



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.

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

31st JANUARY /1st FEBRUARY 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

Parish House

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Cathie Oswald

Pastoral Coordinator

Custodian of Parish hall

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St Catherine's Catholic School:

John Low

Principal:

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Child Safe Contact Person

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WHS Parish Officer

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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.

It's not only a Scripture passage recalling a past event in the lives of the disciples. Following Jesus is not a once-for-all decision. It has to be renewed at each stage of our lives. Even daily: We may choose today to cheat a little at work; ignore the neighbour in need; close our ears to someone asking for help; not speak or act out of our commitment to Jesus etc. It may be a familiar passage. But it is not an echo from a past age, rather it is very much for today. Do we hear Jesus saying to us today, "Come after me and I will make you fishers of people?" We repent from what is the delaying our response to get up and follow him again and again. Again the choice is before us to put the past and its attachments aside and follow Jesus.

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

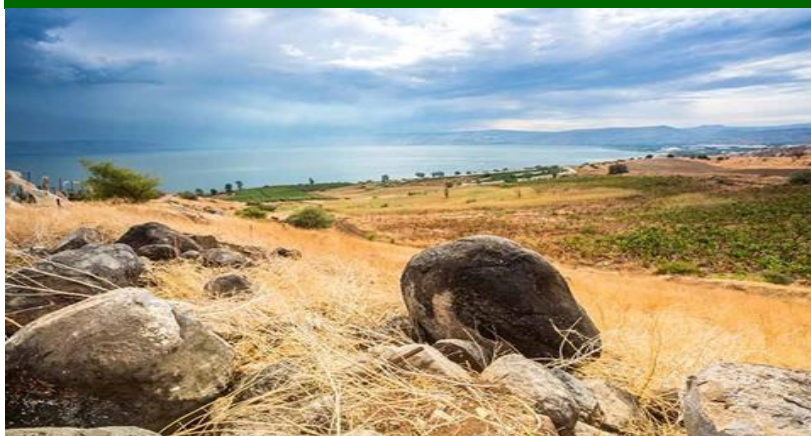
6pm Saturday Evenings

10.30 am Sunday

Our Lady of the Rosary East Stirling

5.30 pm Sunday

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT



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 Carol Irons.

February Anniversaries: John & Jill Balogh, Marianne Fischer, Ada Schultz, Margaret & Chappie Guthrie, Bob Disher, Fr Vincent Regan, Maureen Robinson, Marianne Fischer, Giulia Farrugia, Bernarda Bonaci, Elisabeth Anderson, Bernie Leverington, Maria Scamoni, Valentine Sobecki, Eva Texler, Fred and Mary Tipler Brian and Margaret Tipler, Krystina Owerko, Maria Scamoni

Recently deceased:

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 2nd	OLOR MASS	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 3rd	St Catherine's Mass	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 4th	Mass at Birdwood	9.00a.m.
Friday 6th	BRIDGEWATER MASS	11.00a.m.
Saturday 7th	RECONCILIATION	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Feb 2026

Monday 2nd	Presentation of the Lord	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 3rd	Faith & Formation team	6.00p.m.
Wednesday 4th	Information session Sac. pro	5.00p.m.
	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Thursday 5th	Eucharistic Training course	6.00p.m.
Friday 6th	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.
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.
Saturday 28th	Volunteers Afternoon Tea	2.00p.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Christ,
our teacher,
you are a peacemaker.
You hunger and
you thirst for justice.
Yet you are meek and
merciful and strong
and powerful
in all that counts.
Please be a blessed
beatitude for
each of us.
Let us live in you
And be beatitudes
for one another.



ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 8th Feb 8.30a.m.	BIRDWOOD Sunday 15th Feb 8.30a.m
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Welcoming 1st Reader 2nd Reader Euch. Minister Cleaning	Gayle Raven Liz O'Flynn Gayle Raven Eric Toome Marie Littler	Mary Nyeboeur Brett Thomas Michelle Thomas Anne McEvoy Hennie and Simon
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BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 7th Feb 6.00pm	Sunday 8th Feb 10.30am
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Sacristan Welcoming Reader 1 Reader 2 Euch. Minister Musicians Counters Our Lady Cleaning Flowers Tea & Coffee	Mary Homann Ann Teteris Alan Miller John Davey Deb Stapleton PowerPoint Marianne Berry & Ben Sugars Cantwell family Marianne Berry & Karen Dutton Jane McCaffrey	Gina Kelly Di Golding Paul Robinson Ric Sachse Paris Huffman Damian Mansfield Cantwell family Jane McCaffrey
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OLOR	Sunday 8thFeb 5.30pm	Sunday 15th Feb 5.30p.m
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Sacristan Welcoming	Paul Anderson Annette Lamont	Paul Anderson John Rodella
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ADELAIDE DIOCESAN SYNOD

February 22-28 is designated as Dialogue Week in preparation for the 2026 Archdiocesan Synod. During this week people in parishes, schools and communities will have the opportunity to gather, reflect on the themes and recommendations of the Synod, and provide feedback to the Archbishop and Synod members. This will be discussed in our PPC meeting next Wednesday.

DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD APPEAL

A special collection will be taken during this week-end 31st/1st February 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, still-birth, the death of a baby soon after birth, or abortion.

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The February edition of The Southern Cross will be delivered this week, for distribution at Mass centres on the weekend. It includes a Back to School feature, coverage of the outstanding achievements of the Class of 2025 and a centrespread on the Adelaide Synod 2026 and Dialogue Week

LUZIA ANNA WOHLFART RIP

Our Deepest sympathy to the Wohlfart family on the death of their mother Luzia Anna, a faithful member of the Birdwood Catholic community. Her funeral will be held on Tuesday 10th February at 10.30a.m. at St Matthew's Church Birdwood followed by interment at the church's cemetery. Thanks to Anne Moore who cared for the pastoral needs to Luzia during her illness.

PARISH PICNIC

The Parish Picnic will be on 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. CWL will provide tea and coffee and if you can bring a plate with fruit or sweets it would be appreciated. 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 this day 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.

FAITH AND FORMATION TEAM

We invite parishioners to join our Faith and Formation team. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd February at 6.00 p.m. at the OLAH parish hall at Bridgewater. Agenda: Lent and the Alpha Course.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026

Information session will be held on Wednesday 4th February at 5.00p.m. at the OLAH parish hall, Bridgewater

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Our first meeting for 2026 will be held on Wednesday 4th February at 6.00p.m. at the OLAH Parish hall. The agenda will look at the Dialogue week, the Parish Pastoral report, volunteering, and Safeguarding Essentials Course.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

First Friday of the month, for February will be on Friday 6th February – Mass at 11.00am followed by 20 mins of Silent Adoration and Benediction. Afterwards everyone is invited for light lunch afterwards.

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" 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.

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.

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 CHANGE OF DATE

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 28th February** at 2.00p.m.at Bridgewater. 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.

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.

Weekly Income 24/25th January 2026 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$542.15
Planned Giving Received:	\$2633.00
Loose Plate:	\$144.35

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 Zephaniah

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

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

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen - those who are nothing at all to show those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Congratulations to all the recipients of Australia Day 2026 Honours, especially Australian of the Year astronaut Katherine Bennell-Pegg. Born in Sydney, Bennell-Pegg studied aeronautical engineering and physics at Sydney University. She went on to study two masters degrees in Europe and in 2021 was invited to undertake astronaut training with the European Space Agency. In 2024, she became the first Australian woman to graduate from the program, and the first astronaut to fly under the Australian flag.

**READINGS FOR
5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading	Isiah 58:7-10
2nd Reading	1 Cor 2:1-5
Gospel	Matthew 5:13-16