



26TH 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

26th/27th SEPTEMBER 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Matthew's, Birdwood
8.30am: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the
month

St Joseph's, Lobethal
8.30am: 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the
month

St Matthew's, Bridgewater
6pm Saturday Evening
10.30am Sunday

Our Lady of the Rosary, Stirling East
5.30pm Sunday

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus' authority has been challenged in the temple area by the chief priests and elders. They have confronted him on his preachings and actions. He responds with three parables about judgment, today's is the first.

Jesus had just confronted the spiritual leaders on their rejection of John the Baptist (Matthew 21:23-25). Why had they not accepted God at work in John when even tax collectors and sinners did? The latter repented of their sins and accepted John's penitential baptism. Those who had lived a life of "No" to God, had turned their lives around with a "Yes." The "outsiders" had been welcomed by God. Couldn't the religious hierarchy recognise and rejoice over God's mercy and accept Jesus' healing message?

Jesus makes his point, as he frequently does, in a parable; this one about two sons. The sinners and tax collectors would have identified with the second son. Like him, they had regretted their rejection of God by their many "No's". After hearing Jesus' preaching, they said "Yes" and changed the direction of their lives. The father does not cast out the first son immediately for his disobedience. Instead he was given time to change and he did. The parable shows that those who initially reject God are offered a similar time of grace.

Sinners who had said "No" to God recognised and welcomed the mercy in both John's and Jesus' messages. Haven't you known people who, earlier in their lives, had rejected God, but later turned their lives around and accepted the Gospel? Perhaps a crisis brought them to their knees. Or, they became aware of the emptiness in their lives and turned to someone who helped them make new choices.

The chief priests and elders whom Jesus addressed had assumed their righteousness and thought they had earned a privileged place in God's realm. They assumed God had closed and sealed the door on the sinful tax collectors and prostitutes. But Jesus came with a message of grace and revealed God's "open door policy." Jesus was that open door, welcoming the former "No's" into God's merciful embrace.

We church folk need to check ourselves for a self-righteousness similar to the established religious of Jesus' day. How do we judge friends and family who have stopped going to church, or who have adopted a lifestyle contrary to ours? We have to avoid the rush to judgment Jesus found in the chief priests and elders. We in the pews must avoid their self-righteousness, which overlooks the need we all have for God's graceful embrace in everything we do, think and say.

MIGRANT & REFUGEE SUNDAY



WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick: Margaret Carroll, Betty White, June Harvey, Mirla Mills, Judy McPhee, Danilo Cruz.

September Anniversaries: Marg Grant, Shirley Forester, Betty Gebert, Paul Farrugia, Veronica Davey, Mabel Phillips, Glenda Le Gallant, Fred Nixon, Jan Evans, Tony Bellem, John Rutherford Smerdon, William Cramond, Dennis MacFarlane, Betty Schipp, Maria Dunaiki, Kaye McCarthy, Joyce O'Driscoll, Anna Versteeg, Francis McEvoy

Recently deceased: Krystina Rowland, Geoff Oliver, Philip Glynn.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 28th	Our Lady of the Rosary	9.00am
Tuesday 29th	Liturgy at St Catherine's	9.00am
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00pm
Wednesday 30th	St Matthew's, Birdwood	9.00am
Friday 2nd	St Matthew's, Bridgewater	11.00am
Saturday 3rd	Reconciliation	12.00pm

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sunday 27th	Bridgewater Comm Meeting	12.15pm
Tuesday 29th	Liturgy Meeting	11.00am
	Faith & Formation Team	6.00pm
Friday 2nd	First Friday of the Month	11.00am
Sunday 4th	Feast of St Francis	
Thursday 8th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

This feast was instituted by Pope St Pius V in thanksgiving for the great naval victory over the Turks at the Battle of Lepanto on the 7th October 1570, a favour due to the recitation of the Rosary. Our church at Stirling East is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. We will celebrate the feast on Sunday 11th October. We will recite the Rosary at 5.10pm followed by Solemn Mass at 5.30pm, after which there will be a sausage sizzle.

On the proper feast day - which falls on Wednesday 7th October - we will recite the Holy Rosary followed by Mass at the OLOR church at 6.00p.m.

ADVENT BOOKLET REFLECTIONS

The Advent Booklet is a pocket-sized book that includes daily reflections from the beginning of Advent to the Baptism of the Lord. This is an opportunity for us to be still each day, listen to God, and come to know that Jesus is the whole reason for our being. The booklet is free, paid for by the parish at \$6 each. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please add your name to the list provided at the back of the church. We ordered 65 copies, so it's strictly first come, first served!

FIRST FRIDAY

In the visions of Christ reported by St Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century, several promises were made to those people who practiced the First Friday Devotions. In many Catholic communities, the practice of the Holy Hour of Meditation during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the First Fridays is encouraged. Mass at St Matthew's Bridgewater on Friday 2nd October at 11.00am will be followed by 20 minutes of silent adoration and benediction. Everyone is invited to attend light lunch thereafter.

THANK YOU

Recently, we had meetings with the Baptism preparation groups and the Ministers of the Sick. I wish to thank them all for performing such an important ministry in our parish. FR FRED

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	BIRDWOOD Sunday 4th October 8.30am	LOBETHAL Sunday 11th October 8.30am
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Welcoming	Mary Nyeboer	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Jo Brickhill	Marie Littler
2nd Reader	Lea Crosby	Jo Brickhill
Euch. Minister	Eric Toome	Margaret Smitherman
Cleaning	Margaret Smitherman	

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 3rd October 6.00pm	Sunday 4th October 10.30am
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Sacristan	Ann Teteris	Di Golding
Welcoming	Kathy Lloyd	John Leeton
Reader 1	Henry Duszynski	Jordan Gansan
Reader 2	Mark McGeough	Paul Robinson
Euch Minister	Stasia Duszynski	Nathalie Irons
		Karen Dutton
		John Leeton
Musicians	Stephan & Jordan	Ricky Irons
Counters	M.Feijen/K.Dutton	M.Feijen/K.Dutton
Cleaning	A.Miller/A.Teteris	A.Miller/A.Teteris
Our Lady	Di Golding	Di Golding
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly
Tea & Coffee	P.Huffman/M.Littler	P.Huffman/M.Littler

OLOR	Sunday 4th October 5.30pm	Sunday 11th October 5.30pm
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Welcoming	Debbie Somers	Sue Manchip
Cleaning	Cathy Decosta	Cathy Decosta

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Almighty God,
just and true are your ways.
Help us to say "Yes"
to your saving initiative
and embrace fully the beauty
of your grace.
Teach us to put on the mind of Christ
and imitate his self-emptying
that leads to glory.
Jesus humbled himself until death
- death on the cross.
You thus exalted him
as Lord of all creation.
With Jesus, we thank and praise,
now and forever.
Amen.**

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The September edition of The Southern Cross is available in our parish. Each copy costs \$2 and \$1 goes towards the parish.

THE BRIDGE

The September edition of The Bridge is available at the back of the church. Please take your copy and give it to someone else once you have finished reading it.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The parish has just received back only ten (10) envelopes which we distributed three weeks ago. St Matthew's special collection was \$130, the lowest in many years. We do hope that generous parishioners have done their donation through Direct Debit. If not, please try to bring your donation and envelope by next weekend.

OCTOBER - THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Pope Leo invites us to pray the rosary, and to carry it in our hands or in our pockets. The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus the Saviour with his Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations. He said that the Blessed Virgin Mary has urged the recitation of the rosary in her apparitions, "especially in the face of the threats looming over the world." During the month of October, we will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recite the Rosary and benediction every Tuesday at 4.00pm at the OLOR church.

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL FEAST

Tuesday 29th September is the feast of St Michael, one of the three archangels — the only angels named in the Bible. Michael is the "Prince of the Heavenly Host," whose forces cast down Lucifer and the evil spirits into hell. He is invoked for protection against Satan and all evil. Pope Leo XIII, in 1899, having had a prophetic vision of the evil that would be inflicted upon the Church and the world in the 20th century, instituted a prayer asking for St Michael's protection. Mass will be said on Monday 28th at 9.00am at the OLOR. We will recite the prayer of St Michael.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027

You're invited to World Youth Day Seoul 2027! Created by St John Paul II in 1985, World Youth Day is the Catholic Church's largest international gathering for young people to celebrate faith, encounter new cultures, and experience the universal Church like never before. Next year, World Youth Day will be held in Seoul, South Korea. The Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults (COYYA) invites all young people aged 16-35 who are interested in attending, or simply curious to learn more, to complete an Expression of Interest for the Adelaide pilgrimage. Complete the Expression of Interest below and join us on the journey to Seoul!
<https://shorturl.at/rMEu3>

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Krystina Rowland's funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 30th September at St Matthew's Church, Bridgewater at 2.00pm. May God give her eternal rest.

APRCC

On Tuesday 6th October, a half-hour gathering at 9.00am on the corner of Victoria Square and Flinders Street in the Adelaide CBD is planned to highlight to the mainstream media the faith community's solidarity with our Pacific neighbours currently suffering damage and possible loss of their homes due to the wrongful use of resources by the world's rich nations.

FAITH AND FORMATION TEAM

The next meeting is on Tuesday 29th September at 6.00pm at the OLAH Parish Hall. We will discuss if we go ahead with the ALPHA course this year.

LITURGY GROUP MEETING

The group will meet next Tuesday 29th September at 11.00am at the meeting room of the Parish Office.

MISSION MONTH

October is Mission Month and 18th October this year marks 100 years of World Mission Day, a time in which the global Church celebrates God's mission through prayer and generosity. Today, that mission continues in places like Malawi, where communities are rebuilding after devastating floods and families are striving to create a future for their children. We continue to support missionaries who build our church, locally and abroad, and support Seminarians throughout the world.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY

The 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees will take place on Sunday 27th September 2026 with the theme, 'Even just one of these children'. Pope Leo XIV, in his message, says "The Gospel invites us not to calculate: even one. Every child, every human being, possesses an infinite dignity. Each is created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26); each is a presence of the Lord. Before every migrant child, we are called to make an act of humanity and faith, for we are able to welcome and encounter the Lord. This call becomes even more pressing in the light of another of the Lord's affirmations in the Gospel of Matthew: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35). ..."

SEASON OF CREATION

SAINT FRANCIS DAY

Also known as The Feast of St Francis of Assisi, it is a Christian celebration held annually on the 4th October, which happens to be next Sunday and the closure of the Season of Creation. On this day, commemorations are held to remember St Francis of Assisi, a 12th Century born patron saint of animals and the environment. Celebrations include prayer, food donations being collected at Church and, in some cases, special Church services where our pets are blessed. For this reason, this day may also be referred to as World Animal Day.

On Sunday 18th October at St Catherine's school's Siena Hall, we will celebrate Ecology Sunday with Mass and the blessing of our pets at 10.30am There will be no Mass that Sunday at Bridgewater.

BRIDGEWATER PROJECT

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 been in contact with the representative here in South Australia for Taylor Bells in the UK. Hopefully, we get somewhere. Thanks once again for those who are doing their utmost to look for a bell. Finally, the engineering report has arrived, and the next step is to obtain an estimate for the project. The final hurdle is to have the project approved by the Archbishop. FR FRED

ST MATTHEW'S SEVILLE ORANGE MARMALADE

Parishioners can purchase delicious marmalade made with the Seville oranges from the garden at St Matthew's, Bridgewater. There are limited supplies and 250ml jars of marmalade can be purchased for \$6 per jar. Unlike the marmalade available in supermarkets, this marmalade is all oranges. If you like something with a little spice, there are a few jars of ginger marmalade, and if you like something with a little bit extra, there are limited supplies of whisky marmalade. There is also a small quantity of Kumquat marmalade available. Marmalade will be available on 11 October. All proceeds go to the Social Justice team activities. Delicious on toast or a crumpet for breakfast or at any time of the day.

You can preorder by completing the order forms at the back of the churches, or email Cathie:
catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com.au

WEEKLY INCOME 5/6TH SEPTEMBER 2026

First Collection:	\$639.75
Planned Giving Received:	\$2,495.00
Loose Plate:	\$133.40

If you would like to donate by direct debit, use the parish account below:

**BSB 066 782
Account: 100000277
Refer payment as "Donation"**

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. R.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. R.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. R.



The migration and refugee debate must shift from process management of migration to the full and immediate protection of human rights.

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees celebrated in the Catholic Church around the world on 27th September complements the June World Day of Refugees sponsored by the United Nations. The theme chosen in Australia for the latter was 'A million stories'.

It reminded us that refugees are not just numbers but persons, each of whom has their own story. It also celebrates the stories of the millions of people who have come to Australia on humanitarian visas since the Second World War.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

FIRST READING	Isaiah 5:1-7
SECOND READING	Philippians 4:6-9
GOSPEL	Matthew: 21:33-43

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first, but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds, you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his quality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' "The first", they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

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