



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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

7TH MARCH / 8TH MARCH 2026

## ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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## SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

There are conversations that are an important and necessary part of life; ones in which we make a commitment to another; which start a new friendship; which help cement an old one; which heal hurts. These are conversations which add quality to our life, we need to have them and they are life shaping. We can call these "conversations of significance" (or, "conversations that count") and we need to have them if our life is to have any deeper meaning: if we are to live more than a superficial life. That's the kind of conversation the Samaritan woman had with Jesus by the well – a conversation of significance.

It started casually, but because of who she was – thirsty, and probably looking for much more in her life, and because she's talking to Jesus, their conversation goes quickly to the heart of the matter. It addresses issues of importance like: "Who am I?" "Where am I going?" "What am I doing?" "What change do I need to make in my life?" "Am I happy with things as they are?" Questions like these are about significant issues, not the stuff of everyday conversations perhaps – but we need to have them periodically. We need to stop the rush of our lives, sit by some "well of refreshment," as the woman did; take a breath and pause to reflect on questions of importance, questions that count. An article "How to Manage Stress." for the one or two who are experiencing stress, here are the recommendations. One suggestion was: "Find things that make your spirit soar." For example: music, reading, nature, exercise, and, although this was not a religious article, there was this suggestion, "Take time for spiritual pursuits on a regular basis." And it even went on to suggest meditation and prayer.

Perhaps we feel that our religion has settled into years of routine. Or, that we have lukewarm religious fervour, which lacks enthusiasm. Or, maybe we need to make a significant change in our lives. In terms of today's gospel story our faith may be more like stagnant/still water, than like the water Jesus promises the woman – living water. If, like the Samaritan woman, we find ourselves spiritually parched and dry of spirit, then we are potential, perfect recipients of what God has to offer us this Lent. The gospel story reveals that God is offering us much more than we now experience – much more than we could expect or imagine from God. Lent is a time to enter into a "conversation of significance" ("conversation that counts"). Shall we engage God, as the woman did by the well? Or rather, shall we let God engage us, as Jesus did, when he began the conversation with her? Shall we enter into a conversation of significance this Lent? – A conversation that counts

## 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

## THURST FOR TRUE LIFE



## 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, Mario Marin.

**March Anniversaries:** Eileen McGlasham, Sr Carmel Slattery Op, Zenon Sobacki, Zofie Gregorczyk, Wally Finch, Norm Davey, Kevin O'Brady, Claire Sobels. Tony Arthurson, Steve Sarlay, Stan Greg, Les Way, Karmenu Farrugia, Claire Klavins, Max O'Brien, Noel Fiebiger, Bastiaan Kradolfer, Ava Lynch.

**Recently deceased:** Luzia Wohlfart

## MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 9th	OLOR MASS	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 10th	St Catherine's—Liturgy	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 11th	BIRDWOOD MASS	9.00a.m.
Friday 13th	BRIDGEWATER MASS	11.00a.m.
Saturday 14th	RECONCILIATION	12.00p.m.

## UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Mar 2026

Sunday 8th	Third Sunday of Lent	
Tuesday 10th	Ministers of the sick	10.00a.m.
	Ministers of Baptism	11.00a.m.
Thursday 12th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Saturday 14th	Sacramental workshop 1	1.00p.m.
Sunday 15th	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
	Children's Mass	10.30a.m.
	Lenten Retreat	12.00p.m.
Wednesday 18th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Thursday 19th	Feast of St Joseph	
Friday 20th	Sacrament of Reconciliation	6.00p.m.
Sunday 22nd	Fifth Sunday of Lent	

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord,  
when  
you declare to  
a woman at the well  
everything about her life,  
we think of our own lives as well.  
You know each  
of our ins and outs too,  
when we sit and when we stand.  
yearn for light, love, beauty and peace,  
for worship of you in Spirit and truth.  
Still, often we remain dry!  
Come, Lord Jesus,  
quench our thirst  
for life within  
your living water.

## ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 15th Mar 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 22nd Mar 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Mary Nyeboeur	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Simon Murphy	Jo Brickhill
2nd Reader	Anne McEvoy	Eric Toome
Euch. Minister	Margaret S	Anne Moore
Cleaning	Michelle & Brett	Gayle Raven

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 14th Mar 6.00pm	Sunday 15th Mar 10.30am
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Sacristan	Mark McGeough	Di Golding
Welcoming	Karen Heusler	Gina Kelly
Reader 1	Mark McGeough	Phil Schultz
Reader 2	Mary Homann	Paul Robinson
Euch.Ministers	Kathy Lloyd	Di Golding
	Ann Teteris	Deb Stapleton
		Paris Huffman
Musicians	Damien Mansfield	FolkGroup
Counters	Connie Golding & Janet Harrison	Janet Harrison
Our Lady	Di Golding	Di Golding
Cleaning	Dwyer Family	Dwyer Family
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly

OLOR	Sunday 15th Mar 5.30pm	Sunday 22th Mar 5.30p.m
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Welcoming	Kathy Decosta	Jenny Johnston
Cleaning	Kathy Decosta	Kathy Decosta

## PASTORAL LETTER FOR LENT By ARCHBISHOP

### Christ's Call Beyond Nostalgia

When the present feels overwhelming and the future uncertain, the temptation to retreat into the past grows stronger. We hear calls to return to supposedly simpler times, to restore old certainties, to make things as they once were. But faith is not found in nostalgia. The Lord Jesus is the One who says, "Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5). He is the One who constantly surprises us, challenges us, calls us forward into a future we cannot yet see but must trust him to reveal. When Jesus appeared to his disciples, he didn't invite them to mourn that which was lost. Rather he showed them his wounds. Yes, the past mattered, the suffering was real, however those very wounds had been transformed into the means of salvation. He breathed the Holy Spirit upon them. He sent them out on mission. He called them forward, not backward. The peace the Lord Jesus offers is not found by turning back but by following him forward in faith. It is not the peace of unchanging certainty, rather the peace of knowing we are held by an unchanging God as we navigate change.

### Sent by the Risen Christ "Peace be with you,"

Jesus said to his disciples. And then, in the same breath: "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." This is the heart of Christian mission: we are sent by the Lord Jesus himself. Here in the Archdiocese of Adelaide, we have embarked on our own Diocesan Synod this year, gathering under these very words. This synodal process is not primarily about organisational restructuring. It is about learning to listen for Christ's voice as he sends us forth. It is about discerning together where Holy Spirit is calling us and how we are to participate in his mission. It is about making the Gospel credible to the people of our time. The synodal way invites us to recognise that Christ speaks through the entire People of God. When we gather to listen to one another, we are seeking to hear the voice of the Risen Lord who promised to be with us always. As we prepare for our Archdiocesan Synod, we do so knowing that Christ sends us not to serve ourselves but to be agents of his peace and reconciliation in a divided world. (to be continued)

## LENT 2026

3rd Sunday of Lent Jesus' encounter becomes for the Samaritan woman at the well a profoundly life changing experience. At every eucharist we are in-vised also to the same encounter with Jesus who desires to meet our spiritual longings with the gift of his Body and Blood. Lent is the graced time to quench our spiritual thirst by drinking deeply of the living water of God's word and sacrament. May we join the psalmist in kneeling before the Lord who made us as we pray, "speak to me, Lord."

## PRAYER SERVICE

At the Northern End during Lent, Sunday gospel reflection of the coming Sunday in Lent is mediated on Wednesday after 9.00 a.m. Mass

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, every Friday at 11.00 a.m. followed by Mass. The 14 Stations are often prayed during Lent, The prayer consists of passing from station to station and meditating on each incident through prayer and reflection. This devotion is a good way to walk with Jesus and meditate on his passion and to allow Je-sus to walk with us in our daily lives and struggles.

## LENTEN RETREAT

The retreat will be held on Sunday 15th March at Bridgewater for 12.00p.m. with light lunch with 12.00p.m. start to finish around 2.00p.m. The retreat will be delivered by Fr Fred on the reflections by Bishop Barron. If one intends to come please put your name in list provided at the back of the church.

## PROJECT COMPASSION

**Monoranjon** lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.



Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code. Or by calling: 1800 024 413 Or online at: [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate) Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

## PARISH BAPTISM TEAMS

The role of the parish team is to accompany the parents and family of the child as they prepare for the sacrament of Baptism. The team is a reflection of the local faith community's welcome to the child being brought for baptism. They also support the child's family as they make the journey to Baptism. Our next meeting with the Baptism teams is on Tuesday 10th March at 11.00a.m. at the meeting room at the parish house in Bridgewater.

## BIRTHING KITS

To celebrate Women's Internation day. like previous years, we help in promoting the Birthing Kits were women in Developing Countries have little chance of a midwife present. A clean birth kit will provide every -thing a mother needs to have reasonably safe and clean birthing environment. A kit may be the difference between a woman and a baby living or dying during the birthing process. All donations ensures Adelaide High School to continue to pack kits for many women world-wide. Last year our contribution helped packing of 400 kits. A collection for this appeal will be held next week-end of 14/15th March 2026

## FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

We have two major feasts in honour of St Joseph. On March 19 our veneration is directed to him personally and to his part in the work of redemption, while on May 1 we honour him as the patron of workmen This year the 19th March falls on Thursday so we will celebrate also his feast by celebrating Mass at 6.30p.m. at the OLOR church.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Our first workshop for the Sacramental program will be held on Saturday 14th March at the Parish Hall, Bridgewater at 1.00pm. Please let us pray for the children and their families as they are preparing for the Sacraments.

## MINISTERS OF THE SICK

The Ministers to the Sick serve as a representative from our parish with visitation, encouragement, prayer, and the strength and healing power of the Holy Eucharist. These ministers are trained and formed to conduct a pastoral visit with time to listen and pray about the concerns of the sick or shut-in person and to share the Eucharist with them. There will be a meeting for our ministers of the sick on Tuesday 10th March at 10.00am at the Parish meeting room.

## PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Next meeting on Thursday 12th March at 4.00p.m. at the OLAH parish hall.

## CHILDREN'S MASS

We remind tha every third Sunday of the month at the 10.30a.m. mass at Bridgewater is Children's Mass. Our next children's mass is next Sunday 15th March. This is with collaboration with the school and the Sacramental program children and children who attend the 10.30a.m. mass. Afterwards we have something together at the OLAH parish hall.

## Weekly Income 28th/1st March 2026 THANK YOU

<b>First Collection:</b>	<b>\$565.75</b>
<b>Planned Giving Received:</b>	<b>\$2110.00</b>
<b>Loose Plate:</b>	<b>\$209.30</b>

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:  
**BSB: 066-782 Account: 100000277**  
**Account Name CCES ADEL HILLS**  
**Refer payment as "donation"**

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

**The word of the Lord.**  
Thanks be to God

**Responsorial Psalm**

**R. If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord.

R.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

R.

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

R.

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Romans**

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

**The word of the Lord.**  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**  
Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already— when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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

READINGS FOR THE  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

1st Reading	1Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13
2nd Reading	Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel	John 9:1-41