32nd 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

7th/8th November 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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Mark McGeough
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WHS Parish Officer
Marianne Berry
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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

This parable doesn't sound very Christian, does it? Didn't Jesus teach us to provide for the need, to take what we have and share it with those who have less? Jesus taught us about sharing in other ways, too. Remember the parable of the Last Judgment, when Jesus separates the sheep from the goats? The sheep were those who fed the hungry, clothed the naked and visited those in prison. The goats did none of these things and, as a result, were cast away. We know that parable – but this isn't that parable. Jesus has something else to say to us here.

What an unusual parable! What is all this about 10 virgins carrying lamps and waiting for the bridegroom? And why does he arrive at midnight to claim his bride? That doesn't sound like any of our church weddings, does it?

In those days, fathers arranged marriages and signed the marriage contracts. Sounds like a business deal, doesn't it? Where's the romance? Once the contract was signed, the bride remained in her family home for a year or more, until the groom came to take her to his home. The 10 young women would have been friends and relatives of the bride's family. Along with the bride, they would proceed to the groom's house, where the wedding feast would begin. Now that sounds like a wedding!

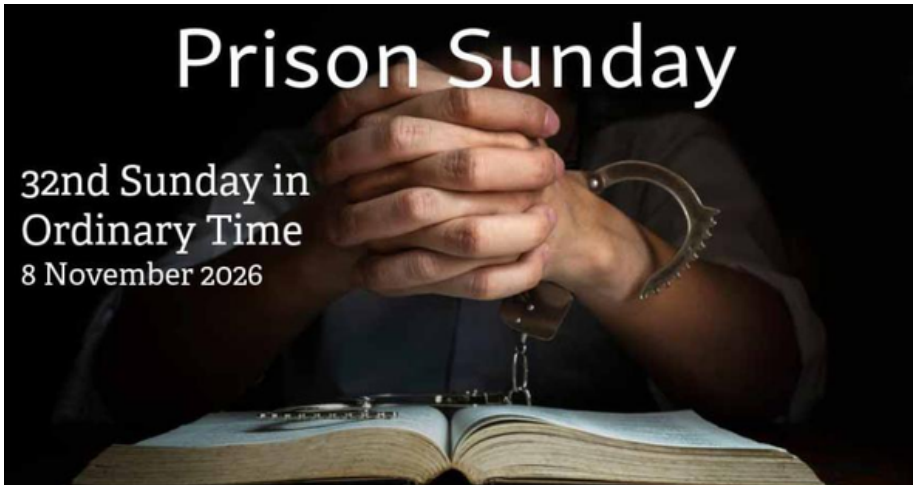
But the parable raises still more questions. Where would those five unprepared maidens find oil to buy at midnight? Jesus has something to say to us, so let's allow Him to tell the story in His own way. Our task is to listen, learn, and gain wisdom for our lives.

Five maidens recognised what the occasion required and came prepared. The other five faced the same occasion but failed to prepare. They let time slip away. They thought, "Someone else will take up the slack." The moment of truth seemed far off. But in the parable, the opportunity eventually passes. The time for making a decision is gone. The time for taking action has passed.

All 10 maidens were imperfect. All 10 fell asleep. Like us, they were fallible. We, too, doze off and let things slip by. Even in the Garden of Gethsemane, those closest to Jesus fell asleep. So, this parable is a grace for us. It is a wake-up call. It challenges us to reflect and gives us time to make changes. It asks us: What steps do I need to take to be ready for the unexpected? What must I do now, before life surprises me?

The truth is that we are neither completely foolish nor completely wise. Both are part of us.

The challenge comes at midnight, at the darkest hour. A crisis catches us by surprise, and suddenly there is no time to make up for what we have neglected. In the parable, the foolish maidens return after the opportunity has passed, only to find the door locked. It is too late.



WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick: Betty White, June Harvey, Mirla Mills, Judy McPhee, Danilo Cruz, Fran Marshall, Fr Hans Meyer.

November Anniversaries: Thelma Smerdon, Fr Brian Schmidt, Stella Dacko, Frank Clements, Stephen Manna, Susanne Movat, Daniel Clements, Tony Nichols, Mario Della Torre, Colin Sutton.

Recently deceased: Margaret Carroll

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 9th	**Our Lady of the Rosary**	**9.00am**
	St Matthew's Bridgewater	**6.00pm**
Tuesday 10th	**Liturgy at St Catherine's**	**9.00am**
	Rosary at the OLOR	**4.00pm**
Wednesday 11th	**Comm. Service Birdwood**	**9.00am**
Friday 13th	**St Matthew's, Bridgewater**	**11.00am**
Saturday 14th	**Reconciliation**	**12.00pm**

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Thursday 12th	**Parish Finance Council**	**4.00pm**
Sunday 15th	**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**

PRISON SUNDAY

Each year on the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Prison Sunday, bringing attention to the plight of prisoners and highlighting the important work that prison chaplains undertake. Prison Sunday began in 2016, during the Year of Mercy, as an initiative of Pope Francis to observe the Jubilee for Prisoners. 'We need to nourish the roots of our hope so that they can bear fruit, despite whatever evil we have done. There is no corner of our heart that cannot be touched by God's love,' Pope Francis said at the time. We join in the prayers for the people for this Prison Sunday, that prison chaplains care for the imprisoned, especially young Indigenous detainees, with the compassion of Christ.

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 this weekend. It's important to remember that completing the form means commitment to attending.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2027

Application forms for the Sacramental Programme for 2027 can be collected from either the school or parish office or accessed 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.

ECOLOGY GROUP MEETNG

Our next meeting will be on Sunday 15th November after the 10.30am Mass. Sadly, at our last meeting, only three members - including Fr Fred - attended. Our plans from that meeting, a visit to RECREATE in Mt Pleasant, Ecology Sunday and the Contemplative Walk at the OLOR., have all been carried out. As we strive to survive, your attendance will help us to continue.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	BIRDWOOD Sunday 15th November 8.30am	LOBETHAL Sunday 22nd November 8.30am
Welcoming	Mary Nyeboer	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Eric Toome	Eric Toome
2nd Reader	Margaret Smitherman	Anne Moore
Euch. Minister	Janet Harrison	Margaret Smitherman
Cleaning	C & B Fairbairn	Hennie Murphy

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 14th November 6.00pm	Sunday 15th November 10.30am
Sacristan	Joan Davey	Di Golding
Welcoming	Karen Heusler	Sue Arthurson
Reader 1	Joan Davey	Christian Dumancelu
Reader 2	Mark McGeoughr	Nolan Parodi
Euch Minister	Mary Homann	Karen Dutton
		Paris Huffman
		Deb Stapleton
Musicians	Damien Mansfield	Folk Group
Counters	K.Johnson/R,Sachse	K.Johnson/R.Sachse
Cleaning	Dwyer Family	Dwyer Family
Our Lady	Orma Paine	Orma Paine
Flowers	Gloria Howe	Gloria Howe
Tea & Coffee	Volunteer, please!	

OLOR	Sunday 15th November 5.30pm	Sunday 22nd November 5.30pm
Welcoming	Jenny Johnston	Tom Kenyon
Cleaning	Jenny Johnston	Jenny Johnston

PRAYER OF THNKSGIVING

O Lord,
we trust you;
trust that you will be present to us.
Until then we try to catch
just a glimpse of you
in midnight stars;
and geese in flight;
in planets' paths;
In a child's face;
in each sorrow; and in all joy:
we look for you in the homeless,
the hungry, in immigrants,
in victims of bias,
in caretakers of the environment
and in the sick.
Please bless our searching for you,
flasks full and lamps trimmed.
Let us find you in all things. Amen

ADVENT RETREAT

The Church celebrates the Feast of Christ the King on 22nd November, the last Sunday before Advent, also known as the last Sunday of the liturgical year. As was the case last year, the Advent Retreat will be held on this Sunday. With parishioners not yet involved in Christmas celebrations, it's a good opportunity to prepare for Advent. The retreat will commence after the 10.30am Mass at Bridgewater and will end by 2.15pm.

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

Thanks to all parishioners who attended the Melbourne Cup lunch last Tuesday. A special thanks to those who always support the Social Justice team's initiatives. For various reasons, a number of the team were unable to attend, with the workload falling on a smaller group to make the day a success. It was a long and tiring day, but we raised approximately $1,400.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS
If you would like a Mass offered for deceased family members, 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.

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCES—masses will be offered for the deceased relatives and friends of:
Susan Mclean, Roberto & Jocelyn Fogagnolo, Domenic, Nancy & Frank Puntoriero, Bill, Pam & Dougal Thompson, Friends & Family of Paris Huffman, Troy Broadbridge, Janis & Frank Evans, Fay & Geoff Noble, Ted Lang, Bill & Nell Guthrie, Greg & Elizabeth Rohan, Noel Dermody, Jane Harrison, George & Kath White, Mavis & Lawrence Harrison, O'Dea Family, Golding Family, Greg Golding, Joanne McFarlane, Syln, Ralph & John Papandrea, Kath & Don Nicholls, Tony Clifford Richard Fogden, Brian MacKenzie, Brian Sachse, Josephine Collins, Margaret Girvan, Ross & Alma Anderson, Paul Millhouse, Ron & Joan Peterson, Alfred & Elsie Smith, Karmenu Farrugia, Olga, Karmenu, Carmelo Schembri, Valentina & Zenon Sozecki, Maria & Adam Jeziorianski, John Fossey, Carol & Mima Irons, Hugo, Claudia, Pamela, Sandra & Celia Larenas, Fabiola Esquetini, Dean, Brett & Norma, Ray Irons, Mariana Larco, Beatrice Pollard, Maureen East, Con & Patrick Mulvihill, Tommie & Fay McGinn, Lino Farrugia, Freddie Aquilina.
O Lord Jesus Christ, grant to the souls of the faithful departed, the full remission of their sins. Be mindful, most merciful Saviour, of that Soul in Purgatory who was most devoted to Thee in the Holy Eucharist. Shorten the moment of his deliverance, that he may glorify Thee, and aid me in my journey toward eternity. Amen.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL
Members of St Vincent De Paul will launch their Christmas Appeal in our parish during weekend of 14/15th November by distributing the usual envelopes. Christmas is all about family, spending time together, sharing a meal and creating meaningful memories. These moments are precious. But what if you couldn't provide a meal for your family, or even a home? This is the reality many Australian families face this Christmas.

STIRLING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
During the Stirling Christmas Pageant, our parish is holding an bacon and egg sandwich stall on Sunday 7th December from 11.00am to 4.00pm. We are asking for volunteers who can help in the catering. Please speak to or contact John Leeton on 0419 2543 814 john.leeton2@bigpond.com.

PEOPLE COME AND GO
Thanks to Paris Huffman who, as a eucharistic minister, has volunteered to take communion to the Catholic residents at Clayton Church Home in Woodside. We still we need volunteers to join the cleaning roster at the Northern End and Bridgewater.
FR FRED

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL
The next meeting is on Thursday 12th November at 4.00pm at the OLAH Parish Hall, Bridgewater. We will discuss the revised plans of the Bridgewater renovation as the estimate exceeded our planned budget.

On a personal note: our aim is that we are planning to commence works after Easter 2027, which falls in late March. I am currently working with architect Ben Clements and builder Telegramma to arrive at an agreeable final outcome that meets our needs and falls within our budget. There's a lot of work involved, it hasn't been easy, but we remain hopeful. Please keep us all in your prayers.
FR FRED

BAPTISM FAMILIES' CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA:
The Adelaide Hills Catholic Parish invites all families who have had children baptised in the parish in recent years to attend a Christmas Afternoon Tea/Get-Together in the Parish Hall, 1 Wembley Avenue, Bridgewater (adjacent the church) on Saturday 21st November at 2.00pm. St Nicholas will make an appearance during the afternoon, with special treats for all children. Please RSVP before Monday 16th November, indicating numbers of adults and children and any dietary restrictions.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY
We extend our heartfelt prayers and condolences to the Carroll family who are grieving the loss of their beloved Margaret. While her health permitted, she - along with her late husband Bruce - rarely missed Mass on Saturday evening at Bridgewater. May the Lord's comfort and peace surround her family, and may they find strength in His promise of eternal life. Margaret's funeral Mass is planned for Wednesday 11th November at St Matthew's Church, Bridgewater at 10.00am. May God give her eternal rest. FR FRED

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2026
Sunday 29th November marks the beginning of the Advent season. Advent is the beginning of the Church's Year. It is a time of promise, expectation and participation as we prepare for the great celebration of the birth of Jesus. Advent is the time we wait in joyful hope for our God to be born in our hearts. The season of Advent recognises the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, in a special way. God's Son became one of us and one with us, to share our human experience fully and completely. *Next weekend, we will distribute the Advent and Christmas programme of our parish.*

CATHOLIC MISSIONS
Up until last weekend, 47 envelopes had been placed in the second collection and others given directly to Fr Fred. This amounts to almost 55% of the total number of envelopes distributed. THANK YOU.
For Catholic Charities, we sent the 15 envelopes we collected, together with $150 collected on St Matthew's feast. We also thank those who donated to both charities through direct debit and will publish the final amounts when we receive the figures from both the charitable organisations.

A SYNODAL CHURCH ON MISSION
If you are interested to have a copy of the "A Synodal Church on Mission', you can find it on our parish website. This is the final document for the whole Synod process which occurred across our Diocese. This document forms the basis for each parish to follow in its mission in the coming months. The Diocese has also established an implimentation group to guide parishes on how best to work the decisions outlined in this document.

WEEKLY INCOME 31 OCT/1 NOV 2026

First Collection:	**$514.75**
Planned Giving Received:	**$2,860.00**
Loose Plate:	**$74.50**

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

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
Wisdom is bright and does not grow dim. By those who love her, she is readily seen and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs, coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. R.

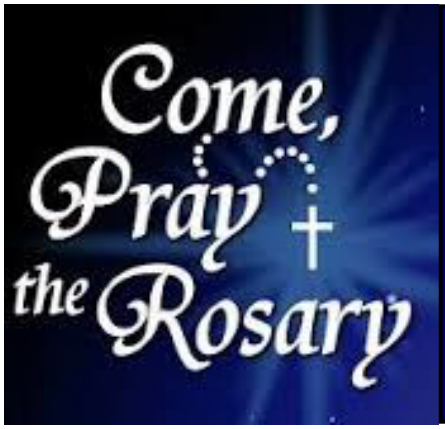
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. R.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. R.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. R.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING	Proverbs	31:10-31
SECOND READING	1 Thessalonians	5:1-6
GOSPEL	Matthew:	25:14-10



EVERY TUESDAY 4.00pm AT OLOR CHURCH

SECOND READING
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died, At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air, so we shall stay with the Lord forever. With such thoughts as these, you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when
the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia

GOSPEL
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

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