29TH 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

17th/18th 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

The Gospel story of the Pharisees' question to Jesus, about the tribute money paid to Rome, is called a "pronouncement story." It is heading towards Jesus' pronouncement in the final line: "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Jesus responds to the Pharisees' challenge. They hope to trap Him, no matter what answer He gives them. If He approves of paying the tax, He would seem to be collaborating with the enemy, which would undercut any reputation He has as a prophet among the people. Prophets opposed supporting Caesar, calling for complete fidelity to God. If Jesus responded that they should not pay the tax, then the Romans would come down on Him.

After Jesus says they should give the coins to Caesar's that are his, He challenges His listeners, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." This is not as neat a distinction as it first appears. "Give to God what belongs to God" – is a demand with no fixed boundaries. God is sovereign over all powers, all authority is relative.

The Gospel is regularly cited among those both inside and outside the church. They want the church to stay inside the building, praying and singing behind closed doors about "spiritual matters."

God is sovereign over all powers, all authority is relative. We have some modern prophets who have taken the very position Jesus puts before us: if everything belongs to God and all life is sacred, how can we support abortion, the death penalty, the stockpiling of nuclear weapons, the abuse of our natural resources, the separation of "illegal immigrants," from their families, etc? To give to God the things that are God's includes all Caesar's, emperors and powers of the world, all civil authorities and states.

Isaiah reminds us that God has called us by our name. We cannot be seduced by those who want the church sidelined from society's debates that affect our lives; especially the lives of those with no political voice or influence. While we give to Caesar all that is justly entitled for the care of the common good, we have a higher allegiance to God. We must call all Caesars to account for where they have failed to fulfill their responsibilities to the whole community. We, the people of God, cannot split off our obligations to the Gospel from the state. Our Sunday prayers and rituals are not detached from our Monday political lives.

GIVE TO GOD WHAT BELONGS TO GOD



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.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 19th	**Our Lady of the Rosary**	**9.00am**
Tuesday 20th	**Liturgy St Catherine's**	**9.00am**
	Rosary at the OLOR	**4.00pm**
Wednesday 21st	**St Matthew's, Birdwood**	**9.00am**
Friday 23rd	**St Matthew's, Bridgewater**	**11.00am**
Saturday 24th	**Reconciliation**	**12.00pm**

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sunday 18th	**Ecology Sunday**	
Tuesday 20th	**Rosary at OLOR**	**4.00pm**
Wednesday 21st	**Parish Pastoral Council**	**6.00pm**
Saturday 24th	**Working Bee Bridgewater**	**9.00am**
Tuesday 27th	**Liturgy Group Meeting**	**11.00am**
	Rosary at OLOR	**4.00pm**
Sunday 1st Nov	**All Saints Day**	
Monday 2nd	**All Souls Day**	
Friday 6th	**First Friday of the month**	**11.00am**
Sunday 8th	**Ecology Meeting after Mass**	
Thursday 12th	**Parish Finance Council**	
Sunday 15th	**Ecology Meeting after Mass**	
Tuesday 17th	**OLOR Community Meeting**	**6.00pm**
Wednesday 18th	**Northern End Meeting**	**9.45am**
Saturday 21st	**Baptism Afternoon Tea**	**2.30pm**
Sunday 22nd	**Feast of Christ the King**	
	Advent retreat	**12.00pm**

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.

CWL STIRLING MEETING
The next meeting will be in the OLAH Parish Hall on Wednesday 21st October, starting at 12.30pm with sandwiches followed by the meeting at 1.00pm and concluding with afternoon tea. We look forward to members and lady parishioners attending. For more details, call Pam Broadbridge on 8339 5013.

THE BRIDGE
The October edition of The Bridge is out, with copies available at the back of the church. Those who wish to have a PDF copy can contact the parish office. We are grateful to Paul Robinson for his work in producing our monthly magazine. We also encourage you to support those who advertise in our magazine.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	LOBETHAL Sunday 25th October 8.30am	BIRDWOOD Sunday 1st November 8.30am
Welcoming	Gayle Raven	Mary Nyeboer
1st Reader	Margaret Smitherman	Michelle Thomas
2nd Reader	Michelle Chua	Brett Thomas
Euch. Minister	Janet Harrison	Anne Moore
Cleaning		C & B Fairbairn

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 24th October 6.00pm	Sunday 25th October 10.30am
Sacristan	Mark McGeough	Di Golding
Welcoming	Kathy Lloyd	Sue Arthurson
Reader 1	Mark McGeough	Paul Robinson
Reader 2	Alan Miller	Nathalie Irons
Euch Minister	Mary Homann	Karen Dutton
		Deb Stapleton
		Di Golding
Musicians	Helen Cantwell	Youth Group
Counters	M.Berry/B.Sugars	M.Berry/B.Sugars
Cleaning	M.Berry/K.Dutton	M.Berry/K.Dutton
Our Lady	Di Golding	Di Golding
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly
Tea & Coffee		

OLOR	Sunday 25th October 5.30pm	Sunday 1st November 5.30pm
Welcoming	Rosy Jones	John Rodella
Cleaning	Volunteer	Jenny Johnston

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Did Caesar create the stars?
Hurl them to the ends of the universe?
Can he make blood course
through our veins?
Or craft a hummingbird
No?
Then his coins can't buy
what we really need.
God, Creator,
you are the one whose face we seek.
The domain of love that
you give in grace and peace.
We are in your image.
Please take us as your own.
Amen

PRAY FOR POPE LEO XIV
As we lift our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, in prayer following the news of his lung cancer diagnosis, we do so with hearts filled with faith, hope and trust in God's healing love. I invite all the faithful of our parish to join me in praying for Pope Leo's continued strength, healing and full recovery. May he find comfort in knowing that millions of Catholics throughout the world are united in prayer for him.
We place our Holy Father in the loving hands of our Lord and under the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, trusting that God's grace will sustain him each day.
Our parish stands with you in faith, love and hope. You are in our prayers!
Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for him.

THE SOUTHERN CROSS
The October edition of The Southern Cross is available in our parish. Each copy costs $2, with $1 going towards the parish.

ALL SAINTS' DAY
All Saints' Day is celebrated to commemorate the saints, known and unknown. It is also called All Hallows' Day or the Feast of All Saints. It is intended to honour all saints. This includes those who are not celebrated individually or are no longer celebrated. All Saints' Day is celebrated to acknowledge those who have reached heaven, whereas All Souls' Day is a day to offer prayer and recognition for the souls of those who have died. Mass will be celebrated at Bridgewater on Sunday 1st November during all weekend Masses.

ALL SOULS' DAY
Monday 2nd November is All Souls' Day when we remember our dear departed family members and friends and also the benefactors of our parish. There will be Mass at the OLOR church at 9.00am and at St Matthew's Bridgewater at 6.00pm.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS
If you would like a Mass offered for the deceased, friends and benefactors, please take an envelope marked 'NOVEMBER OFFERING' from the back of the church, write your name on the 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 deceased will be listed in The Bulletin during November.

OCTOBER - THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY
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. One would except more than six people who attended the Rosary last Tuesday. ***With two Tuesdays left for our special Rosary month and before the Blessed Sacrament, we dedicate whole celebration before Our Lord and the prayers to Our Lady are offered for the return to good health of Our Holy Father, Pope Leo.***

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. It 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 make a donation, to return the envelopes provided to each family last weekend.***

LIVING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL FACILITATOR TRAINING
Thanks to Nathan Sachse for completing the online facilitator training for Living the Joy of the Gospel.

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 become expert tipsters and enjoy a delicious chicken and champagne lunch, followed by an equally delicious dessert of strawberries and pavlova. It's an opportunity to become acquainted with parishioners from other parts of the parish or to get to know 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.

ABSENT FROM THE TABLE
Catholics in Australia who do not regularly attend Sunday Mass remain deeply connected with their faith. This is a finding from the National Centre for Pastoral Research, which was commissioned by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference to study the factors influencing the reduction in Sunday Mass attendance. As well, the researchers examined alternative forms of engagement with the Church, attitudes towards the Eucharist and implications for the wider Church.
The full report, 'Absent from the Table' can be found at the National Centre for Pastoral Research website.

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!

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL
The Parish Finance Council approves the profit and loss of the parish on a monthly basis, and every three months the Business Activity Statement - or BAS - that reports on GST. At our most recent meeting, we discussed the possibility of a better and safer way between the shed and the OLAH Parish Hall at Bridgewater. Projects completed include the hot water system at Lobethal kitchen, the trimming of the first two trees in the car park at Bridgewater and repairs to the broken wooden barriers.

BRIDGEWATER RENOVATION PROJECT
This week, we finally received building approval from the Council after the surveyor presented his report. Fr Fred received quotes on a new church bell from Taylor's Bells, with a 410mm bell cast in 1919 costing £6,944 and a 1890 bell of the same size £5,833. The currency conversion from Pound Sterling to the Australian dollar would double the cost. The engineering report, the building surveyor's fee and another Council fee for the final approval have cost $5,632.41. The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) levy for $675 was paid by a generous benefactor. Once he receives the estimate from the builder, Fr Fred will present the project to the Archbishop for approval.

EUCHARIST 28 DATE ANNOUNCED!
We are delighted to share the confirmed dates for the 54th International Eucharistic Congress, Eucharist 28. It will be held in Sydney from 24th September to 1st October 2028, preceded by a Theological Symposium from 20th to 22nd September 2028. Eucharist28 is a special opportunity for the Church. The coming years of prayer and preparation offer us a significant opportunity to deepen devotion to the Eucharist, strengthen the faith life of our communities and help people rediscover the joy and transforming power of Christ's presence among us.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 – INFORMATION NIGHT
Curious about World Youth Day Seoul 2027? Join the Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults (COYYA) for First Steps to Seoul, an informal evening to learn more about World Youth Day, hear about the Adelaide Diocesan pilgrimage, and connect with others interested in the journey. Whether you're considering attending or simply want to find out more, all are welcome. Wakefield Hotel (76 Wakefield Street, Adelaide) on Tuesday 20th October 2026 at 7:30pm
Light catering will be provided. Registrations are essential: https://forms.gle/ifTr1kyoTouenb1i9

WEEKLY INCOME 10/11 OCTOBER 2026

First Collection:	**$606.15**
Planned Giving Received:	**$1,825.00**
Loose Plate:	**$118.00**

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

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

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. R.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. R.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. R.

Worship the Lord in his temple,
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king,'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. R.



We have the responsibility to shape a world in which prosperity is shared and is not built on the poverty of others.
The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October) invites us to consider a reality that easily escapes us. It reminds us that poverty is not confined to Third World Countries but affects us in our own nation. It reminds us, too, that people are made poor because of toxic relationships between nations and not simply by the failures of leaders in individual countries. It also reminds us that governments, banks, civil services and nations do not experience poverty. Only human beings do that. We are all members of the human race.
The poverty of one person is the poverty of all. It is more than a problem to be studied, deeper than local or international statistics. It wears the face of people whom we meet through Vinnies and see sleeping on the streets. It wears the face of all our brothers and sisters throughout the world who live in poverty.

SECOND READING
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia

GOSPEL
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and re-plied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he replied, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

FIRST READING	Exodus	20:22-26
SECOND READING	1Thessalonians	1:5-10
GOSPEL	Matthew:	22:33-40