



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.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

24TH/25TH JANUARY 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus hears that Herod has arrested John the Baptist. The voice that roamed the desert calling people to, "Prepare the way of the Lord," has been silenced, locked in a prison cell. After John has been silenced Jesus' voice is heard proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus doesn't run and hide despite the danger. He takes his message to Galilee, which was ruled by Herod. Matthew quotes Isaiah, "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light." John is in prison, but you can't imprison the Word of God which brings light to the "land of gloom."

Jesus preaches "Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand." God is present and acting in a new way through Jesus. But in order to receive the message of life Jesus offers people, they must "repent." They must change their minds, examine how they think and act. Do we find ourselves in some way sitting in darkness; dwelling in the land of gloom? Are we stuck in old ways of thinking, our imagination closed to the new possibilities which God's presence can bring to fulfillment? Jesus invites us to think differently, leave behind the ways of "the land of gloom." God's kingdom is now; new life is being offered to those who will accept it.

Jesus begins his preaching and healing ministry, but he can't do it by himself. He needs to invite others to join him. Based on their achievements the first fishers didn't have much to offer in service to the Lord. They could bring the skills learned as fishers – patience, hope and perseverance. In a way they also had to "repent," put aside their limited ways of thinking and with Jesus have a change of mind and heart. They will be with Jesus and what they learn from being with him they will also share with others.

Symbolic of the disciples' willingness to change is their leaving behind family and possessions. They will have a new family with Jesus and their former possessions will not be needed to do their mission of being "fishers of people."

You have to admire their initial enthusiasm and the spontaneity of their response to Jesus. But they are human and their dedication and loyalty will falter – especially when Jesus is taken prisoner and executed. Like us, they will need to remember that Jesus' invitation to "repent" is offered each time they falter as followers. They were disappointed in Jesus; it didn't turn out the way they hoped. It often doesn't. But Jesus doesn't give up on them – or us – and always welcomes us back when we "repent." We choose gloom and darkness even when light and life are offered to us.

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

LIGHT OF TRUTH AND LOVE



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

January Anniversaries: Brian Hanifen, Max Grubel, Peter Moyle, Peter & Thelma Streich, Alec & Catherine Raven, Alice Gaskin, Erminio Tarca, Janice Riordan, Marie Gourley, Frank Gregorczyk, Margaret Miller, Charles Coffee, Jack & Clare O'Dea, Jim Killick Michael Cramond, Simeon Cramond, Nigel Conlon, Leslie Howe, Shiela Mettam, Pauline Green, Helen Tingay, Collene Parker, Anthony Miller, Lorenzo Favretto.

Recently deceased:

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 26th	OLOR MASS	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 27th	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 28th	Mass at Birdwood	9.00a.m.
Friday 30th	BRIDGEWATER MASS	11.00a.m.
Saturday 31st	RECONCILIATION	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Feb 2026

Monday 26th	Australia Day	
Monday 2nd	Presentation of the Lord	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 3rd	Faith & Formation team	6.00p.m.
	Information session Sac. pro	5.00p.m.
Wednesday 4th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Thursday 5th	Eucharistic Training course	6.00p.m.
Friday 7th	First Friday of the month	11.00a.m.
Saturday 7th	WALK FOR LIFE	
Wednesday 11th	Northern End meeting	9.45a.m.
Thursday 12th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Saturday 14th	Volunteers Afternoon Tea	2.00p.m.
Sunday 15th	Parish Picnic	9.30a.m.
Wednesday 18th	ASH WEDNESDAY	
Tuesday 24th	OLOR community meeting	6.00p.m.
Sunday 22nd	Bridgewater comm. meeting	11.45a.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Come after me," he said.

They dropped their nets and followed the deep desires of their hearts.

They learned to heal.

To love.

Lord, thank you for calling us too.

For accepting the beauty,

the blindness of us,

the warmth,

the cold of us.

Teach us to leave our nets and our works

to come and follow you in love,

to seek out your people.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 1st Feb 8.30a.m.	LOBETHAL Sunday 8th Feb 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Mary Nyeboeur	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Jo Brickhill	Liz O'Flynn
2nd Reader	Anne McEvoy	Gayle Raven
Euch. Minister	Anne Moore	Eric Toome
Cleaning	Hennie and Simon	Marie Littler

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 31st Jan 6.00pm	Sunday 1st Feb 10.30am
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Sacristan	Ann Teteris	John Leeton
Welcoming	Lyn Norris	Gina Kelly
Reader 1	Henry Duszynski	Nolan Parodi
Reader 2	Mark McGeough	Paul Robinson
Euch. Minister	Ann Teteris	Di Golding
Musicians	Helen Cantwell	PowerPoint
Counters	Maria Thompson & Di Golding	Di Golding
Our Lady	Cantwell family	Cantwell family
Cleaning	Alan Miller & Ann Teteris	
Flowers	Jane McCaffrey	Jane McCaffrey
Tea & Coffee	Farrugia family	

OLOR	Sunday 1st Feb 5.30pm	Sunday 8th Feb 5.30p.m
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Sacristan	Paul Anderson	Paul Anderson
Welcoming	Rosy Jones	Annette Lamont

ADELAIDE DIOCESAN SYNOD

The 2026 Archdiocesan Synod is a big meeting to help the Archbishop and leaders of our parishes, schools and communities to make decisions for our future. Dialogue Week is a chance for you to have a voice in the 2026 Archdiocesan Synod. It's an invitation to have a conversation with someone else about the things that are important to you and to share them with the Archbishop and the Synod members. During Dialogue Week, you can send in your feedback and help shape the agenda of the Synod. Parishes, schools and communities will provide opportunities for Dialogue Groups during this week.

TO ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The Archbishop has asked that before we introduce the cup, all Eucharistic ministers need to attend a two hour course as preparation in order once again use the cup during masses. This course will be held on **Thursday 5th FEBRUARY 2026** at our parish hall in Bridgewater at 6.00p.m. Please put this date in you diary.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

On Monday 9th February, we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes - on this day we remember when Our Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette for the first time. February 11 was then proclaimed World Day of the Sick by St Pope John Paul II. You are invited to a celebration of the Holy Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick on Monday 9th February at 9.00am.at the OLOR.

WALK FOR LIFE

The Walk for Life will be held on Saturday, 7th February 2026 at Pennington Gardens, opposite St Peter's Cathedral, from 10.00am till 12 noon. This year's theme is "Human from Conception" Abortion up to birth in some circumstances is now legal in South Australia. However, it's so important to challenge the popular thinking that abortion is a "health issue" or a "freedom of choice issue" and that legalisation can remove the moral aspect of taking a human life. We are pro-life in terms of the life of mother and child and we love them both. Further-more, for all who have been involved with abortion we offer, not condemnation, but the healing, compassionate, freeing love and forgiveness of Christ.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026

In keeping with the guidelines for the Sacraments of Initiation for Children Policy of our parish, the Sacramental Program offers is family centered and Parish/school based. Essentially, this programmed is a partnership in which families and the Parish/school community work together in the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation. Information session will be held on Wednesday 4th February at 5.00p.m. at Bridgewater.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Returns on Sunday 1 March 2026, and we're calling on individuals, families, schools, and community groups across the country to register now and get in on the action to be part of Australia's largest environmental movement. In 2025, over 800,000 people volunteered across 8,000 events nationally during the Clean Up Australia Day campaign period. We will have a Clean Up working Bee at Bridgewater on Saturday 28th February from 9.00a.m.

CHILDREN'S MASSES

Each third Sunday of the month, the 10.30 am Mass at St Matthew's, Bridgewater will be a special Mass with children as its focus; The children of the Parish are invited to participate in the Mass in various ways e.g. Prayers of Intercession, participating in the Offertory Procession etc. It is hoped that by engaging children in the liturgy in this way, their understanding of the Mass will improve and their knowledge and faith will grow. The first of the Children's Masses will be the Parish Picnic at the Oakbank Racecourse, 15 February.

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIAL COURSE

The Mandatory Online Training: Safeguarding Essentials Course is now available to all the volunteers in the parish. You can access this using the e-mail sent out previously. For those who do not use a computer or would rather do a face to face training course, please give your names to Father Fred or Mark McGeough and we will organise a course with the Integrity and Safeguarding Department in the near future.

VOLUNTEERS THANK-YOU AFTERNOON TEA

Our parish is so fortunate to have so many wonderful and generous volunteers and you are all invited to a thank-you afternoon tea here at the OLAH parish hall. The date we are looking is **Saturday 14th February**. Everything will be provided so please just bring yourself. If you intend to come please put down your name on list provided at the back of the church for catering purposes.

DAY OF UNBORN CHILD COLLECTION

A special collection is being taken up in support of the work undertaken by Birthline Pregnancy Support and Genesis Pregnancy Support Inc. The Day of the Unborn Child assists us to focus on those people in our families and communities who have experienced any sort of child-bearing loss, whether miscarriage, stillbirth, the death of a baby soon after birth, or abortion. We thank you in anticipation for your generous support of those who work tirelessly with individuals and families who require these important resources and services.

PARISH PICNIC

The Parish Picnic will be **Sunday 15th February** at 9.30a.m. at the Oakbank racecourse. Mass will be at 10.00a.m. Hope to see you there. We are having a sausage sizzle, face painting and games. Tea and coffee will be provided by the CWL. We wish that everyone at least stay up till 1.00p.m. or even later. There will be no 10.30am Mass that Sunday at Bridgewater and no 8.30a.m. Mass at Lobethal. There will still be 5:30pm Mass at the OLOR. **For those of you who would like to attend but think transport will be an issue for you please speak with Fr. Fred. We would love to have as many parishioners attending as possible.**

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

On Monday 2nd February we commemorate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in the liturgy. Mass and blessing of candles will be celebrated at the OLOR at 9.00a.m.

On 2nd February also we celebrate and give thanks for the contribution the Religious men and women have made, and are still making, to the life of the Archdiocese of Adelaide. There has been a continuous ministry of Priests and Religious who have accompanied their fellow countrymen and women as they migrated to Australia. Many priests, brothers and sisters also came as Missionaries. Religious in more recent times have contributed to the development of Parishes in roles such as Pastoral Associates. We all owe a great debt to the Religious Communities for their contributions to the foundation of our Church in South Australia. With renewed thanks and asking God's blessing for all religious in our Archdiocese.

Weekly Income 17th/18th January 2026 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$497.55
Planned Giving Received:	\$1485.00
Loose Plate:	\$182.30

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 prophet Isaiah

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations. The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

R.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,

to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

R.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

R.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollo', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'. As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



**READINGS FOR
4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading	Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13
2nd Reading	1 Cor 1:26-31
Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12