



ADELAIDE HILLS CATHOLIC PARISH

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 EASTER YEAR A

18th/19th APRIL 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

Parish House

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BRIDGEWATER S A 5155
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email: a281657@hotmail.com**

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Cathie Oswald

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Custodian of Parish hall

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John Low

Principal:

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Child Safe Contact Person

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WHS Parish Officer

Marianne Berry

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

What happened to these disciples back in Jerusalem confused and disappointed them. It made no sense to them. Perhaps there are events in our families, communities, or the world that confuse us as well. How do we explain events that leave us uncertain? We pray, yet our prayers do not seem to be answered. Our hopes for family, health, unity in our church, or peace in the world do not unfold as we hoped. Still, we keep walking, carrying our disappointments and questions with us. In other words, we are confused disciples on our own road to Emmaus. Let us join the two in the gospel story; perhaps what they discover and learn will help us on our own journey.

What is striking in our gospel account is that Jesus comes alongside the two disheartened disciples and, at first, they do not recognize him. He listens to their story, letting them express their disappointment and confusion. Where was their glorious God in the defeat of Jesus? They had hoped he would redeem Israel; instead, Jesus seemed to have let them down. Their dreams were shattered, so they left Jerusalem – the former place of hope – talking about their loss.

Many of us can recognize that walk. We have all had moments when our faith felt uncertain; when prayers seemed futile and unanswered; when hopes for ourselves, our families, the church, or the world did not unfold as we had hoped. Like those two disciples, we keep walking, carrying questions and disappointment with us.

Jesus often meets us where he met the two travellers to Emmaus – in the course of our own travels. He listens to our sadness; we are invited to tell our stories. We do not hold back as we speak out of our own sorrow. How does Jesus help us come to faith when things seem dire? He does for us what he did for the two: he opens the Scriptures to help us see that God is still at work and has not deserted us to suffering and apparent defeat.

Do we expect flashes of light or a thundering voice of God to address our doubts and disenchantment? No – Christ meets us quietly and patiently at surprising moments: in our conversations, daily routines, exchanges with others, and even in our own doubts. At first it may be hard to recognize him in those moments, but later we come to say, "Were not our hearts burning within us?"

We encounter the risen Christ in Word and Eucharist, in community and hospitality. They asked him, "Stay with us..." and he did. Notice what happened next after he revealed himself to them. The two disciples did not stay on their path to Emmaus. They returned to Jerusalem, back to the community they had left. They had encountered the risen Lord, and that encounter sent them back – not only to the community, but to the troubled and confused world they had tried to leave.

LEST WE FORGET

**SAT, 25 APR
2026**



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

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick: Margaret Carroll, Betty White, Anne MacDonald, June Harvey, Jeff Oliver, Mirla Mills, Judy McPhee, Krystina Rowland, Carolyn Whitfield, Margaret Sur-guy, Jim Rooney, Damon Currow.

April Anniversaries: Jason Healey, Eilee Braithwaite, Bill McPhee, Roger Horne, Reg & Lillian Schumann, Alice Stephenson, William (Bill) Ander-son, Judith Robertson, Kathleen Mundy, Lina Tarca, Francis McCarthy, John Rushforth, Linda Becker, Nell Guthrie

Recently deceased: Michael Brady.

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 20th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 21st	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 22th	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 24th	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
Saturday 25th	Reconciliation	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES APRIL/MAY

Sunday 19th	Children's Mass Bridgewater	10.30a.m.
Saturday 25th	ANZAC DAY Bridgewater	9.00a.m.
Sunday 26th	Feast of St Joseph Lobethal	2.00p.m.
Tuesday 28th	Liturgy Group meeting	11.00a.m.
Wednesday 29th	Northern End meeting	9.30a.m.
Friday 1st May	First Friday of the month	11.00a.m.
Saturday 2nd	Men's Breakfast	7.30a.m.
Wednesday 6th	CWL Afternoon Tea	1.30p.m.
Sunday 10th	Mother's Day	
Tuesday 12th	Parish Team meeting	10.30a.m.
Thursday 14th`	Parish Pastoral Council	4.00p.m.
Sunday 17th`	Ritual of Choosing	
Tuesday 19th	Faith & Formation Team	6.00p.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving Father,
as an Easter people
and in our everyday Emmaus journey,
teach us to respond with intimacy
and sensitivity to the presence
of the Risen Lord in the Word
and in the breaking of Bread.
Make us credible Easter witnesses
of Christ's resurrection
and of the renewing power of your love.
Help us to embrace fully our vocation
to a "holy living".
Let our conduct be irreproachable
and our ways reverent
that we may manifest to the world t
hat we belong to you.
In the Risen Lord Jesus.
Amen

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 26th Apr 8.30a.m	BIRDWOOD Sunday 3rd May 8.30a.m
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Welcoming 1st Reader 2nd Reader Euch. Minister Cleaning	Gayle Raven Simon Cox Michelle Chua Janet Harrison Jo Brickhill	Mary Nyeboeur Michelle Thomas Brett Thomas Anne McEvoy Margaret S
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BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 25th Apr 7.30pm	Sunday 26th Apr 10.30am
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Sacristan Welcoming Reader 1 Reader 2 Euch.Ministers	Mark McGeough Karen Heusier Mark McGeough Mary Homann Ann Teteris	Di Golding John Leeton Paul Somers Phil Schulz Di Golding Nolan Parodi Karen Dutton Nathan Sachse
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Musicians Counters Our Lady Cleaning Flowers	Helen Cantwell Marianne Berry & Ben Sugars Orma Paine Marianne Berry & Karen Dutton Gina Kelly	Orma Paine Gina Kelly
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We recommend that volunteers who cannot commit to their ministry, are asked to find someone else or send an SMS to Fr Fred or Cathy. Thanks

OLOR	Sunday 26th Apr 5.30pm	Sunday 3rd May 5.30p.m
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Welcoming Cleaning	Sue Manchip Jenny Johnston	Rosy Jones Rosy Jones
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CWL STIRLING ECUMENICAL AFTERNOON TEA

The CWL this year have decided to organise an Afternoon Tea than the usual luncheon. This will be on Wednesday 6th May at 1.30p.m. at OLAH Parish Hall. Guest Speaker will be Janet Leitch who will speak about her Camino "Teresiana".

CWL STIRLING "MOTHERS' DAY RAFFLE"

Raffle is \$2 per ticket and available in Church foyer. It will be drawn at our "CWL Afternoon Tea" - Wednesday 6th May, 2026 at 1.30p.m. at OLAH Parish Hall. For more information phone Pam Broadbridge 8339 5013.

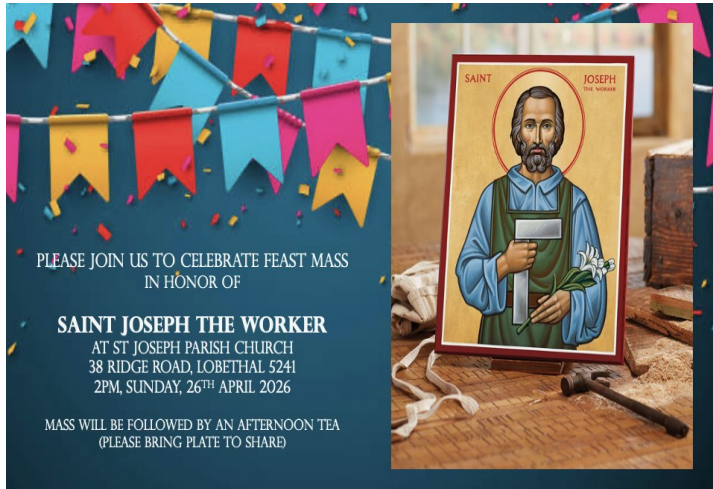
MOTHER EARTH DAY



The beauty and fragility of our world was captured by the Artemis II, whose four astronauts safely returned to Earth on Friday after a 10-day mission in space. Commander Reid Wiseman is quoted as saying 'It's a special thing to be a human and it's a special thing to be on planet Earth.' Mother Earth Day – celebrates our planet on 22 April. . Pope Francis emphasized the value of each human being and also the importance of the relationships on which our human flourishing depends. He also considered the way in which economic, governmental and cultural systems encouraged or damaged human flourishing.'

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

On Sunday 26th April we will celebrate the feast of St Joseph the Worker, patron of the Lobethal Catholic church. Mass at 2.00p.m.. followed by afternoon lunch organised by the Philippino and the Northern End community. Please if you can bring a plate to share. Everyone is invited to attend this special occasion.



ANZAC DAY— SATURDAY 25th APRIL

Like previous years while we encourage everyone to attend the Dawn Services. At Bridgewater church we will celebrate Mass on Saturday 25th April at 9 00a.m. As a parish community commemorate this day to pray for all those who lost their lives and those still defending our liberty.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 2nd May 2026 at the OLOAH Parish Hall, Bridgewater. Timings are as follows; 7.30a.m. Registration, 8.00a.m. Breakfast, Presentation & Questions, with Meeting close at 9.00a.m. Our speaker will be Jack Snelling, CEO, Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund. Topic: Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund. Cost: \$15 per adult, accompanying sons - no charge. RSVP by Wednesday 29th April to Paul Somers. Email: paulsomers24@gmail.com

DELIVER A SPEECH ON MOTHER'S DAY.

We wish to give the opportunity to those who have not yet delivered a speech about his/her on Mother's day. This will happen during our weekend masses on Sunday 3rd May. Mothers are a gift from God. No one can deny the love and affection that is being shown by mothers. Paying tribute to your mother is something special. If you are interested please talk to Fr Fred.

MARIAN PROCESSION

On Sunday 17th May the annual Archdiocesan event will be held in honour of Our Lady, celebrating 77 years of continuous tradition. This is one of the longest-standing Catholic events in Australia, bringing together parish communities in prayer, procession, and devotion. A beautiful opportunity for families and parishioners to participate in a large-scale faith celebration. The Procession will commence at 2.00p.m. Location TBA

THE BRIDGE

Please take a copy of the latest edition of THE BRIDGE from the back of the church.

VOLUNTEERS

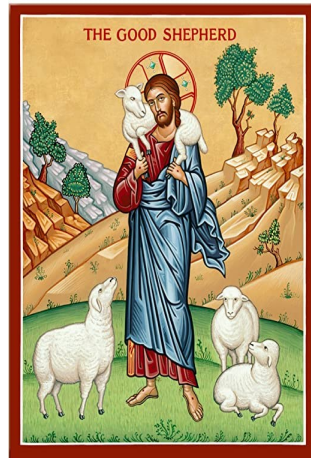
All Volunteers are reminded that it is compulsory to complete the Safeguarding Essentials Course on-line. For those who do not feel comfortable or who do not have internet access, Mark McGeough will run a training session on Saturday 2nd May in Our Lady of the Adelaide Hills hall starting at 4pm. It takes approximately 1.5 hours and will be completed before the Vigil Mass. A similar course will be run in the Mary O'Dea centre at Birdwood after the Sunday 8.30am Mass.

REPORT ABOUT THE PPC MEETING

In our last PPC meeting we discussed how best volunteering can work better. It was decided to put a footnote in the roster section of the bulletin about finding a replacement when for various reasons one cannot commit to his ministry when he is on the roster list, the need to give mobile numbers to each ministry group, how to make parishioners aware to communicate with the parish when they are away or sick. Looking for a complete new website. Mark McGough is organizing to hold the 90 min course for those volunteers who are unable to do it (See details in the bulletin), The need for volunteers for St Joseph Feast at Lobethal Sunday 26.04.26, Men's Breakfast 02.05.2026, and ask CWL if they need help for their afternoon tea 06.05.2026. Finance report—a \$20,000 donation was donated to help in the expenses of the refurbishment of the parish house in Birdwood.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

The 4th Sunday of Easter Year A is often called Good Shepherd Sunday. On this day, we hear readings that remind us how Jesus leads, protects, and cares for His people. The image of the shepherd is one of the most comforting pictures in the Bible. It shows the closeness and love between God and His people. The Gospel of nest Sunday reminds us of Jesus' care and guidance as our Shepherd. We are called to listen to His voice, follow Him, and live out our faith daily



PROJECT COMPASSION

If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return them by next week at Mass.

Weekly Income 11th/12th April 2026
THANK YOU

First Collection: \$539.10
Planned Giving Received: \$4035.00
Loose Plate: \$100.75
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"

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.' 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witness to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' **R.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

You will show me the path of life,
and the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes it is true, The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading	Acts 2:14, 36-41
2nd Reading	1 Peter 2:20-25
Gospel	John 10:1-10