



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

25th/26th APRIL 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH
Parish House

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Wait a moment! We are in the Easter season why is our gospel backtracking to an earlier period of Jesus' life, prior to his death and resurrection? On this fourth Sunday of Easter the church proclaims the image of sheep and shepherd. Don't these images seem more suited to rural life than to the Easter season of resurrection and glory? Yet, the gospel today is deeply connected to our Easter faith.

The shepherd image is not sentimental, it is a resurrection image of life preserved, protected and led forward. Easter means the Shepherd is alive and still leading. The sheepfold image assumes an active and protective shepherd. The gospel today may sound like it is a sentimental memory in the past; but it speaks of our living Lord who is present now. "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Ours is an Easter faith. The shepherd has been crucified but is not gone; he is risen and still guiding his people. The sheep are not abandoned on Good Friday. The resurrection assures us that the Shepherd continues to call, lead and protect. The flock is in real time, in our confused, misdirected and sometimes dangerous world. To use the image from the gospel: Easter means we are not alone in the pasture.

In our conflicted world, gone astray, those of us in the sheepfold are not alone, we will not scatter if we keep listening to the voice of the Shepherd. Our Sunday congregation hears a simple and reassuring message. Easter means we are not on our own in the pasture. The shepherd represents safety won through the Resurrection. In ancient times the sheepfold was a place of shelter at night, a protection from thieves and predators.

When Jesus says, "I am the gate," he is identifying himself not only as shepherd, but the very entrance to safety. He becomes the gate through his death and resurrection. He stands between life and death, fear and hope, despair and trust. The fold is secure because our Shepherd has faced the wolf and conquered. So, the sheepfold in Easter time is not merely our comfort; it is a hard-won safety.

The Shepherd calls the sheep by name – Easter restores that intimate relationship. John says the shepherd "calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." Notice he does not keep them nice and snug inside in safety. It's about being led into life again: into mission, service, forgiveness and hope.

We pray today: "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." Like sheep we recognize the voice of our Shepherd inviting us to listen and follow, confident that goodness and kindness will pursue us all the days of our lives.

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD



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 Surugy, Jim Rooney, Damon Currow.

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

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 27th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 28th	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 29th	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 1st May	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
Saturday 2nd	Reconciliation	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES APRIL/MAY

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 Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Sunday 17th`	Ritual of Choosing	
Tuesday 19th	Parish/school meeting	9.30a.m.
	Faith & Formation Team	6.00p.m.
Wednesday 20th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Sunday 24th	Pentecost Sunday	

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty ever-living God,
 lead us to a share
 in the joys of heaven,
 so that the humble flock
 may reach where
 the brave Shepherd
 has gone before.

On this
 Day of Prayer for Vocations,
 we might pray
 that everyone
 should be willing
 and able to fulfil
 their own vocation.
 We continue to pray
 for war-torn countries,
 that they will find
 a Good Shepherd
 to guide them
 out of conflict.
 Amen



ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 3rd May 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 10th May 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Mary Nyeboeur	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Michelle Thomas	Marie Littler
2nd Reader	Brett Thomas	Anne Moore
Euch. Minister	Anne McEvoy	Eric Toome
Cleaning	Mick & Margaret S	Hennie Murphy

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 2nd May 6.00pm	Sunday 3rd May 10.30am
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Sacristan	Mark McGeough	Gina Kelly
Welcoming	Karen Lloyd	Gina Kelly
Reader 1	Mary Homann	Nolan Parodi
Reader 2	Mark McGeough	Paul Somers
Euch.Ministers	Ann Teteris	Di Golding
		Di Stapleton
		Karen Dutton
		PowerPoint
Musicians	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Counters	Connie Golding & Janet Harrison	Connie Golding & Janet Harrison
Our Lady	Paula Zanchetta	Paula Zanchetta
Cleaning	Otta Kovac & Ben Sugars	Otta Kovac & Ben Sugars
Flowers	Gloria Howe	Gloria Howe
Tea & Coffee	Farrugia Family	Farrugia Family

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 3rd May 5.30pm	Sunday 10th May 5.30p.m
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Welcoming	Rosy Jones	Annette Lamont
Cleaning	Rosy Jones	Rosy Jones

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". They are organising a Raffle for \$2 per ticket and available in Church foyer. It will be drawn at our "CWL Afternoon Tea" For more information phone Pam Broadbridge 8339 5013.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 2nd May 2026, 7.30a.m. at the OLAH Parish Hall, Bridgewater. 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

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Next Friday 1st May will be the First Friday of the month. There will be the usual mass at 11.00am. followed by 20 mins silent adoration and benediction. Afterwards everyone is invited for a light lunch at the OLAH Parish hall. Urge parishioners to attend as the celebration and worship of the Eucharist enable us to draw near to God's love and to persevere in that love until we are united with the Lord whom we love.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday, and is marked as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of this day is to fulfil Jesus' instruction to "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers

into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates her attention on raising up shepherds for God's people - vocations to Holy Orders (the priesthood and diaconate) and to the religious life - while encouraging all who are discerning their vocation to pray more earnestly that they may hear and respond to God's call.

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

This 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.**

VOLUNTEERS

Mark McGeough will conduct a training session for the Safeguarding Essential Course **on Saturday 2nd May at 4pm in the OLAH hall at Bridgewater.** The session will take 1.5hours to complete. This is for all those who do not have a computer or do not feel confident in completing this course on-line. He will also run a similar course in St Matthews Church, **Birdwood on Sunday 17th May after the 8.30pm Mass.** All volunteers are reminded that it is obligatory to complete this training either on-line or at these sessions if you are to remain a volunteer.

LITURGY GROUP MEETING

New members are welcome. Our next parish Liturgy group meeting to be held next Tuesday 28th April at 11.00a.m. at the Parish Meeting room.

NORTHERN END MEETING

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th April after the 9.00a.m. mass at O'Dea community Centre. In the Agenda— Holy Week liturgies, railings for ramp at Lobethal, feast of St Joseph the Worker, Northern lights activity, Birdwood parish house, positive response to the Second collection commitment. And other matters arising.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process of Christian formation by which those who are seeking full communion with the Church. The RCIA is a process, not a program. It is a process which responds to Christ's invitation to unbaptised (catechumens), and to candidates (those who have received Baptism in other Christian denominations), to come and see how the Catholic community live, pray and worship. The process supports those seeking to deepen their personal relationship with Christ through developing familiarity with the Gospel teachings, deepening the personal experience of prayer and worship and help discern the movement of the Holy Spirit.

A new RCIA program will commence in our parish on Thursday 7th May at parish house, Bridgewater at 6.00p.m.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

The month of May marks the start of the Vinnies Winter Appeal Funds raised through the Winter Appeal are used for home visitations and support other important programs. Envelopes will be distributed in the weekend of the 16th/17th of May.

MASS COUNT

As you may be aware, the Archdiocese of Adelaide conducts a Count of Attendance for All Masses and other Sunday Assemblies held on weekends during the month of May each year, which is used in our pastoral planning and financial reporting. This year, attendance counts are to be conducted over the four weekends of May, being the **9th/10th, 16th/17th, 23rd/24th and 30th/31st** and are to be conducted in all Parish Mass Centres, non-Parish Mass Centres, hospitals, nursing homes and prison chaplaincies. Thank you in anticipation for your assistance with completing this important requirement.

RENOVATION OF BRIDGEWATER'S CHURCH

The plans of the front renovation of the Church at Bridgewater were designed by Clements Architecture on the recommendations and design by Fr Fred. As pastor, I have discussed the plans already with the PPC & PFC. We discussed the clear scope for the church renovation of the project in order to ensure a successful project. Both councils gave a tick of approval for this first stage of the project. The next is to keep parishioners informed on the renovation project. The plans will be attached in the foyer next week for further comments. The plans of the renovation project will be put forward to the church leadership and to make sure they have a common vision of the future of the church with compliance with the Local Council that the renovation work legal requirements are met. We need to look closely what challenges and opportunities the project presents such as to care for special needs and needs-based renovation like the unisex toilet. A detailed budget will also be discussed in the near future.

FR FRED

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day in Australia for 2026 is on Sunday 10th May. This is a rare chance to make a real fuss over your Mum. You know she'll say with a "Oh, but you didn't have to!" but it's still a gesture that will make her feel really loved. We also remember those who face Mother's Day without their mum. **At all mass centres are a list for those who wish to nominate their mum who passed away and wish to be remembered during next weekend masses.**

Weekly Income 18th/19th April 2026
THANK YOU

First Collection: \$555.70
Planned Giving Received: \$2330.00
Loose Plate: \$136.15

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 Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

*R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. R.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. R.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. R.

Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. R.

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

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



During his continued tour in Africa, Pope Leo appealed for dialogue to end wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. We too are being asked to work for peace in our communities, nationally and internationally. Peace is sometimes difficult and that diplomacy and trust are always the better choices. Let us all pray for peace.

1st Reading	Acts 6:1-7
2nd Reading	1 Peter 2:4-9
Gospel	John 14:1-12