



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

30th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

25th/26th October 2025

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's gospel teaches us a lot about prayer. First, prayer doesn't have to be long. Both men in the parable prayed very brief prayers. But each man's prayer was very different. In his brief prayer the Pharisee said "I" four times. While he seems to thank God for his goodness, he really is patting himself on the back. In his view he is singular and unique. He thanks God for his not being like "the rest of humanity, greedy, dishonest, adulterous – or even like this tax collector." In his own eyes he is a completed product. There is little room in him to be changed by his prayer. He might have said prayers, but he didn't pray because he didn't see any need to change. There was no space for God to enter his life.

The tax collector can't achieve mercy on his own, he reveals his need and desire for God to do something for him. He wants to be changed and he trusts that God will help him make the necessary change in his life. What must have shocked those who heard this parable is how radical it is. The Pharisee is not a bad person, he is doing everything he should have been doing, he is completely dedicated to living the law's demands. In fact, he goes beyond what was required in religious law. He is offering a prayer of thanksgiving to God for his personal exemplary behaviour.

As someone working for the Roman occupation, the tax collector's life would have been considered an abomination, a betrayal to Israel and her God. But God sets this sinner right, does what the people thought observance of the law would do – God justifies the sinner. What got the tax collector right with God had nothing to do with strict observance of the law or a righteous public life. God accepted this sinner because he confessed his sin and hoped in God's mercy. When it comes right down to it, we are better off trusting in God's mercy than in our own efforts and what God might "owe" us in return. Like the two men, we have come into this temple today to pray. Like the tax collector we recognize that we are not complete. We know we need to move over and leave room for God to continue shaping and moulding us. What is in our hearts? Where do we need to make necessary changes in our lives? What are our desires and what are our limitations? Who knows what work God be doing in us at this Eucharist today? Who knows what changes might come about when we put ourselves in God's hands today?

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

ECOLOGY SUNDAY



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.

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 27th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 28th	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00p.m
Wednesday 29th	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 30th	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Oct/Nov

Sunday 26th	ECOLOGY SUNDAY	10.30a.m
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

Listen

to one man,

who moves from storage bin to apartment.

With no bed and sleeps on the floor.

"What else could I want?"

he prays.

"God is so merciful."

And to another.

With no ID, he can't get in a shelter,

has disease-ravaged toes.

He finds shoes that fit,

and cries to God,

"Oh, I am so blessed."

Lord,

Have mercy on us.

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	BIRDWOOD Sunday 2nd Nov 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 9th Nov 8.30am
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Welcome	Mary Nyeboeur	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Michelle Thomas	Anne Moore
2nd Reader	Brett Thomas	Eric Toome
Euch. Minister	Anne Moore	Janet Harrison
Cleaning	Carmel Fairbairn	Carmel Fairbairn

BRIDGEWATER	Sat 1st Nov 6.00 pm	Sun 2nd Nov 10.30am
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Sacristan	Ann Teteris	Di Golding
Welcoming	Kathy Lloyd	Sue Arthursen
Reader 1	Henry Duszynski	Ric Sachse
Reader 2	Alan Miller	Paul Robinson
Euchar. Minister	Stasia Duszynski	Paris Huffman
Musicians	Helen Cantwell	PowerPoint
Counters	Ric Sache & Kathrine Johnson	
Cleaning	Alan Miller & Ann Teteris	
Our Lady	Di Golding	Di Golding
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly
Tea & Coffee	Paris etc.	Paris etc.

OLOR	Sunday 2nd Nov 5.30pm	Sunday 9th Nov 5.30pm
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Sacristan	Paul Anderson	Paul Anderson
Welcoming	Jenny Johnston	Kathy

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.

PARISH ASSEMBLY 2025

It was a wonderful team effort — drawing on our collective strengths, capabilities, gifts, and experiences. The event had a great turnout, with passionate participation and genuine engagement from our parish community. A special thank you to Father Fred for his steady guidance and ongoing support throughout the process, and to Cathie for the delicious sandwiches and coordination of the catering — these touches always help create a warm, community spirit that rounds out the day beautifully.

We are now compiling the thoughts and ideas shared during the Assembly, as well as the evaluation feedback and volunteer information. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our parish community as we grow together in faith, connection, and service.

Warm regards,

Inge (PPC Secretary)

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event of an emergency please follow directions of the Parish Priest, reader or commentator who shall act as the Chief Warden and take control of the emergency response. The collectors shall assist as Wardens. When directed to evacuate the church/office/hall:

- **Move quickly and orderly to the nearest safe exit, do not run.**
- **If required, aid disabled, mobility impaired persons and the elderly.**
- **Alert the Chief Warden / Warden if someone is unable or unwilling to evacuate.**
- **Proceed to the designated assembly area (as shown in the Evacuation Diagram on the Noticeboard in the foyer) and await further instructions from the Chief Warden or emergency services.**

Bridgewater – car park

OLOR – tree area north of the foyer

Lobethal – grass area behind the church

Birdwood – area in front of the church

Do not re-enter any buildings until advised by the Chief Warden or emergency services.

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

The Social Justice team invites you to join them to celebrate the running of the 2025 Melbourne Cup. Enjoy a delicious chicken and champagne lunch followed by an equally delicious dessert of strawberries and pavlova. 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. Each ticket cost \$25. Gentlemen very welcome. Invite a friend. Please put your name on the booking sheet at the back of the church or email Cathie: catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026

Application forms for the sacramental program for 2026 can be picked up either from the school or parish office. Those who apply wants to do the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. **Children doing the sacraments need to be from Year 4 upwards next year.** The program will commenced with a introduction meeting in mid-February 2026.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

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

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!

FIRST COLLECTION

The First Collection at weekend Masses is the main means of financially supporting our Clergy, including Deacons and Retired Priests, through the Diocesan Presbytery Fund. The Fund covers the ever-increasing cost of stipends, medical benefits, motor vehicles, and ongoing formation. Currently, income from the Fund is covering about 70% of costs. Addressing this shortfall is crucial to ensuring we can continue to care for the evolving needs of our Archdiocesan Clergy. On the weekend 8/9th November you will be given to take home a fridge magnet that outlines how you can contribute - either through the First Collection at Mass or via the 'Good Giving' app and website.

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 18/19th October 2025
THANK YOU**

First Collection:	\$468.15
Planned Giving Received:	\$2100.00
Loose Plate:	\$164.95

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:

BSB: 066-782 Account: 10000277
Account Name Adelaide Hills Parish
Refer payment as "donation"

First Reading from the Book of Sirach

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable, nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. R.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress. R.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. R.

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me - may they not be held accountable for it.

But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK
ALL SOUL'S DAY**

1st Reading	Isaiah	25:6-9
2nd Reading	Romans	5:5-11
Gospel	Luke	7:11-17