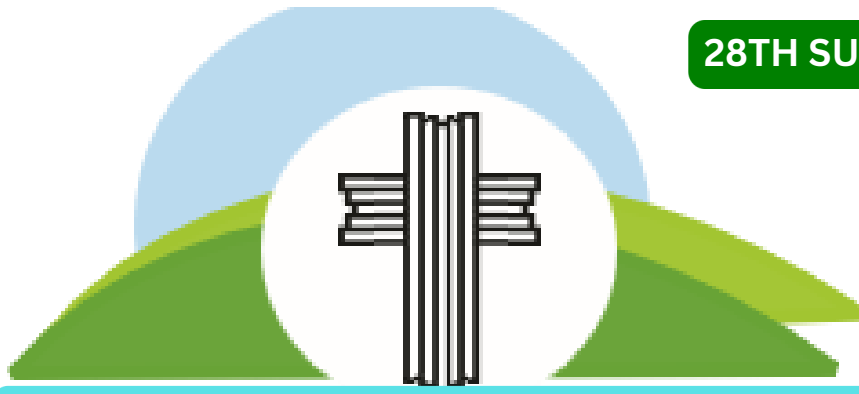




28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

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

10th/11th October 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

Parish House
1 Wembley Avenue (P O Box 718)
BRIDGEWATER S A 5155 Telephone 08
8359 0674
Email:
stmatthew@adelaidehillsparish.com.au
Website: adelaidehillsparish.com.au
Facebook: Adelaide Hills Parish

Parish Priest
Fr Alfred (Fred) Farrugia
email: a281657@hotmail.com

Paul Robinson
Parish Secretary
paul@adelaidehillsparish.com.au

Cathie Oswald
Pastoral Coordinator
Custodian of Parish Hall
catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com.au

St Catherine's Catholic School:
John Low
Principal
Telephone: (08) 8238 8238
www.stcaths.catholic.edu.au

Safeguarding Officer
Mark McGeough
mcgeough@internode.on.net

WHS Parish Officer
Marianne Berry
marianne3079@gmail.com

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

Can we, a church, very much of the establishment, hear ourselves uttering pious phrases, living a comfortable life and not reaching out to those invited to the meal in the parable, the outcasts? We are invited to a feast of great joy and we need to make sure that others feel welcome to join us, especially those who don't get special invitations to feasts.

Meals that have a lot of love poured into them by the planners often see the love overflow to the guests. People at the celebrations might find themselves talking to one another, perhaps breaking a chilled silence they have been keeping for some time. Sometimes the usual barriers break down: differences in skin colour are put aside; people try harder to listen to each other despite language differences; personal life stories are shared and we may get to hear life from another person's perspective. Anything can happen at a meal where love has been the main ingredient. What a failure such a meal would be if the guests were frigid towards one another; if a fight were to break out; or, if people were just excessively polite and formal. How embarrassing it would be if some at the table ate more than their share while others didn't even get to taste the food. Isaiah sees the contrary – a well planned meal where all are invited, get to eat the finest food and drink the choicest wine; where no "veil" covers our eyes and keeps us from seeing each other clearly, especially seeing another's needs. The prophet is describing what God has in mind for us: pain is removed, tears are addressed, reproach ended, death destroyed. The prophets and Jesus have always had this vision of how it will be and how it could be for us – beginning now. If we really believe this vision, we need to begin acting on it now by addressing the things that keep people apart, that mark distinctions between people, resulting in some being on the inside, while many are left out.

The Eucharist gives us hints of the future banquet described by Isaiah. It is "already" in our midst and we do share in the choice food and drink envisioned by the prophet. "All Peoples" are welcome and Christ is present to our hungers today. Our tears are addressed, no gap, no formality or frigidity should be present among us at this table. This meal that feeds us is the fulfillment of God's vision for us. The Son urges us to see those whom we return to after this celebration in our "outside lives" – to see the "not yet" aspect of our world. What are the hungers and thirsts we encounter? And how can we, who have been to the banquet, be of service to them, as freely as we were served on this "holy mountain, our worship space?"

The Eucharist – the "already" and the "not yet".

GOD'S SALVATION FOR ALL

The Parable Of The Wedding Banquet



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 12th	Our Lady of the Rosary	9.00am
Tuesday 13th	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00pm
Wednesday 14th	St Matthew's, Birdwood	9.00am
Friday 16th	St Matthew's, Birdwood	9.00am
Saturday 17th	Reconciliation	12.00pm

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sunday 11th	Feast at the OLOR Church	5.10pm
Monday 12th	Parish Finance Council	4.00pm
Tuesday 13th	Parish/School Meeting	9.45am
Friday 16th	RECREATE - Mt Pleasant	
Sunday 18th	Ecology Sunday	
Wednesday 21st	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00pm
Saturday 24th	Working Bee Bridgewater	9.00am
Tuesday 27th	Liturgy Group Meeting	11.00am

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!

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th October at 4.00pm in the OLAH Parish Hall. This has been rescheduled from last Thursday as Fr Fred was still recovering from the flu.

THE CHOSEN – INVITATION

Churches and parishes across Australia and New Zealand are able to host free early-access screenings of the opening episode of 'The Chosen' Season 6 from 15 September. The episode will not arrive on Prime Video until 15 November, giving faith communities a two-month window to host an approved in-person screening. Registrations and full screening details are available on [The Chosen early-access website](#).

'The Chosen' is a multi-season historical drama about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, told through the perspectives of the people who met and followed him, set in first-century Judaea and Galilee. The series focuses on Jesus' teachings, miracles and relationships, portraying how his presence transforms the lives of ordinary people, Jewish religious leaders, Roman officials and his disciples. It aims to provide an intimate, character-driven look at biblical events.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Our next PPC meeting is scheduled, as usual, for the third Wednesday of the month, that is, Wednesday 21st October at OLAH Parish Hall at 6.00pm.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	BIRDWOOD Sunday 18th October 8.30am	LOBETHAL Sunday 25th October 8.30am
Welcoming 1st Reader 2nd Reader Euch. Minister Cleaning	Mary Nyeboer Roz Crossing Gayle Raven Janet Harrison Margaret Smitherman	Gayle Raven Margaret Smitherman Michelle Chua Janet Harrison

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 17th October 6.00pm	Sunday 18th October 10.30am
Sacristan Welcoming Reader 1 Reader 2 Euch Minister	Joan Davey Karen Heusler Joan Davey Stephan Blanke Mary Homann	Gina Kelly Cathie Oswald Christian D. Ric Sachse Deb Stapleton Colleen Sim Nolan Parodi
Musicians Counters Cleaning Our Lady Flowers Tea & Coffee	Damien Mansfield R.Sachse/K.Johnson B.Sugars/O.Kovac Di Golding Gina Kelly	Folk Group R.Sachse/K.J'son B.Sugars/O.Kovac Di Golding Gina Kelly Ecology Sunday

OLOR	Sunday 18th October 5.30pm	Sunday 25th October 5.30pm
Welcoming Cleaning	Volunteer Volunteer	Rosy Jones Volunteer

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Christ,
your father prepared a banquet for us.
He set the table, killed the fattened calf,
He gave us the very finest wine and
he invited us to come, each and every one,
every single one, to this table of plenty.
Oh Jesus, what shall we wear?
would you be our garment?
Let us put on your mind and your heart.
Then we can relish the morsels,
savour the wine, and taste your love,
which is the most desired of all foods.
Let us help you nourish everyone
we meet with all they will ever need.

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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

PLEASE NOTE

To make things easier for our staff at the parish office, notices for The Bulletin, baptism certificates and all related financial matters should be addressed directly to Fr Fred. It has been conveyed to the staff that any information related to the above needs to be returned to the sender, with the request to redirect it to Fr Fred. This will ensure there is better communication within the office, removing the need for the staff to send reminders to Fr Fred seeking confirmation that a particular notice has been attended to or not.

COFFEE MACHINE

The coffee machine has been bought. All we need is someone to take it down to the Parish Hall and set it up. The machine will only be utilised when we have morning tea/coffee after the 10.30am Sunday Mass. We also need a parishioner with barista skills to guide us on how to use it properly.

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 them 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.**

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

The Social Justice team invites you to join them to celebrate the running of the 2026 Melbourne Cup. Delight in that one day of the year when Australians all become expert tipsters and enjoy a delicious chicken and champagne lunch, followed by an equally delicious dessert of strawberries and pavlova.

The lunch is an opportunity to become acquainted with parishioners from other parts of the parish or to get to know better those who you see at Sunday Mass but never get the chance to speak with. Watch the race on the 'big screen', take part in the sweepstake, wear your best hat and join us at 12.30pm on Tuesday 3rd November in Our Lady of the Adelaide Hills Hall. Gentlemen are very welcome. Invite a friend. More details to follow.

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.

ECOLOGY SUNDAY MARKET STALL

We are seeking donations of homemade cakes and biscuits to sell at our stall on Ecology Sunday on 18th October. If you are a cook and are happy to make a cake or some biscuits, we would be very grateful. If possible, please list ingredients, particularly if they contain nuts. If you are able to help, please let Cathie know: catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com.au. Donations can be left at the church on Saturday evening, 17th October, or brought on Sunday morning.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event of an emergency please follow directions of the Parish Priest, reader or commentator who shall act as the Chief Warden and take control of the emergency response. The collectors shall assist as Wardens.

When directed to evacuate the church/office/hall: Move quickly and orderly to the nearest safe exit, do not run.

If required, help disabled, mobility impaired persons and the elderly.

Alert the Chief Warden/Warden if someone is unable or unwilling to evacuate.

Proceed to the designated assembly area (as shown in the Evacuation Diagram on the noticeboard in the foyer) and await further instructions from the Chief Warden or emergency services.

Bridgewater – car park

OLOR – tree area north of the foyer

Lobethal – grass area behind the church

Birdwood – area in front of the church

Do not re-enter any buildings until advised by the Chief Warden or emergency services.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

We need to see people with mental illness as a gift, rather than a problem. Pope Leo's October 2026 prayer for mental health ministry within the Catholic Church coincides with World Mental Health Day (10 October). Both events stress the need of the wider community to address mental illness which has affected increasing numbers of people in Australia. The theme of the World Day is 'Together we thrive'. Pope Leo insists that we must overcome the stigma of mental illness. Stigma does not affect only people who suffer from mental illness. It also entraps their families, friends and the wider society. It leads to withdrawal from friends, family, social life and work. They, too, may feel defeated and withdraw from people at a time when they need most support. Stigma describes the retreat of people and communities into shame and silence.

WEEKLY INCOME 26/27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

First Collection:	\$557.05
Planned Giving Received:	\$3,500.00
Loose Plate:	\$106.05

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

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

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain, he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death forever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

R.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name,
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

R.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

R.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

R.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

FIRST READING	Isaiah 45:1,4-6
SECOND READING	1Thessalonians 1:1-5
GOSPEL	Matthew: 22:15-21

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere; full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

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 said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited," he said, "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So, these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendant, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.

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