



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 EASTER YEAR A

11th/12th APRIL 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

Parish House

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Who does not have doubts, especially during personal struggles that push our faith to its limits? Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it can be the doorway to deeper faith. The bottom line: mercy listens before it judges. The wounds of Christ have not disappeared; they are the source of mercy. Jesus shows them to Thomas. His wounds are not erased by the Resurrection; they are transformed into signs of love. As Pope John Paul II taught, the mercy of God flows from the wounded heart of Christ.

This has consequences for us, the faith community. Our own wounds can become places of grace. God's mercy does not deny suffering. Jesus comes into a fearful, broken community and redeems it. His first word to them—and to us—is "Peace." He speaks the same word three times: "Peace." This is his first Easter gift—not certainty, not triumph, but peace in the midst of fear and anxiety. We are reminded today that resurrection faith grows in real life, not in ideal conditions.

We are consoled by the story of Thomas the Apostle. He voices what we may feel: our disappointment and our need for assurance. Still, Jesus does not reject him. He returns a week later and meets Thomas exactly where he is. This tells us that the Lord is patient with our slow faith. He keeps coming back to us, Sunday after Sunday, each time we gather in worship. So our prayer today can be brief and to the point: "Thank God for Thomas."

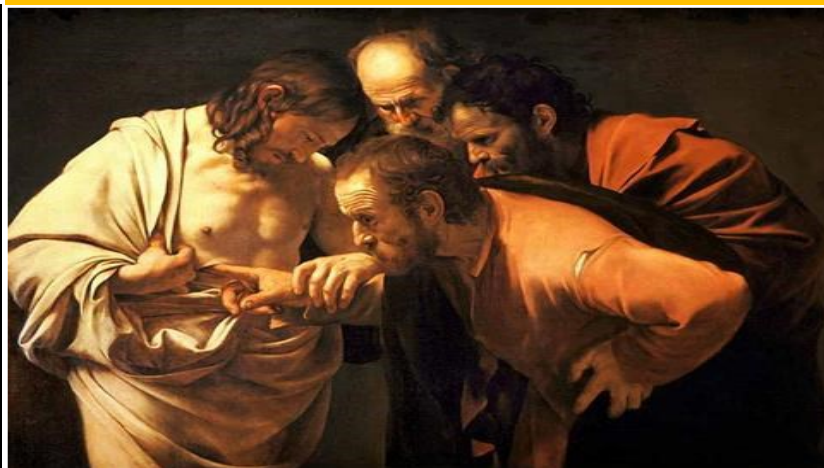
We are invited by God's Word today to bring our fears into the assembly. The risen Christ meets us behind locked doors. Here, once again, we receive our mission: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." We are sent by Easter faith to look outward toward reconciliation and mercy.

We trust the quiet presence of the risen Christ among us. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." We believers live by trust, not by dramatic signs.

Today the Gospel assures us that the Easter season is not about sustaining emotional excitement, but about learning to recognize the steady presence of the risen Lord in Word, Sacrament, and community life.

In short: one week after Easter, the message we receive is simple and hopeful – Christ still comes, still speaks words of peace, and still sends us out into our world, even when our faith feels unfinished.

MY LORD AND MY GOD



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

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick: Margaret Carroll, Betty White, Anne MacDonald, June Harvey, Jeff Oliver, Mirla Mills, Judy McPhee, Krystina Rowland, Carolyn Whitfield, Margaret Surugy, Jim Rooney, Damon Currow.

April Anniversaries: Jason Healey, Eilee Braithwaite, Bill McPhee, Roger Horne, Reg & Lillian Schumann, Alice Stephenson, William (Bill) Anderson, Judith Robertson, Kathleen Mundy, Lina Tarca, Francis McCarthy, John Rushforth, Linda Becker, Nell Guthrie

Recently deceased: Michael Brady, Gabrielle Morgan.

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 13th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 14th	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 15th	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 17th	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
Saturday 18th	Reconciliation	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES APRIL

Sunday 12th	Divine Mercy Sunday	
Wednesday 15th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Sunday 19th	Children's Mass Bridgewater	10.30a.m.
Saturday 25th	ANZAC DAY Bridgewater	9.00a.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thomas,
was indignant.
He did not rejoice.
So, he was
imperfect,
in need of mercy
as are we, O Lord.
You love us
in our struggles.
Please,
breathe your life into our flawed selves.
Let us find your grace and mercy
as we touch the wounds
of your children
everywhere.



CWL STIRLING ECUMENICAL AFTERNOON TEA

The CWL this year have decided to organise an Afternoon Tea than the usual luncheon. This will be on Wednesday 5th May at 1.30p.m. at OLAH Parish Hall. Guest Speaker will be Janet Leitch who will speak about her Camino "Teresiana". Join the CWL activities that are a mixture of spiritual, charitable, educational and social so, apart from the simple pleasure of sharing a cup of tea and a chat, members ensure they have a varied programme that includes events such as organising the ecumenical afternoon teas, and outings.



ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 19th Apr 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 26th Apr 8.30a.m
Welcoming 1st Reader 2nd Reader Euch. Minister Cleaning	Mary Nyeboeur Roz Crossing Gayle Raven Janet Harrison Connie & Carmel	Gayle Raven Simon Cox Michelle Chua Janet Harrison Jo Brickhill
BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 18th Apr 7.30pm	Sunday 19th Apr 10.30am
Sacristan Welcoming Reader 1 Reader 2 Euch.Ministers	Mark McGeough Karen Heusier Henry Duszyski Mark McGeough Mary Homann	John Leeton John Leeton Christian D Nolan Parodi Gina Kelly Di Golding Paris Huffman Folk Group Janet Harrison
Musicians Counters Our Lady Cleaning Flowers	Damien Mansfield Connie Golding & Orma Paine Dwyer Family Gina Kelly	Orma Paine Dwyer Family Gina Kelly
OLOR	Sunday 19th Apr 5.30pm	Sunday 26th Apr 5.30pm
Welcoming Cleaning	Debbie Somers Jenny Johnston	Sue Manchip Jenny Johnston

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The special collection on Good Friday for the Holy Land amounted to \$734.40 Our contribution helps the Franciscan Friars and local Church to carry out their mission: from the care of the Holy Places that give work to the local community to the running of several parishes, schools and the many social works.

The collection done on Holy Thursday for the hosts and Wine for mass during the year was \$507.50 Thank you for your generosity.

PROJECT COMPASSION

If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return them next week at Mass.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK

The Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be next Wednesday 15th April at 6.00p.m. at the OLAH parish hall.

EASTER RAFFLE

We wish to thank all those who supported the raffle. In all we made \$439. The winners will be announced this Sunday after the 10.30a.m. Mass at Bridgewater.

THE BRIDGE

Please take a copy of the latest edition of THE BRIDGE from the back of the church.

CWL STIRLING MEETING

On Wednesday 15th April, 2026 at 12.30pm with a sandwich ready for a 1.00p.m. start at the OLAH Parish Hall - Lady Parishioners Welcome - Afternoon Tea supplied. For further information please contact Pam Broadbridge 8339 5013.

EASTER MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP PATRICK O'REGAN

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ. On this most holy and joyful day, I greet each of you. Wherever you are gathering to celebrate, whether in the Cathedral, in your Parish church, in a hospital or aged care home, or simply at home with those you love. I greet each of you with the ancient and irrepensible greeting of Easter. At the heart of our faith is not simply a teaching, nor a programme, nor even a community, as much as we cherish those things. At the heart of our faith is an event. Something happened. The tomb was found empty. The Lord was encountered: by Mary Magdalene in the garden, by the disciples on the road to Emmaus, by the apostles in the upper room, behind locked doors. Something happened that shattered the finality of death and opened history to a horizon that had not been seen before. Saint Paul understood exactly what was at stake. Writing to the Corinthians, he put it without equivocation: "if Christ has not been raised, our faith is in vain, and we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has been raised." And so everything, everything, is changed. This Easter, I find myself drawn to the figure of Mary Magdalene in the garden on that first morning. She came in grief. She came expecting only to tend to the dead. She stood weeping outside the empty tomb, and even when she finally encountered the Risen Lord, she did not recognise him — until he spoke her name. "Mary." In that single word, her whole world turned on its axis. The Risen Christ continues to call us by name. Not as a crowd, not as a statistic, not as a problem to be managed — but as persons known and loved. Whatever this Easter finds you carrying: illness or loss; uncertainty or exhaustion; gratitude or joy or something you cannot yet name, the Lord comes to you in it. He calls your name. This year, as our Archdiocese prepares for our Synod, I am especially conscious that we are being invited to a deeper quality of listening, to God, and to one another. Easter is itself the foundation of that calling. When we truly listen to each other with care and reverence, we are practising a resurrection faith, a faith that believes life, meaning, and the Holy Spirit can be found even in the most unexpected places and the most unexpected people. To those who were received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil, and to those who have recently celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation, I say welcome. You have come home. To everyone across our Archdiocese: thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your love for the Church and for one another. I am deeply grateful for you. May this Easter fill your homes and your hearts with the peace that the world cannot give — and with a joy that endures. And may you know that God is Good, Good indeed.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Divine Mercy Sunday is an observance in the Roman Catholic Church in which followers are encouraged to offer forgiveness and reconciliation to all. It is based on visions recorded from St. Faustian Kowalski. In 2000, it was decreed a solemnity, a high feast day, by Saint John Paul II. Divine Mercy Sunday occurs the Sunday after Easter. We will celebrate the feast of the Divine Mercy this Sunday 12th April during the 10.30am. Mass at Bridgewater

ANZAC DAY— SATURDAY 25th APRIL

Like previous years while we encourage everyone to attend the Dawn Services. At Bridgewater church we will celebrate Mass on Saturday 25th April at 9 00a.m. As a parish community commemorate this day to pray for all those who lost their lives and those still defending our liberty.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 2nd May 2026 at the OLOAH Parish Hall, Bridgewater. Timings are as follows; 7.30a.m. Registration, 8.00a.m. Breakfast, Presentation & Questions, with Meeting close at 9.00a.m. Our speaker will be Jack Snelling. One of the primary benefits of men's breakfast is the opportunity to build community. In a society where isolation is increasingly common, these gatherings provide a space for men to connect, share their struggles, and support one another in their spiritual journeys.

DELIVER A SPEECH ON MOTHER'S DAY.

We wish to give the opportunity to those who have not yet delivered a speech about his/her on Mother's day. This will happen during our weekend masses on Sunday 3rd May. Mothers are a gift from God. No one can deny the love and affection that is being shown by mothers. Paying tribute to your mother is something special. If you are interested please talk to Fr Fred.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Thank you, everyone, for the lovely birthday celebration held last Sunday. The years have gone by so fast and God has blessed me with a wonderful community and friends. It was also significant that we celebrated my Birthday on Easter Day. Thanks to all those involved in organising the morning Tea after Mass. A Big Thank you for the wonderful "BIG" birthday card, nice to read all the well wishes messages and other birthday cards and gifts. This quote brings a smile to my face: "Every day above ground is a good day." Love to you all".

FR FRED

MARIAN PROCESSION

On Sunday 17th May the annual Archdiocesan event will be held in honour of Our Lady, celebrating 77 years of continuous tradition. This is one of the longest-standing Catholic events in Australia, bringing together parish communities in prayer, procession, and devotion. A beautiful opportunity for families and parishioners to participate in a large-scale faith celebration. The Procession will commence at 2.00p.m. Location TBA

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who assisted in preparing and celebrating for the Holy Week and Easter liturgies, especially the Parish Staff who continue to make a wonderful contribution to serving our community, as do many generous and committed volunteers in our parish. Gratitude goes especially at this time to those who helped from Palm Sunday to the Easter celebrations more life-giving, and all who participated: altar servers, the choir, floral arrangements, palm crosses, welcomers, liturgical ministers, those who donated palm and olive branches, people working behind the scenes and all who have been involved. We say a heartfelt thank you to all: we couldn't manage without you. May all our parishioners of the Adelaide Hills Parish persevere with eyes that love so that they may experience the many resurrection moments in their lives. I wish you and your families the peace and mercy of the Risen Lord this Easter. Fr Fred

SOUTHERN CROSS

This month's copy of The Southern Cross is free. Please take a copy.

Weekly Income	4th/5th April 2026
THANK YOU	
First Collection:	\$794.85
Planned Giving Received:	\$2435.00
Loose Plate:	\$445.60
If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:	
BSB: 066-782 Account: 10000277	
Account Name CCES ADEL HILLS	
Refer payment as "donation"	

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.'

I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just.

R.

R.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.

R.

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me, Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The rich ceremonies of the last week of Lent is best described in the words of the Easter Triduum, but even more powerfully in its symbols. The Palm Sunday procession with palms, the washing of feet and the abrupt ending of Mass on Holy Thursday. Then we have the starkness of the reading of the Passion and veneration of the Cross on Good Friday. And finally, the gathering in darkness, the lighting of the Easter candle, and the candlelight hearing of the story of God's journey with us from the creation of the world, the crossing of the Sea into the promised land, the promise of a Saviour and the story of Jesus' rising. This is crystallised in the candlelight singing of the Exultet with its linking all the events recalled in this night, the pouring of water in the Baptism of new Christians, and then the family celebrations of Easter Sunday.



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading

Acts 2:14, 22-23

2nd Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35