



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.

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17TH/18TH JANUARY 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

Parish House

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St Catherine's Catholic School:

John Low

Principal:

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Child Safe Contact Person

Mark McGeough

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WHS Parish Officer

Marianne Berry

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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

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

During these early weeks of Ordinary Time, this universal horizon is emphasized. Isaiah proclaims it poetically, and John's Gospel illuminates that same message, interpreting Isaiah's vision for us through the person of Jesus.

John the Baptist points out Jesus – but he does more than point. He interprets Jesus for us. He identifies him as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John testifies that he saw the Spirit descend and remain on Jesus and declares him to be the Son of God. In John's Gospel, Isaiah's Servant is revealed as both the Lamb who bears sin and the Spirit-filled Son who reveals the Father. What Isaiah announces in poetry, John proclaims explicitly: "He is the Son of God."

The Baptist's role is to point away from himself. Isaiah reminds Israel – and us – that being chosen by God always involves being sent for others. "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." This Sunday, then, prepares us for mission: first, to recognize who Jesus is, and then to bear his light to the world.

In our parishes, there are those who serve quietly by visiting, advocating for, or accompanying those in need. When we do this, we may not be solving problems, but we are revealing Christ already present among us – especially among the least.

It may be Ordinary Time, but there is nothing ordinary about people in our faith communities who offer a steady, quiet witness. Like John the Baptist, they help others recognize the Lamb of God already in our midst.

Paul's words from First Corinthians today may seem modest, little more than a greeting. But they too belong to our Sunday proclamation. Isaiah speaks of God's Servant; the Gospel reveals Christ's identity; and Paul reminds us who receives this revelation: "To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy."

A real community – like the one in Corinth – imperfect, divided, and deeply human, shows us how God's saving word continues to take flesh among us each day. We do not seek holiness by withdrawing from the world, but, as Isaiah calls us, by being a faithful presence within it.

JOHN THE BAPTIST BORE WITNESS



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, Carolyn Whitfield

January Anniversaries: Brian Hanifen, Max Grubel, Peter Moyle, Peter & Thelma Streich, Alec & Catherine Raven, Alice Gaskin, Erminio Tarca, Janice Riordan, Marie Gourley, Frank Gregorczyk, Margaret Miller, Charles Coffee, Jack & Clare O'Dea, Jim Killick Michael Cramond, Simeon Cramond, Nigel Conlon, Leslie Howe, Shiela Mettam, Pauline Green, Helen Tingay, Collene Parker, Anthony Miller, Lorenzo Favretto.

Recently deceased:

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 19th	OLOR MASS	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 20th	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 21st	Mass at Birdwood	9.00a.m.
Friday 23rd	BRIDGEWATER MASS	11.00a.m.
Saturday 24th	RECONCILIATION	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Jan/Feb 2026

Sunday 18th	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Monday 26th	Australia Day	
Monday 2nd	Presentation of the Lord	
Tuesday 3rd	Faith & Formation team	6.00p.m
Wednesday 4th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Thursday 5th	Eucharistic Training course	6.00p.m.
Saturday 7th	WALK FOR LIFE	
Wednesday 11th	Northern End meeting	9.45a.m.
Thursday 12th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Saturday 14th	Volunteers Afternoon Tea	2.00p.m.
Sunday 15th	Bridgewater comm. meeting	11.45a.m.
Wednesday 18th	ASH WEDNESDAY	
Sunday 22nd	Parish Picnic	9.30a.m.
Tuesday 24th	OLOR community meeting	6.00p.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

John said,
“I did not know him.”
So the Spirit showed
the Christ to him.
And John
replied,
Behold,
the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world.
Spirit, come,
shine through our clouds.
Teach us your love.
Let us know
more about Jesus
In our day to day life.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 25th Jan 8.30a.m.	BIRDWOOD Sunday 1st Feb 8.30a.m.
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Welcoming 1st Reader 2nd Reader Euch. Minister Cleaning	Gayle Raven Margaret S Michelle Chua Anne Moore Janet Harrison	Mary Nyeboeue Jo Brickhill Anne McEvoy Anne Moore Hennie and Simon
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BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 24th Jan 6.00pm	Sunday 25th Jan 10.30am
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Sacristan Welcoming Reader 1 Reader 2 Euch. Minister Musicians Counters Our Lady Cleaning Flowers Tea & Coffee	Anne Teteris Kathy Heusler Mark McGeough Mary Homann Ann Teteris Helen Cantwell Katherine Johnson & Ric Sachse Colleen Sim Jan McDonnell & Dan De Fazio Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly Di Golding Ric Schse Christian D Di Golding PowerPoint Colleen Sim Gina Kelly
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OLOR	Sunday 25th Jan 5.30pm	Sunday 1st Feb 5.30p.m
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Sacristan Welcoming	Paul Anderson Kathy Decosta	Paul Anderson Rosy Jones
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ADELAIDE DIOCESAN SYNOD

As an essential part of preparation we will be holding a Dialogue Week which will enable the whole Archdiocesan community to participate in the Synod by considering the key proposal made in the draft thematic papers. Our Communities throughout the Archdiocese will be invited to participate in the Dialogue Week from the week beginning 22nd February 2026 and provide feedback to the thematic papers. All Communities are encouraged to host dialogue conversations in their local place during this week and resources and a mechanism for feedback will be made available. As we journey towards this Synod I ask you to pray for the Synod and its preparation and encourage you all to be involved where you are able.

GABRIELLE MORGAN

At the moment Gabrielle is in Mt Barker hospital. Gabrielle is by herself and she needs our support at this stage of her life. Please contact Gabrielle on 0447 678 288.

TO ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The Archbishop has asked that before we introduce the cup, all Eucharistic ministers need to attend a two hour course as preparation in order once again use the cup during masses. This course will be held on **FRIDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2026** at our parish hall in Bridgewater at 6.00p.m. Please put this date in your diary.

DEAR BELOVED PARISH FAMILY,

from the depths of my heart, I thank you for the beautiful celebration of my ordination anniversary. Your love, prayers, and thoughtful preparations touched me deeply and reminded me of the great blessing it is to serve among you.

Every smile, kind word, and gesture of support reflects the unity and faith we share in Christ. I am humbled by your generosity and grateful for the way you make our parish not just a place of worship, but a true family in the Lord.

May God, who began this good work in us, continue to guide and bless each of you abundantly. You are always in my prayers.

With gratitude and love in Christ,
FR FRED

BACK TO ORDINARY TIME

If you think of the liturgical calendar as the “circle of life”, the mystery of Christ unfolds. The significance and beauty of how Christ calls us to live our lives through him comes to light. **GREEN** is the liturgical color of Ordinary Time that we find on priestly vestments and in our church decor. It is the color of life and hope. Ordinary Time is divided into two time periods. Following the Baptism of our Lord is the first period, which continues until Ash Wednesday. Pentecost Sunday starts the second period of Ordinary Time, the longest liturgical season, as it continues until the Advent season begins again.

WALK FOR LIFE

The Walk for Life will be held on Saturday, 7th February 2026 at Pennington Gardens, opposite St Peter's Cathedral, from 10.00am till 12 noon. This year's theme is "Human from Conception"

Abortion up to birth in some circumstances is now legal in South Australia. However, it's so important to challenge the popular thinking that abortion is a "health issue" or a "freedom of choice issue" and that legalisation can remove the moral aspect of taking a human life. We are pro-life in terms of the life of mother and child and we love them both. Further-more, for all who have been involved with abortion we offer, not condemnation, but the healing, compassionate, freeing love and forgiveness of Christ.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026

In keeping with the guidelines for the Sacraments of Initiation for Children Policy of our parish, the Sacramental Program offers is family centered and Parish/school based. Essentially, this programmed is a partnership in which families and the Parish/school community work together in the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation. For any enquiries please contact Cathy Oswald or the Parish office on 8359 0674. Information session will be held in the beginning of February.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Returns on Sunday 1 March 2026, and we're calling on individuals, families, schools, and community groups across the country to register now and get in on the action to be part of Australia's largest environmental movement. In 2025, over 800,000 people volunteered across 8,000 events nationally during the Clean Up Australia Day campaign period. We will have a Clean Up working Bee at Bridgewater on Saturday 28th February from 9.00a.m.

AUSTRALIA DAY

On Saturday 24th January we celebrate Australia Day. We encourage every Australian to acknowledge Australia Day in a way that's meaningful to them. Australia Day is about acknowledging and celebrating the contribution that every Australian makes to our contemporary and dynamic nation. From our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - who have been here for more than 65,000 years, to those who have lived here for generations, to those who have come from all corners of the globe to call our country home. Monday 26th is a public holiday and we will celebrate Australia Day during the 9.00a.m. Mass at the OLOR.

VOLUNTEERS THANK-YOU AFTERNOON TEA

Our parish is so fortunate to have so many wonderful and generous volunteers and you are all invited to a thank-you afternoon tea here at the OLAH parish hall. The date we are looking is **Saturday 14th February**. Everything will be provided so please just bring yourself. More details will be given in due time.

PARISH PICNIC

Once again we are again holding our Annual Parish/School Picnic on **Sunday 22nd February** 2026 at the Oakbank Racing Course from 9.30a.m. onwards. Mass will be celebrated at the racecourse at 10.00a.m.. Please put these important event in your diary.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

On Monday 2nd February we commemorate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in the liturgy. Mass and blessing of candles will be celebrated at the OLOR at 9.00a.m.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

On Monday 9th February, we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes - on this day we remember when Our Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette for the first time. February 11 was then proclaimed World Day of the Sick by St Pope John Paul II. You are invited to a celebration of the Holy Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick on Monday 9th February at 9.00am.at the OLOR.

PRAY FOR THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

For two weeks the people of Iran have been taking to the streets across the country to demand their rights and freedoms. As the weekend started, the Islamic regime cutoff telephone and internet communications within Iran, preventing contact with the outside world. Pray for the people of Iran, for their freedom and security, for justice and the end of tyranny in Iran.

Weekly Income	10th/11th January 2026
	THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$575.65
Planned Giving Received:	\$2685.00
Loose Plate:	\$121.45

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

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. R.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. R.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. R.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. R.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.
Alleluia.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

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



Australia Day is what we might once have called a Clayton's public holiday – the sort of public holiday which is neither public nor a holiday. We can still enjoy the leisure and summer warmth of an ersatz holiday. But we should also spend some time asking what a holiday that genuinely brought together all Australians would look like.

READINGS FOR
3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading
2nd Reading
Gospel

Isaiah 8:23-9:3
1 Cor 1:10-13,17
Matthew 4:12-23