



ADELAIDE HILLS CATHOLIC PARISH

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

28TH FEBRUARY / 1ST MARCH 2026

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

It is Lent, a time not only for fasting and self-denial, but for reflection. Today's readings ask for a Lenten response. What is God asking me to leave? What promise am I clinging to? What feels uncertain and scary to me in my daily journey? Prompted by the disciples' mountaintop experience, have I ever had a glimpse of Christ's glory that sustains me in times of doubt and testing? Our lives don't re-create exactly the biblical events, but they are shaped by that same divine rhythm and pattern: Call... Promise... Journey... Fulfillment. We hear the call today to trust our faithful God over long stretches of time; to stay trusting as Revelation unfolds gradually. We are reminded that glory and suffering co-exist; That our story is not unique but is part of a much larger story. Like the disciples we too have "mountain moments" – times of deep prayer, clarity, peace in the sense of God near and real. Such moments are not escapes but strengthening for when we come down the mountain and returned to live faithfully the valley. Lent is not about dramatic heroics. It is about trusting the promise we have heard and the courage to take the next step. We are like Abram: we walk without seeing the whole future. Like the disciples on the mountain, we listen to God's Word through the Beloved Son which encourages and strengthens us to keep walking through whatever daily uncertainties we must face. We remember that it is God who calls us and God who is faithful. With that Lenten hope we are carried towards Easter strengthened and encouraged by God's Spirit.

This weekend Scriptures reveal the heart of Lent. Like Abram we are asked you to step away from what secures us. Through prayer fasting and almsgiving we turn in trust to God even before we see results. Faith is not having clarity; it is walking anyway. Abram dared to trust and so began salvation history.

Notice too that the promise is not just for him. "All the communities of the earth shall find a blessing in you." God blesses us so that others may be blessed through us. In Lent we make our yearly journey out of comfort into promise, trusting that if we walk with God, even though we have not been given a map, we are walking toward blessing.

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

RISE, HAVE NO FEAR.



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, Carol Irons.

February Anniversaries: John & Jill Balogh, Marianne Fischer, Ada Schultz, Margaret & Chappie Guthrie, Bob Disher, Fr Vincent Regan, Maureen Robinson, Marianne Fischer, Giulia Farrugia, Lino Farrugia, Bernarda Bonaci, Elisabeth Anderson, Bernie Leverington, Maria Scamoni, Valentine Sobecki, Eva Texler, Fred and Mary Tipler Brian and Margaret Tipler, Krystina Owerko, Maria Scamoni.

Recently deceased: Luzia Wohlfart

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 2nd	OLOR MASS	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 3rd	St Catherine's—Mass	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 4th	BIRDWOOD MASS	9.00a.m.
Friday 6th	BRIDGEWATER MASS	11.00a.m.
Saturday 7th	RECONCILIATION	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Feb/Mar 2026

Sunday 1st	Second Sunday of Lent	
Tuesday 3rd	AGM—St Catherine's	6.00p.m.
Friday 6th	First Friday of the Month	11.00a.m.
	St Catherine's Yr 6 retreat	
	World Day of Prayer	10.00a.m.
Tuesday 10th	Ministers of the sick	10.00a.m.
	Ministers of Baptism	11.00a.m.
Thursday 12th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Sunday 15th	Third Sunday of Lent	
	Children's Mass	10.30a.m.
	Lenten Retreat	12.00p.m.
Wednesday 18th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Thursday 19th	Feast of St Joseph	
Friday 20th	Sacrament of Reconciliation	6.00p.m.
Sunday 22nd	Fourth Sunday of Lent	

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Christ,
 give us a glimpse.
 Let us find you shining
 in sliver echoes from the moon,
 in geese streaking for home,
 in the evening sky,
 in the spider's intricate web.
 In workers and homeless folks.
 Let no one and no place
 ever be hidden from
 the glow of your
 Godly, earthly presence.
 Let us find your glory
 in all things.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 8th Mar 8.30a.m	BIRDWOOD Sunday 15th Mar 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Gayle Raven	Mary Nyeboeur
1st Reader	Anne Moore	Simon Murphy
2nd Reader	Marie Littler	Anne McEvoy
Euch. Minister	Janet Harrison	Margaret S
Cleaning	Gayle Raven	Michelle & Brett

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 7th Mar 6.00pm	Sunday 8th Mar 10.30am
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Sacristan	Mark McGeough	Gina Kelly
Welcoming	Kathy Lloyd	Di Golding
Reader 1	Joan Davey	Paul Somers
Reader 2	Mark McGeough	Nolan Parodi
Euch.Ministers	Kathy Lloyd	Gina Kelly
	Mary Homann	Di Golding
		Karen Dutton
Musicians	PowerPoint	Damien Mansfield
Counters	Marianne Berry & Ben Sugars	
Our Lady	Di Golding	Di Golding
Cleaning	Marianne Berry & Karen Dutton	
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly

OLOR	Sunday 8th Mar 5.30pm	Sunday 15th Mar 5.30p.m
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Welcoming	Sue Manchip	Kathy Decosta
Cleaning	Kathy Decosta	Kathy Decosta

PASTORAL LETTER FOR LENT By ARCHBISHOP

The One Who Makes Peace Possible We live in an era marked by profound anxiety. Economic uncertainty troubles families struggling to make ends meet. Political polarisation fractures countries and communities. The climate crisis looms over future generations. Wars rage, displacing millions. Social media amplifies our fears while offering only the illusion of connection. Mental health challenges have reached crisis levels, particularly among our young people. People hunger for meaning, belonging, and peace, yet these seem ever more elusive. The events of the 14th December, 2025 at Bondi Beach, when violence shattered the peace of an ordinary afternoon in our Australian community shocked us all. In the aftermath, we witnessed both the worst and best of humanity: senseless violence, but also extraordinary courage, solidarity, and care for strangers. Where do we turn in such times? Not to our own resources, which quickly run dry. Not to political solutions, which address symptoms but cannot heal the human heart. Not to the false prophets of nostalgia, who promise comfort in retreating to an imagined past We turn to the Risen One, the One who conquered death, who rose victorious, who breathed the Holy Spirit upon his disciples and sent them forth. We turn to the One who, even now, stands in our midst and says directly to each of us: "Peace be with you." This is not the peace that the world gives which is fragile, conditional, and dependent on favourable circumstances. This is the peace that flows from the Lord Jesus himself, from his cross and resurrection. It is a peace that holds us even in suffering, that sustains us through uncertainty, that transforms us even as the world around us seems to be falling apart. Jesus calls us to see his face in every person, to recognise that there is no "us" and "them" but only "us". One human family for whom Christ died and rose. When we exclude others, create categories of worthy and unworthy, or build walls between ourselves and those we consider different, we deny the fundamental reality that Christ came for all, that his peace is offered to all, that his mission embraces all **(to be continued)**

LENT 2026

In the 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

PRAYER SERVICE

At the Northern End during Lent, Sunday gospel reflection of the coming Sunday in Lent is mediated on Wednesday after 9.00 a.m. Mass

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Next Friday at Bridgewater after the 11.00a.m. Mass during adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by benediction..

LENTEN RETREAT (Change of date)

The retreat will be held on Sunday 15th March at Bridgewater for 12.00p.m. with light lunch with 12.00p.m. start to finish around 2.00p.m. The retreat will be delivered by Fr Fred on the reflections by Bishop Barron. If one intends to come please put your name in list provided at the back of the church.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising appeal. For more than 60 years, it has brought together schools, parishes, communities and individuals to reflect, pray and take action, helping to create a more just world for all. Your support through Project Compassion helps transform lives – bringing clean water, education, healthcare and opportunities to communities facing poverty and injustice. See how you can help **Unite Against Poverty.**

DIALOGUE EVENING

A big thank you for the 35 parishioners who attended Dialogue Evening last Wednesday. Thanks to the Parish Pastoral Council for helping in the organisation of the event and to Cathy Oswald for the providing the catering. The Dialogue Evening was another opportunity to gather, reflect on the themes and recommendations of the Synod, and provided feedback to the Archbishop and Synod members.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 6th March, 2026 and the writing committee is Nigeria. The theme is "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and i will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Parishioners are invited to attend this Ecumenical service - please save the date and attend. The World Day of Prayer Service for the women of Nigeria will be held at Church of the Ascension, 2 Arkaba Rd, Aldgate, at 10.00a.m.

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Next Friday 5th March will be the First Friday of the month. There will be the usual mass at 11.00am. followed by the Way of the Cross and benediction. The Yr 6 of St Catherine's will be doing their retreat in the parish hall and will join us for the 11.00a.m. Mass. There will not be the usual light lunch afterwards

BIRTHING KITS

To celebrate Women's Internation day. like previous years, we help in promoting the Birthing Kits were women in Developing Countries have little chance of a midwife present. A clean birth kit will provide everything a mother needs to have reasonably safe and clean birthing environment. A kit may be the difference between a woman and a baby living or dying during the birthing process. All donations ensures Adelaide High School to continue to pack kits for many women world-wide. Last year our contribution helped packing of 400 kits. A collection for this appeal will be held this week-end of 14/15th March 2026

Adelaide High School and the Zonta Club of Adelaide are extremely grateful for your generous donation towards the Birthing Kit project received earlier this year. It has, once again, allowed us to run the Birthing Kit Assembly at Adelaide High School for 2025.

I am pleased to inform you that we were able to run the project on Friday 21 November. We had a team of 37 students, including the AHS Zonta Leaders who volunteered to join the event and together we packed 400 birthing kits. We were also supported by several members from the Zonta Club of Adelaide.

We are all very grateful to be part of this project that supports mothers and babies in need, and we look forward to receiving feedback from the Zonta Club of Adelaide regarding the destination of the kits for the current year.

By participating in this project, students have gained experience of service, and as a team, they are now equipped with a better understanding of global issues. They are aware of the positive impact their contribution and commitment will have on mothers' and babies' lives by helping preventing infection and death.

We are very grateful for your ongoing support which will help many women and newborns in disadvantaged overseas communities. This project has also enriched the learnings of the AHS students. **Mireille Le Doledec**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast meeting is scheduled for Saturday 2nd May 2026 at the OLAH Parish Hall, Bridgewater. Put this event on your diary and details will be given in due time.

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

We have two major feasts in honour of St Joseph. On March 19 our veneration is directed to him personally and to his part in the work of redemption, while on May 1 we honour him as the patron of workmen This year the 19th March falls on Thursday so we will celebrate also his feast by celebrating Mass at 6.30p.m. at the OLOR church.

Weekly Income 21st/22nd February 2026 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$573.90
Planned Giving Received:	\$2375.00
Loose Plate:	\$106.85

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 book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

R.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

R.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

R.

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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

THE STORY OF LENT

If we are asked what Lent means, we may answer by outlining what we believe. Lent, for example, reminds us that we are sinners and strengthens our belief that Jesus died to save us from our sins. This is true, of course, but a more powerful response might be to tell stories. That is true also of answering other deep questions. If we are asked about our family relationships, for example, telling stories about childhood illnesses, the death of a parent, moving house and depression may be more informative than answering abstractly. That is true also of Lent. At its heart is a story around which we have built our lives. It is a story that gathers other stories around it. At the heart of Lent is the large story of God who, through the death and rising of Jesus, has forgiven our sins and given us life. That led Christians to dedicate a special feast to celebrate Jesus' dying and rising. This story was surrounded by layers of other stories that were embedded in prayer and other Christian practices.

**READINGS FOR THE
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A**

1st Reading	Exodus 17:3-7
2nd Reading	Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
Gospel	John 4:5-42