33rd 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

14th/15th November 2026

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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

In today's parable, Jesus is talking about finances, investing and taking risks -- big risks. A "talent" was the equivalent of 20 years' salary for the ordinary worker. The master puts an enormous amount of trust in his servants, and he does not give explicit directions. After entrusting the money, we are told, "Then he went away." The master did not even give them explicit instructions about what they were to do with his money. Instead, he gave them time and the freedom to use their imaginations and ingenuity to invest his money wisely.

Two of them do their job very well. They make an enormous profit, 100% return. So, when the master returns, he praises their work. "Well done, good and faithful servant. Come share your master's joy."

But one of the servants did not do well at all. He hid the owner's money. The servant handed back the same amount he was given. This servant did not get it. He missed the point. He sadly misjudged the master and acted out of fear. That's not what the master wanted. Not a timid servant paralysed by fear, but one who would take a chance -- get involved, invest the master's money wisely. And make a profit.

The parable speaks to us today. In many aspects of our lives, we Christians must practice prudence and be thoughtful about the decisions we make. However, there is a "But" in the parable, reminding us of another side of Christian living: not to be afraid to be engaged in the world, practicing our faith, even when it feels risky.

The parable suggests we have been given treasure and have also been given freedom and trust to do what we see we should do, not letting fear or a sense of inadequacy hold us back. People say: "Keep the faith." How? Treat it like it is fragile? Do we not have enough of it? That we will be blamed for failure?

Rather, the parable does not seem to be saying, "Keep the faith," but "Practice the faith. Engage the world and put your faith into action." It invites risk-taking, addressed to those who have feelings of inadequacy or fear putting their faith into action. Recall what Mother Cabrini said, "Whose work is it, ours or God's? God, like the master, has equipped us and trusted us to discern how we should invest ourselves. The parable is not restrictive, calling us to be cautious. Instead, it invites us to trust and, after our work in the world is done and the master returns, we too will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR



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 Carrol, Jan McGrath

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 16th	**Our Lady of the Rosary**	**9.00am**
	Liturgy at St Catherine's	**9.00am**
Tuesday 17th	**Rosary at the OLOR**	**4.00pm**
Wednesday 18th	**Mass at Birdwood**	**9.00am**
Friday 20th	**St Matthew's, Bridgewater**	**11.00am**
Saturday 21st	**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**

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

Australian bishops have called for people to leave their comfort zone for Sunday's World Day of the Poor. Chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service, Bishop Tim Harris, said the "World Day of the Poor on 15 November is an opportunity for all Christians to draw closer to Christ by encountering those who live in poverty in the community". Bishop Harris made his remarks after reflecting on Pope Leo's 2026 Message for the World Day of the Poor, "The Lord is the Refuge of the Poor". Bishop Harris encouraged all Christians to get to know those who live in poverty in their local community "and to join with others to advocate for change which can offer hope to those who face a constant struggle to live with any dignity". For more on the World Day of Poor commemorations in Australia, see the Australian Catholic Bishops Commission statement.

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 are available at the back of the church. 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.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	LOBETHAL Sunday 22nd November 8.30am	LOBETHAL Sunday 29th November 8.30am
Welcoming	Gayle Raven	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Eric Toome	Jo Brickhill
2nd Reader	Anne Moore	Simon Murphy
Euch. Minister	Margaret Smitherman	Anne Moore
Cleaning	Hennie Murphy	Hennie Murphy

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 21st November 6.00pm	Sunday 22nd November 10.30am
Sacristan	Mark McGeough	Di Golding
Welcoming	Karen Heusler	John Leeton
Reader 1	Mark McGeough	Paul Robinson
Reader 2	Mary Homann	Phil Schultz
Euch Minister	AnnTeteris	Karen Dutton
		Paris Huffman
		Nolan Parodi
Musicians	Helen Cantwell	Youth Group
Counters	K.Dutton/M.Feijen	K.Dutton/M.Feijen
Cleaning	D.De Fazio/S.Arthurson	D.De F/S.Arthurson
Our Lady	Orma Paine	Orma Paine
Flowers	Gloria Howe	Gloria Howe
Tea & Coffee		

OLOR	Sunday 22nd November 5.30pm	Sunday 29th November 5.30pm
Welcoming	Tom Kenyon	Kathy Decosta
Cleaning	Jenny Johnston	Jenny Johnston

PRAYER OF THNKSGIVING

O God, it is your nature.
You give yourself to us.
Freely you give over your Spirit.
Help us freely give it too,
then receive it back.
We say with the second servant,
"You gave me two talents.
I have taken the risks.
I have made two more!"
Let your spirit give us
the boldness of eternal joy.
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.

CWL STIRLING MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th November 2026 - 12.30pm with sandwich for 1.00pm start at the OLAH Parish Hall. We look forward to members and parish ladies attending. Afternoon tea is provided. Contact Pam Broadbridge for more information: 8339 5013.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

The OLOR Community Meeting will be on Tuesday 17th November at Paul Anderson's residence at 6.00pm. The Northern End Meeting is on Wednesday 18th November after the 9.00am Mass at the Mary O'Dea Community Centre, Birdwood.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
Christ the King Sunday falls on Sunday, November 22nd. Its full name is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, and it is the last Sunday of the Catholic Church's year. The feast proclaims that Jesus Christ rules over all creation, all history and every human heart. It closes Ordinary Time, and Advent begins the following Sunday. Pius XI instituted the feast in the Holy Year of 1925, in a world shaken by the First World War, In Quas Primas, he explained why he chose a feast. At first he placed the feast on the last Sunday of October, just before All Saints. In the reform of the calendar after the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI moved it in 1969 to the last Sunday of the liturgical year and gave it its present title, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, so that it crowns the whole year of salvation.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2026
Sunday 29th November will be the First Sunday of Advent, the opening day of the liturgical year and marks the start of Advent, a season of spiritual preparation for both the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and his second coming at the end of time. It invites a reflective turning away from daily distractions toward hope and watchfulness, symbolised in traditions like lighting the first candle of the Advent wreath. The season of Advent, whose name derives from the Latin term adventus ("coming"), was in existence in parts of Europe by the 4th and 5th centuries, developing from a period of fasting into its present form as a four-week journey of anticipation and devotion *This weekend, we will distribute the Advent and Christmas programme of our parish.*

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, Erminio & Maria Tarca, Tarca families, John Ritzi, Linda Radic, Victor & Madge Pollard, Vera & Shiela, Jack Howith, Marie Doolan, Maureen Dorahy, Alec & Catherine Raven, Reece & Joan Angel, Claire O'Connor, Darryl Shephard.
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 towards eternity. Amen.

THE BRIDGE/SOUTHERN CROSS
Please take your copy of this month edition of The Bridge. A kindly reminder that there is also this month's Southern Cross at the back of the church.

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.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL
Members of St Vincent De Paul will launch their Christmas Appeal in our parish during the 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.

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.

STIRLING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
During the Stirling Christmas Pageant, our parish is holding a bacon and egg sandwich stall on Sunday 6th 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, or Fr Fred.
Our presence is not only as a fundraiser but we can show that together with the other denominations, the Hills churches are vibrant, alive and full of people of all ages and stages. It's a free kick for us – it's soft and easy evangelism, and an opportunity to strengthen relationships among Christians who usually worship at different churches. Perhaps someone in the crowd will respond and attend our Christmas services this year.

THE NEW BELL
I have ordered the bell for our new belfry from the Philippines. It is being sponsored by various benefactors who have already donated the money. Not one dollar will be taken from the parish accounts (aside from that donated for the bell). Its 41cm in diameter and 45cm high, weighing approximately 36kgs. FR FRED

WEEKLY INCOME 7/8 NOVEMBER 2026

First Collection:	**$603.20**
Planned Giving Received:	**$1,615.00**
Loose Plate:	**$131.70**

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

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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING
A reading from the book of Proverbs
A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. R.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. R.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. R

SECOND READING
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons,' since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.
But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

FIRST READING	Ezekiel	34:11-12,15-17
SECOND READING	1Corinthians	15:20,26,28
GOSPEL	Matthew:	25:31-46

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you,
says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.
'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.
'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."
'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."
'Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."
'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."'

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