



Catholic Communities of:
St Matthew's, Bridgewater
Our Lady of the Rosary, Stirling East
St Joseph the Worker, Lobethal
St Matthew's, Birdwood

29th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

18th/19th October 2025

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus paints a picture of a despicable judge who eventually gives in to the persistent demands of the widow. It is as if he is saying, "If this kind of a person eventually responds, how much more will God?" Why? Because God is not turned against us and will "secure the rights" of God's chosen. Of course, our struggle lies in the fact that so much in our world is unjust, especially for the disenfranchised. We pray for things to be put right and even pray that we can help make them so. Yet often, conditions don't improve, sometimes they even get worse. Doesn't that make you want to despair of every seeing things righted?

So, we are tempted to cease our works and quite our prayers. "What's the use?" we lament. Even when things improve a bit there still is an enormous mountain of wrongs to address – in our homes, church, community and world. We feel our efforts are so weak and so we are tempted to withdraw back into our private world saying, "What difference can I make?" Such feelings tempt us to quit our efforts at prayer and works on behalf of God's reign. Jesus expresses how serious the issues are, how powerful the forces against us are and seems to worry about the effects on his disciples.

He asks, "But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Not an idle, or speculative question, but one that is based on the experiences of the church from its beginnings: disciples have hard work and prayer to do until the Lord returns and the wait, without immediate signs of "success," can disillusion us and threaten our faith. A powerful and exemplary model of faith Moses was during hard times, nevertheless, as the battle against Amalek wears on, Moses' raised hands "grew tired."

We can identify with that fatigue, we who find it hard to keep our hands raised in prayer as life tries to wear us down. Look around at those who worship with us at this Eucharist. We see the elderly, even infirmed, here – still praying. We know of those who can't get out of bed to come to church, but we also know they are praying and staying faithful. They give strength and determination to our faltering prayer, they help keep our hands "raised."

Perhaps someone notices us here at worship. We don't think of ourselves as great models of faith, but who knows what straggling soul at prayer is helped by seeing us here? We may be helping them keep their faltering and tired hands "raised" in hope and prayer.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Matthew's Birdwood

8.30 am: 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month

St Joseph's Lobethal

8.30 am: 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month

St Matthew's Bridgewater

6pm Saturday Evenings

10.30 am Sunday

Our Lady of the Rosary East Stirling

5.30 pm Sunday

ALWAYS PRAY DON'T LOSE HEART



WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick: Margaret Carroll, Betty White, Anne MacDonald, June Harvey, Jeff Oliver, Gabrielle Morgan, Mirla Mills, Judith McPhee, Krystina Rowland.

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: Bishop Patrick Power, Mons Robert Rice.

WEEKDAYS MASSES

Monday 20th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 21st	Liturgy at St Catherine's	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 22nd	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 24th	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Oct/Nov

Sunday 19th	Parish Assembly	11.30a.m.
Tuesday 21st	Parish/school meeting	9.45a.m.
Sunday 26th	ECOLOGY SUNDAY	
Tuesday 28th	Baptism Team meeting	10.00a.m.
	Liturgy meeting	11.00a.m.
Thursday 30th	Faith and Formation Team	6.00p.m.
Saturday 1st	All Saints Day	
Sunday 2nd	All Souls Day	
Tuesday 4th	Melbourne Cup Lunch	
Friday 7th	First Friday of the month	

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Persistence made
the judge give in
to the tough old widow.
Lord,
you made this crystal clear:
to petition is good,
to pester even better.
We come to you like the widow,
banging on your door,
day and night.
Put her type of faith
Into our hearts.

LITURGY MEETING

Many of you may have wondered, how the many wonderful liturgical celebrations we have in our various churches come about. Meetings are held once a month where firstly we consider the various liturgical celebrations of the previous weeks, making a note of what went well and what we could have done better, and then look carefully at what is on the Liturgical Calendar in the weeks to come. The members are FR Fred, Cathie Oswald, Paul Anderson, Marcia Phillips and Jo Brickhill. Please consider joining us. **If you're interested or need more detail, please speak to Fr Fred.** Our next meeting is on Tuesday 28th October at 11.00a.m. at the Parish meeting hall.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 26th OCT 8.30am	BIRDWOOD Sunday 2nd Nov 8.30a.m
Welcome	Gayle Raven	Mary Nyeboeur
1st Reader	Gayle Raven	Michelle Thomas
2nd Reader	Simon Murphy	Brett Thomas
Euch. Minister	Anne Moore	Anne Moore
Cleaning	Jo Brickhill	Carmel Fairbairn

BRIDGEWATER	Sat 25th October 6.00 pm	Sun 26th October 10.30am
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Sacristan	Mark McGeough	ECOLOGY SUNDAY ST CATHERINE SCHOOL
Welcoming	Ann Teteris	
Reader 1	Joan Davey	
Reader 2	Allan Miller	
Euch. Minister	Ann Teteris	
Musicians	Helen Cantwell	
Counters	Bill Roberston & Allan Miller	
Cleaning	Hong Kim & Otta Kovac	
Our Lady	Orma Paine	
Flowers	Gloria Howe	
Tea & Coffee		

OLOR	Sunday 26th October 5.30pm	Sunday 2nd November 5.30pm
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Sacristan	Paul Robinson	Paul Anderson
Welcoming	Sue Manchip	Jenny Johnston

SECOND COLLECTION PLEDGE

Second collection pledge envelopes which will start in weekend of 1st/2nd November 2025 are ready to be picked up from the back of the church. 80 families faithfully continue to honour their pledge through the envelope and I thank them for their generosity. It's important also to acknowledge and thank 70 families who also contribute regularly through Credit or Debit card.

MEMORIAL MASS

As November is traditionally the month of remembrance within the Catholic Church we are given the opportunity to reflect on and pray for those who are no longer with us especially those who died during this year on Friday 28th November at 7.00pm. at Bridgewater. Forms of attendance will be available from next weekend. It's important that filling the form means commitment of attending..

OCTOBER - THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

During the month of October every Tuesday at 4.00p.m. at the OLOR church, we have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recite the Rosary followed by benediction.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

I would appreciate that in our parish those who wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue are asked to come at the end of the communion procession. Thanks for your cooperation.

FR FRED

BAPTISM PREPARATION TEAM MEETING

The Baptism Preparation Team will meet with Fr Fred on Tuesday 28th October at 10.00a.m. at the Parish meeting room.

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

The Social Justice team invites you to join them to celebrate the running of the 2025 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 sweeps, wear your best hat and join us at 12.30 pm Tuesday 4 November in Our Lady of the Adelaide Hills Hall. Gentlemen very welcome. Invite a friend. Take the opportunity to purchase a limited supply of Seville Orange Marmalade (made from Fr. Fred's oranges) or take home a tasty cake. Please put your name on the booking sheet at the back of the church or email Cathie: catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com.au

ADVENT BOOKLET REFLECTIONS (LAST CALL)

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 by the parish), if interested to get a copy please put down your name in list provided at the back of the church.

ECOLOGY SUNDAY

Please join the Adelaide Hills Parish and St Catherine's School to celebrate together Ecology Sunday Mass on Sunday 26th October at St Catherine's school at 10.30a.m. We invite your pets to join us for a special blessing after Mass. There will be a sausage sizzle and Market Stall. The Tennis Court will be open for parking. **There will be no 10.30a.m. Mass that Sunday at Bridgewater.**



MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

If you would like a Mass offered for the deceased, friends and benefactors, please take an envelope from the back of the church "NOVEMBER OFFERING" please write their names on sheet provided inside the envelope and place it on one of the collection plates. It is customary to give an offering. The names of the de-ceased will be listed in the bulletin during November.

ALL SAINTS DAY

Mass will be celebrated at OLOR on Saturday 1st of November at 9.00a.m., also the vigil weekend mass at Bridgewater at 6.00p.m.

ALL SOUL'S DAY

Sunday 2nd November, masses celebrated during the usual weekend Masses

WELCOME BACK

We welcome back John Low at St Catherine's school. The past 15 months John had accepted to work at CESA. On this occasion we wish to thank Mark Simpson who was acting principal during John's absence. Mark did an excellent job at St Catherine's and we wish him well in his new role as acting principal at Clare.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.

World Mission Sunday will be held on Sunday 26th October and is celebrated in every Catholic community around the world. It's a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence and oppression. **Please remember if you can afford to bring your donation in the envelopes provided to each family last weekend.**

SOUTHERN CROSS

Please buy a copy of the Southern Cross. Each copy costs \$2 and \$1 goes to the parish. Copies are at the back of the church

HALLOWEEN - Making Your Decision

Every year, a debate rages among Catholics and other Christians: Is Halloween a satanic holiday or merely a secular one? Should Catholic children dress up like ghosts and goblins, vampires and demons? Is it good for children to be scared? In the end, the choice is yours to make as a parent. As Catholics, we believe in the reality of evil. Tie the vigil explicitly to the Feast of All Saints, and explain to your children why we celebrate that feast. Let's reclaim Halloween for Christians, by returning to its roots in the Catholic Church!

SCOTT FISHER

We welcome Scott Fisher into our Catholic community. Scott went through the RCIA with Fr Fred. Scott's will enter into full communion in the Catholic church this Sunday at 5.30p.m. during Mass at the OLOR. **On this momentous day, Scott receive the greatest gift of all—the Holy Spirit and Jesus Himself. May you always run to Him in the Eucharist and always know deep within your heart that He loves you and has a glorious plan for your life. CONGRATULATIONS.**

FAITH & FORMATION TEAM

The Parish Faith & Formation team supports parish life in this encounter with Jesus by sharing and advancing best practices for our parish evangelisation and facilitating formation opportunities and resources that empower our parish to invite people into relationship with Jesus and to form our parishioners in a living, explicit and fruitful faith. The current members are Fr Fred, John Leeton, Annette Lamont and Paris Huffman and Gabrielle Morgan who at this stage is unwell. **Please consider if you can in joining this group.** Next meeting is on Thursday 30th October at 6.00p.m. at the OLAH parish hall.

Weekly Income 11/12th October 2025 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$472.10
Planned Giving Received:	\$2410.00
Loose Plate:	\$139.55

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:
BSB: 066-782 Account: 100000277
Account Name Adelaide Hills Parish
Refer payment as "donation"

First Reading from the Book of Exodus

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm until sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

R

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.
The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.

R

R

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever.

R



We should be thankful for the agreement reached by Israel and Hamas and pray for the success of the further negotiations. The lives, health and future of the children, women and men at risk in Gaza depend on it. They matter most.'

Second Reading from the first Letter of St Paul to Timothy

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures - from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience - but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death." 'And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK
30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading	Sirach 35:12-14,16-19
2nd Reading	2 Timothy 4: 6-8,16-18
Gospel	Luke 18: 9-14