30TH 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

24th/25th October 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

Parish House
1 Wembley Avenue (P O Box 718)
BRIDGEWATER S A 5155 Telephone 08 8359 0674
Email:
stmatthew@adelaidehillsparish.com.au
Website: adelaidehillsparish.com.au
Facebook: Adelaide Hills Parish

Parish Priest
Fr Alfred (Fred) Farrugia
email: a281657@hotmail.com

Paul Robinson
Parish Secretary
paul@adelaidehillsparish.com.au

Cathie Oswald
Pastoral Coordinator
Custodian of Parish Hall
catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com.au

St Catherine's Catholic School:
John Low
Principal
Telephone: (08) 8238 8238
www.stcaths.catholic.edu.au

Safeguarding Officer
Mark McGeough
mcgeough@internode.on.net

WHS Parish Officer
Marianne Berry
marianne3079@gmail.com

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 Pharisees show up frequently in the Gospels, don't they? Usually, they are portrayed as opponents of Jesus, sometimes violently so. Yet some Pharisees were sympathetic to Jesus. Paul was once a Pharisee, as was Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night.

There were approximately 6,000 Pharisees in Jesus' time. The name Pharisee is generally understood to mean "separated ones." They sought to distinguish themselves through their observance of the Law and the traditions of their ancestors. Some looked down on ordinary people, whom they considered insufficiently observant of the Law. These people were sometimes referred to as the "people of the land."

The Pharisees were primarily lay people, although some priests may also have belonged to the movement. They zealously sought to preserve the teachings of the Law and the traditions of their ancestors. They strove to protect the integrity of those teachings.

To keep people from violating the Law, they developed additional rules and interpretations that served as a kind of "fence" around it.

But how could an ordinary shepherd, housekeeper, or butcher possibly observe all those regulations? A person who wanted to be faithful to God might turn to a Pharisee or rabbi for guidance. Perhaps that helps us understand the question put to Jesus in today's Gospel: "Teacher, which commandment in the Law is the greatest?" In other words: "Help me understand God's Law. Sum it up for me."

Jesus recognised the importance of the Pharisees' zeal for the Law. His criticism was directed especially at religious hypocrisy and the tendency of some to look down on ordinary people. Some appeared to believe that their strict observance of the Law put them in especially good standing with God. Matthew tells us that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees. They approached him with their question: "Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?"

It is almost as if they were saying, "Standing on one foot, Rabbi, can you sum up all God's commands and all the rules and regulations handed down by our teachers?" Jesus responds with a brief and pointed statement: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind."

In other words, love God with your whole being.

The Pharisees would have recognised this commandment. Jesus was not making it up; he was drawing from Deuteronomy 6:5. It is part of the central Jewish prayer known as the Shema, named after its opening Hebrew word, meaning "Hear."

Jesus declares this the greatest and first commandment. But he does not stop there. He joins it to a second commandment from Leviticus: the command to love one's neighbour as oneself. He takes these two teachings and brings them together.

The message is clear: "Love God with your whole being. Express your love for God by loving your neighbour. You cannot separate one from the other.

"ONE IN CHRIST, UNITED IN MISSION" POPE LEO



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 26th	**Our Lady of the Rosary**	**9.00am**
Tuesday 27th	**Mass St Catherine's**	**9.00am**
	Rosary at the OLOR	**4.00pm**
Wednesday 28th	**St Matthew's, Birdwood**	**9.00am**
Friday 30th	**St Matthew's, Bridgewater**	**11.00am**
Saturday 31st	**Reconciliation**	**12.00pm**

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

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**
Thursday 12th	**Parish Finance Council**	**4.00pm**
Sunday 18th	**Ecology Meeting after Mass**	**11.45am**
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**
Tuesday 24th	**Liturgy Meeting**	**11.00am**
Friday 27th	**Memorial Mass**	**7.00pm**
Sunday 29th	**Bridgewater Comm. Meeting**	**11.45am**

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.

SECOND COLLECTION PLEDGE
Second collection pledge envelopes which will start on the weekend of 1st November 2026 are ready to be collected from the back of the church. Eighty 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 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. The Memorial Mass is on Friday 27th November at 7.00pm at Bridgewater. Forms of attendance will be available from next weekend. It's important to remember that filling the form means commitment to attending.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2027
Application forms for the Sacramental Program for 2027 can be collected from either the school or parish office, or via the parish website. Those applying must wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Children on the program need to be in Year 4 or upwards next year. The program will commence with an introduction meeting in mid- February 2027.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	BIRDWOOD Sunday 1st November 8.30am	LOBETHAL Sunday 8th November 8.30am
Welcoming	Mary Nyeboer	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Michelle Thomas	Marie Littler
2nd Reader	Brett Thomas	Simon Murphy
Euch. Minister	Anne Moore	Eric Toome
Cleaning	C & B Fairbairn	

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 31st October 6.00pm	Sunday 1st November 10.30am
Sacristan	Anne Teteris	John Leeton
Welcoming	Kathy Lloyd	Di Golding
Reader 1	Henry Duszynski	Nolan Parodi
Reader 2	Mary Homann	Paul Robinson
Euch Minister	Stasia Duszynski	Di Golding
		Colleen Sim
		Paris Huffman
Musicians	Stephan & Jordan	Ricki Irons
Counters	M.T'son/D.Golding	M.T'son/D.Golding
Cleaning	Dwyer Family	Dwyer Family
Our Lady	Orma Paine	Orma Paine
Flowers	Dwyer Family	Dwyer Family
Tea & Coffee	Farrugia Family	

OLOR	Sunday 1st November 5.30pm	Sunday 8th November 5.30pm
Welcoming	John Rodella	Annette Lamont
Cleaning	Jenny Johnston	Jenny Johnston

PRAYER FOR THE MISSIONS
Holy Father, make us one in Christ,
rooted in his love that unites and renews.
May all members of the Church
be united in mission, docile to the Holy Spirit,
courageous in bearing witness to the Gospel,
proclaiming and embodying daily your faithful love for all creatures.
Bless all missionary men and women,
support them in their efforts,
and watch over them in hope!
Mary, Queen of Missions,
accompany our work of evangelisation
in every corner of the earth:
make us instruments of peace,
and grant that the whole world
may recognise in Christ the light that saves.
Amen

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.

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. We then look carefully at what is on the Liturgical Calendar in the weeks to come.
The members are Fr Fred, Cathie Oswald, Paul Anderson (OLOR), Paul Robinson and Jo Brickhill (Northern End). Please consider joining us. If you're interested or need more detail, please speak to Fr Fred. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 24th October at 11.00am in the Parish House meeting room.

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 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 one Tuesday 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 in our parish we celebrate World Mission Day this Sunday, 25th October. This year also 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.***

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP
***MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH*:** Please join the Social Justice team for lunch on Tuesday 3rd November to celebrate the running of the Melbourne Cup. Enjoy a delicious chicken and 'champagne' lunch, take part in the sweeps, wear your best hat and watch the race on the big screen. For catering purposes, bookings are essential. Email Cathie or write your name on the sheets at the back of the church. Tickets are $30 each.
MARMALADE SALES: Thanks to all parishioners who purchased the St Matthew's Seville Orange Marmalade Jam. $446 was raised from the sale of the marmalade and will be donated to Bright Futures.
***ECOLOGY SUNDAY MARKET STALL*:** Thanks to all parishioners who baked cakes and biscuits and to all who purchased the cakes and biscuits. $352 was raised and onated to the Parish Ecology Group to be used for the establishment of the Meditation/Prayer Garden at Bridgewater.

THANK YOU
Thanks to all those who participated in the Ecology Sunday Mass, and to those who brought their pets along. It was a well-organised and excellent celebration between the school and parish. Thanks, too, to the group who came on Saturday to prepare the venue for the occasion.

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!

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.

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY
Invites you to Come and Try Ignatian Prayer. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 10am to 11.30am in the OLAH Parish Hall. The quiet stillness spent with God is always a welcome oasis in the busyness of life.

CWL SA: STATE CONFERENCE 2026
With the theme: "Walking Together", please join us at St John the Baptist Meeting Hall in Plympton on Saturday 31st October from 9.00am for our State Conference, which feastures four guest speakers and concludes with Mass at 3.00pm. All women are welcome and on-site and street parking is available, Tickets at $30 can be purchased from cwlsasecretary@gmail.com or by calling CWL and include morning tea and lunch. Please advise of any dietary requirements. It's sure to be a great day, not to be missed!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
At our last meeting, we were presented with two documents, "A Synodal Church on Mission" and the "Parish Social Profile based on the 2021 Australian Census", both of which can be found on our parish website. A plan was forwarded, looking what the PPC needs to work on between October 2026 and February 2027. The Stirling Christmas Pageant is on Sunday 7th December and we will run a food stall and display a nativity crib at the Stirling Oval. A parish calendar for 2027 will be set up and we were given updates about the new process regarding safeguarding.

WORKING BEE AT THE OLOR
A 'Summer Garden' working bee will be held at OLOR from 8.00am on the first Saturday of each month, starting 7th November. Please join us!

WEEKLY INCOME 17/18 OCTOBER 2026

First Collection:	**$435.00**
Planned Giving Received:	**$1,886.00**
Loose Plate:	**$225.70**

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

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

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING
A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans. "If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. "If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
I love you, Lord, my strength

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:

When I call I am saved from my foes. R.
Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. R.



Pope Leo XIV returned to the Vatican four days after undergoing surgery to remove a growth from his lung, sooner than initial forecasts of a weeklong hospital stay. At the conclusion of the Angelus on Sunday, Pope Leo thanked all who had been praying for him in recent days, saying 'I have truly felt your support. Thank you'. On 13th October, the Pope underwent a successful procedure that discovered a malignant tumour in his right lung and removed its lower lobe.
Doctors said there were no complications in the procedure, but further tests are needed to determine if the cancer had spread into his lymph nodes or other parts of his body. His surgeon said there were 'no clinical reasons' to prevent Pope Leo's planned trip to Latin America next month. Even while in hospital, Pope Leo spoke by telephone with Russian President Vladimir Putin, calling for a ceasefire in that nation's war on Ukraine and humanitarian aid to Ukrainian civilians.

SECOND READING
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the Gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.
Alleluia

GOSPEL
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question: ”Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

FIRST READING	Revelation	7:2-4,9-11
SECOND READING	1 John	3:1-3
GOSPEL	Matthew:	5:1-12