



27TH 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

3rd/4th October 2026

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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

Today's Gospel picks up the familiar Old Testament theme of the vineyard. The parable we hear today is an invitation to us to think about the quality of our efforts in the vineyard. Initially, Jesus is challenging the religious leaders of his day for their failures as caretakers of the vineyard – God's people. The servants in the story were given much, a carefully planted and protected vineyard. But the servants overreached in their desire to have it all.

The owner provided all that was needed for a successful harvest: a protective hedge, a wine press, a tower for surveillance/security... And, as a partner, asked for a share in the vineyard. In their greed and laziness, the servants sought to make a claim on what was not theirs.

Couldn't the Gospel story be applied now to our care of the planet? All creation is a gift from God, a gift God loves, has made beautiful for us. We are the privileged tenants. It's not ours, we don't own the planet. It has been entrusted to us, and we are privileged to use it and are to be responsible to take care of it. But our care of the planet has faltered. Resources are polluted and overused.

God continues to send us modern day Isaiahs, who speak for the care of our community garden. The environmental groups are all too familiar with the stories of our misuse of the precious gifts God has given us in our environment. They and we have heard the bad news. Let's celebrate how God has not given up on us and sent modern-day voices calling us to be better, more responsible caretakers. One symbol that needs no words has moved me. In the Vatican Conference on Climate Change, there is the picture of the 'Blue Marble' (I am sure you have seen it) – the photo taken of the earth during Apollo 17's Luna Mission in 1972. The picture speaks an eloquent message: how would we not want to take care of such a precious gift from our Creator?

Polluted resources, global warming, shrinking rainforests, ice caps melting, over-consumption...all from lack of stewardship. We have not been good partners with the owner of the vineyard. So few enjoy so much from over-consumption; while so many hunger for even basic nutritional needs. The earth is our "community garden." We, the tenants in the vineyard, are partners with God. The gift has been given and it is our responsibility to care for it.

In the ordinary daily use of resources today, what role will we play in preserving - or depleting - the gifts God has given us? We pray at this Mass to be better caretakers of all God's gifts. We celebrate the prophetic voices God continually sends to us, for God has not given up on us.

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI



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.

October Anniversaries: Peter White, Doreen Formby, Josef Zepf, Lawrie Smart, Paul Juniper, Dave Moller, George Klavins, Ernesta Della-Torre, Maria Laub, Betty Johnson, James O'Dea, Noreen O'Connell

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 5th	Our Lady of the Rosary	9.00am
Tuesday 6th	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00pm
Wednesday 7th	St Matthew's, Birdwood	9.00am
Friday 9th	St Matthew's, Bridgewater	11.00am
Saturday 10th	Reconciliation	12.00pm

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sunday 4th	Feast of St Francis	
Wednesday 7th	Feast Our Lady of Rosary	6.00pm
Thursday 8th	Parish Finance Council	4.00pm
Tuesday 13th	Parish/School Meeting	9.45am
Sunday 11th	Feast at the OLOR Church	5.10pm
Wednesday 14th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00pm
Friday 16th	RECREATE - Mt Pleasant	
Sunday 18th	Ecology Sunday	
Saturday 24th	Working Bee Bridgewater	9.00am
Tuesday 27th	Liturgy Group Meeting	11.00am

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 6.00pm.

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 to parishioners, with the \$6 per copy cost paid for by the parish. 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!

ALPHA COURSE

We regret that during our last meeting of the Faith & Formation team, the decision was taken to cancel the ALPHA course for this year as it proved too difficult to get people to put up their hands and help. Attending Sunday Mass is good and we encourage it, but ask yourself: is it enough? I am sure there are people in our parish who can contribute a bit of their time to help in the running of our pastoral ministry of our parish.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th October at 4.00pm in the OLAH Parish Hall.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	LOBETHAL Sunday 11th October 8.30am	BIRDWOOD Sunday 18th October 8.30am
Welcoming 1st Reader 2nd Reader Euch. Minister Cleaning	Gayle Raven Mary Littler Jo Brickhill Margaret Smitherman	Mary Nyeboer Roz Crossing Gayle Raven Janet Harrison Margaret Smitherman

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 10th October 6.00pm	Sunday 11th October 10.30am
Sacristan Welcoming Reader 1 Reader 2 Euch Minister	Mary Homann Ann Teteris Alan Miller Mary Homann Kathy Lloyd	Gina Kelly Di Golding Paul Somers Phil Schultz Nolan Parodi Colleen Sim Jenny Porter
Musicians Counters Cleaning Our Lady Flowers Tea & Coffee	Stephan & Jordan D.Golding/M.T'son R.Dimasi/D.DeFazio Di Golding Gina Kelly	Damien Mansfield D.Golding/M.T'son R.Dimasi/D.DeFazio Di Golding Gina Kelly

OLOR	Sunday 11th October 5.30pm	Sunday 18th October 5.30pm
Welcoming Cleaning	Sue Manchip Kathy Decosta	Kathy Decosta Kathy Decosta

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Heavenly Father,
On this Feast of St Francis of Assisi,
we thank You for the gift of his life
and his example of humility,
peace and love.
Inspire us to live with simplicity,
to care for the poor,
and to cherish all of creation.
May we walk in peace
and serve others joyfully,
following the way of Christ,
Your Son.
Through Christ our Lord.
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.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

World Mission Day was first established by Pope Pius XI, beginning in October 1927. This year's World Mission Day is unlike any other. For 100 years, people in parish communities across Australia and around the world have joined together in prayer and generosity to ensure the Church can carry Christ's love to those who need it most. You are part of that long and faithful line. Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday 18th October, but as it clashes with our Ecology Sunday celebrations, we will transfer Mission Sunday to the following Sunday. This weekend, we will distribute the Mission Sunday envelopes for those who wish to donate in support of the work carried out by the Missions of the church. **Pope Leo XIV's message for this centenary year calls us to a mission "born of love, lived in love and leading to love".**

SAINT FRANCIS DAY

Also known as The Feast of St Francis of Assisi, it is a Christian celebration held annually on 4th October, which happens to be this Sunday and the closure of the Season of Creation. On this day, commemorations are held to remember St Francis of Assisi, a 12th Century 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. To commemorate the 800th anniversary of his birth, we will plant an olive tree behind the OLAH Hall.

A VISIT TO "RECREATE" MT PLEASANT

Recreate is a project of the not-for-profit community group, the Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre Inc. (MPNRC). Run as a social enterprise, Recreate brings people together to share ideas around upcycling and waste minimisation, as well as provide an important fundraising avenue for the MPNRC. The Ecology Group is organising a visit to Recreate on Friday 16th October 2026. The day will commence with Mass at 9.00am at Birdwood (instead of the usual Mass at Bridgewater), followed by the visit to Recreate. The event will conclude with lunch at the Totness Inn Hotel in Mt Pleasant. At Recreate, there are some really good ideas, books and pamphlets, things to buy and many cheap plants for sale. As the group is limited to 15 people, it's very much on a 'first come, first served' basis. If you are keen to attend, please contact John Leeton: 0419 243 814 or john.leeton2@bigpond.com.

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, we will recite the Rosary and hold benediction every Tuesday at 4.00pm at the OLOR church.

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. During this weekend, we will deliver the usual envelopes for donations. Envelopes can be dropped in the Second Collection.

LIVING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL FACILITATOR TRAINING

Living the Joy of the Gospel Facilitator Training will take place at St Francis Xavier Cathedral Hall, 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, on Saturday 17th October 2026 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Living the Joy of the Gospel is the new faith formation programme for small group study and discussion from the Archdiocese of Adelaide. It explores Christian discipleship and mission through the lens of theology, scripture and spirituality. Those who want to facilitate Living the Joy of the Gospel groups are invited to receive training that will equip you with practical tools and pastoral awareness to feel encouraged and supported. This training is intended for all interested in hosting Living the Joy of the Gospel sessions. Find more information and RSVP at www.livingthejoyofthegospel.au *Hopefully, there is someone from our parish interested in attending the session and undergoing the training.*

ECOLOGY SUNDAY

This year, we are holding the Ecology Sunday Mass and the blessing of pets at St Matthew's Bridgewater at 10.30am on Sunday 18th October. Weather permitting, the celebration will be held in the back yard of the parish house. Afterwards, we're hosting a market stall in the OLAH Parish Hall, as well as a free sausage sizzle. As we will need a helping hand in setting everything up for the event, anyone who is able to assist from about 9.30am that morning is asked to let Fr Fred know. Thank you.

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

MEMORIAL MASS AT CENTENNIAL PARK

A time for prayer, reflection and remembrance. Centennial Park warmly invites members of our community to attend All Souls' Mass on Monday 2nd November at 6.00pm in the facility's Jubilee Complex Foyer. On this day of remembrance, we gather to honour and pray for those who have died, holding close the memories of loved ones who remain part of our lives and hearts. Guests are welcome to bring a photo of a loved one to place at the altar for blessing during the service. Please email marketing@centpark.org.au or call 08 8276 6011 and advise the number of attendees.

TREES TRIMMING

As you may have noticed, we have trimmed two of the four trees alongside the back of the carpark at St Matthew's Bridgewater. We reluctantly took the decision, on the instruction of SA Power Networks, as the branches were too close to the electrical wires. The trees were also causing problems with the parish house gutters, they were shading the solar panels and it was proving difficult to keep the area clean and hazard-free, especially during the rainy season. The remaining two trees will be trimmed next year.

WORKS AT LOBETHAL

Following the installation of the necessary power by a qualified electrician, we have installed the hot water system in the Lobethal kitchen. Works also included adding electrical light above the altar canopy.

WEEKLY INCOME 26/27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

First Collection:	\$547.80
Planned Giving Received:	\$3,375.00
Loose Plate:	\$156.30

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

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

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

'Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend has a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the
Great River it stretched out its shoots.

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us
and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known
to you everything I have learnt
from my Father.

Alleluia

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew.

R. Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next, he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. R. Finally, he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

R.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

FIRST READING Isaiah 26:6-10
SECOND READING Philipians
GOSPEL Matthew: 21:33-43

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