around Our Lady of the Rosary Church, commencing at 9.30am. This is another activity from the Ecology Group to celebrate the Season of Creation.

ALPHA COURSE

The Faith and Formation Team plans to once again organise an Alpha course. This will be the fourth course the parish will undertake. The first session is planned between October and November, on Saturday afternoons between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. 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. Details will be given after the meeting of the Faith and Formation Team.

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.

WEEKLY INCOME 15th/16thTH AUGUST 2026

THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$492.85
Planned Giving Received:	\$1415.00
Loose Plate:	\$346.40

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

BSB 066 782

Account: 100000277

Refer payment as "Donation"

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands*

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you,
I will adore before your holy temple. R.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. R.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal, R.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen. eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word.
Thanks be to God.

NEXT WEEK READINGS

22nd SUNDAY YEAR A

FIRST READING	Jeremiah 20:7-9
SECOND READING	Romans 12:1-2
GOSPEL	Matthew: 16:21-17

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

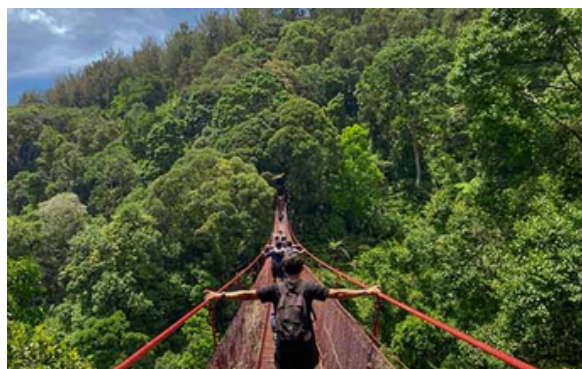
You are Peter,
the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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



Australia's Catholic bishops conclude their Social Justice Statement, Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division, with this affirmation: 'Faithful to the spirit of the Gospel, we can help build bridges within the community to challenge fear and distrust and build a renewed sense of mutual respect and belonging. Dedicated to the dignity of every person, no matter what their faith, ethnicity or political opinions, we can work with others to challenge the discrimination and exclusion which threaten our social cohesion. 'We are the body of Christ entrusted with a mission to act justly and work for justice in society . . . With each encounter, with every conversation and with every community action we plan with others, we strengthen the ties which bind our community together.'