



22nd 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

29th/30th August 2026

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SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sometimes doing what we believe God is asking of us puts us in conflict, not only with the world outside, but even with those closest to us - friends and family. This leaves us questioning: "Did I get it wrong? Aren't I doing my best to do God's will? Then, why has my life gotten so difficult? Where is God in this mess?"

Isn't it striking how this faithful prophet Jeremiah does not hide his anger, frustration, and disappointment from God? But, as contradictory as it may seem, complacency can actually be an expression of faith in God. Even though Jeremiah is frustrated and disappointed, he is still speaking to God. He still believes God is there listening to him.

His faithfulness shines forth when Jeremiah says, "If I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart...." Jeremiah cannot simply walk away. He shows us what an honest relationship with God can be like. Even when we are frustrated, disappointed, angry and confused, God does not turn away from us. God can handle our questions, our struggles and even our moments of doubt.

It is tempting to believe that if we trust God while we are suffering, everything will immediately be okay. But Jeremiah is an encouragement to us in difficult times to stay in conversation with God. Our questions, frustration, and even our anger, will not turn God away from us. We may not understand why we are going through difficult moments, but God is faithful and stays with us in the struggle. We are not alone.

The Gospel reminds us that Christianity does not guarantee us an easy life. Jesus promises his disciples that following him will give them life, but he also makes clear that accepting the richer life he offers will involve sacrifice. If we accept the cross, it will not end in death. The cross does not have the last word. Resurrection does!

Peter does not want to hear that Jesus is going to Jerusalem. He knows that Jesus will suffer there. Even worse, if Peter and the others follow Jesus, they too will suffer. Peter cannot imagine that suffering and death could be part of God's plan.

Don't we understand Peter's dilemma? It is ours as well. We want to hear that God will protect us from suffering, loss and disappointment. But it is clear that Jesus does not offer Peter, or us, an easy road.

Jesus is not saying that we should go out of our way to suffer. But if we forgive, speak the truth, remain faithful to him and live according to his teachings despite the cost, it is going to hurt us.

Like Peter, I would prefer Christianity without the kind of discipleship Jesus offers. I want a faith that comforts me but does not challenge me. But Jesus asks us the same question he asked his disciples: "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" What would the life Jesus is offering, with its cross, look like now, in this world? It would mean becoming compassionate people, having integrity and strength in our relationships, and being courageous as we speak and act on behalf of the least among us.

What a paradox! We find our true life not by clinging desperately to ourselves, but by giving ourselves away in love.

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY



WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick: Margaret Carroll, Betty White, June Harvey, 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: Geoff Oliver, 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 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.

FORTHCOMING CELEBRATIONS

The Feast of St Matthew, patron of Bridgewater and Birdwood Church, will be celebrated on Sunday 13th September and the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Sunday 11th October.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	BIRDWOOD Sunday 6th September 8.30am	LOBETHAL Sunday 13th September 8.30am
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Welcoming
1st Reader
2nd Reader
Euch. Minister
Cleaning

Mary Nyeboer
Roz Crossing
Simon Murphy
Eric Toome
A.Moore/E.Toome

Gayle Raven
Liz O'Flynn
Gayle Raven
Eric Toome

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 5th September 6.00pm	Sunday 6th September 10.30am
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Sacristan
Welcoming
Reader 1
Reader 2
Euch.Ministers

Anne Teteris
Lyn Norris
Henry Duszynski
Alan Miller
Stasia Duszynski

Di Golding
John Leeton
Nolan Parodi
Paul Robinson
Karen Dutton
Nathalie Irons
Colleen Sim

Musicians
Counters
Cleaning
Our Lady
Flowers
Tea/Coffee

Stephan/Jordan
M.Feijen/K.Dutton
A.Miller/A.Teteris
Cantwell Family
Jane McCaffrey
Farrugia Family

Ricki Irons
M.Feijen/K.Dutton
A.Miller/A.Teteris
Cantwell Family
Jane McCaffrey
Farrugia Family

OLOR	Sunday 6th September 5.30pm	Sunday 13th September 5.30pm
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Welcoming
Cleaning

Rosy Jones
Sue Manchip

Annette Lamont
Sue Manchip

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of might,
giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your
name, so that,
by deepening our sense of
reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

As Fr Fred has an important meeting to attend, First Friday Mass will be replaced by a Communion service on Friday 4th September at 11.00a.m.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy is run in both churches by parents and parishioners in the parish who volunteer their time and assistance. Children's Liturgy provides an opportunity for children and parents to be able to share, after Mass, the Word of God they have heard. The parents and the children can thus make the link between faith and life in the following week. If you are interested in getting involved, please approach Jane van Mierle.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Sunday 30th August 2026 marks Social Justice Sunday and the *Australian Catholic Bishop's Social Justice Statement* is entitled "Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division". The Statement invites us to that vision: "a society where disagreement need not destroy respect, where diversity is welcomed as a great gift, and where the dignity of every single person is the foundation of our common life."

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, in the preface for the Social Justice Statement, encourages "Parishes, Families, Schools and Agencies to use this statement as a resource for prayer, formation and action." The statement is available for download: "*Social Justice Statement 2026*".

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt prayers and condolences to the Oliver family who are grieving the loss of their beloved Geoff. He is also a big loss for our parish community. Geoff was 98 years old but rarely missed Mass on a Sunday, always participated in all parish activities such as parish assemblies, and was present at every social activity organised. Geoff had a tremendous memory and not long ago wrote his own biography, with all the proceeds from his book going to local charities. He loved horses and never missed a race until he was no longer able to drive. Geoff always had something to say...and often in great detail. He showed a lot of respect towards me and told me what he appreciated most was that I left Malta in order to serve my priesthood here in the Adelaide Hills. He always prayed for his family that they may follow his Christian example. May the Lord's comfort and peace surround his family, and may they find strength in His promise of eternal life. Geoff's funeral Mass will be held on Thursday 3rd September at St Matthew's Church, Bridgewater at 2.00pm. May God give him eternal rest. **FR FRED**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Please support the Catholic Charities 2026 Appeal – a brochure will be handed to each family this weekend. You can also make a 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE INVITATION

THE NATIVITY OF MARY - COMMUNITY EVENT

The Social Justice team invites all parishioners and their friends to join with them to celebrate Our Lady's birthday on 9th September. Fr Fred will celebrate Mass at 11.30 am followed by lunch in the Our Lady of the Adelaide Hills Hall. Jack Snelling from Bright Futures will be our guest speaker. Bright Futures is an Australian-based Christian aid and development agency which works to provide education and development opportunities for children and communities in poverty. All funds raised by the lunch will be donated to Bright Futures. For only \$25, you will enjoy a delicious two-course meal, learn about the work done by Bright Futures and enjoy the company of other parishioners and their friends. If you wish to attend, please write your name on the sheet at the back of the church or email Cathie Oswald: catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com.au.

HOLY COMMUNION 2026



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 Mount Barker Parish, will feature the sessions at OLAH Parish Hall. Lunch will be provided.

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 of the Ecology Group's activities to celebrate the Season of Creation.

STILL 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.

TABERNACLE AT BRIDGEWATER

Recently, the tabernacle door proved to again be very difficult to open. John Leeton took on the challenge and has succeeded in fixing the problem, with the door now opening very easily. Thanks, John, as we were beginning to contemplate the possibility of having to buy a new tabernacle.

PROJECTS

This week saw several projects get underway. The three rotten wooden windows at the meeting room at St Joseph's Lobethal were replaced with aluminum windows and, with SA Water identifying the location of the sewer clean at the church, the problem of the toilet at St Joseph's has been resolved. At St Matthew's Birdwood, a separate water meter was set up for the Mary O'Dea Centre, while at St Matthew's Bridgewater, plans are under way to trim the first two trees at the back of the car park as they are causing problems for the parish house gutters and the electrical cables, not to mention the mess they cause in the car park.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all those who responded to what type of coffee machine we need to buy. JB Hi-Fi seems to have the best coffee machine we are looking for.

WEEKLY INCOME 15th/16thTH AUGUST 2026

THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$434.75
Planned Giving Received:	\$2,015.00
Loose Plate:	\$77.60

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

BSB 066 782

Account: 100000277

Refer payment as "Donation"

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name anymore.' Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. R.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. R.
So I will bless you all my life,

In your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. R.

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. 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.

The word.
Thanks be to God.

NEXT WEEK READINGS

23rd SUNDAY YEAR A

FIRST READING	Ezekiel	33:7-9
SECOND READING	Romans	18: 8-10
GOSPEL	Matthew:	18:15-20

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behavior.'

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



The Season of Creation

(1 September-4 October)

It explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. In celebrating the Season of Creation, we are encouraged to delight in the beauty and delicacy of our natural world, to weep for the world devastated by exploitation, and to celebrate its preservation and nurturing. The whole world of which we are part reflects the beauty and the love of God.'