



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

2nd/3rd MAY 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

Parish House

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Again, a rich scriptural offering for this Sunday. It is not easy to find a discernible theme running across the readings, save the general sense that the focus is moving away from the Resurrection of Jesus to the time of his final return to the Father when the disciples will be without his physical presence.

Taken from the long discourse given by Jesus at the Last Supper, the Gospel, John 14:1-10, reflects on this time and the understanding it will require from the disciples, that is, from the Church. In fact, there are two 'departures' of Jesus in view. The actual setting of the supper on the night before Jesus is to die makes it natural to understand the 'going away' of which he speaks as a reference to this imminent departure in death; his 'return', then, would refer to his reappearance, on the third day, as risen Lord. While at one level this is true, the discourse really addresses the more permanent 'going away' of Jesus when he finally returns to the Father following his appearances to the disciples as risen Lord. His 'return' would then be his return at the end of time, a thought otherwise rare in the Fourth Gospel.

It has been a month since Easter. Lots has happened in our lives and in the world. Has the glow of the feast left us? Are we back in the "same old, same old?" It's hard on our own to keep up enthusiasm for the mystery and marvel of Easter. Life impinges on our daily routine and our focus shifts.

Every Sunday is supposed to be a little Easter, but that's hard to stir up as the Sundays of Ordinary Time soon return and stay with us until late November. In his First letter, Peter is doing its best to awaken our spirits by encouraging us to carry out our Christian roles and responsibilities. Our commitment to Christ takes us into the future. We need to be sustained and show works which reflect the living Christ in the world. Easter may be behind us on the calendar, but thanks to the Spirit the new life of baptism begun in us, will not fail, either because of persecution, disappointments, tragedy, or just the passage of days, months and decades. We will celebrate the Spirit on Pentecost, The Spirit is not with us just on that day. Daily the Spirit gives us what we need to live as a holy people. Or, as Peter names us: "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, [God's] own people." We are not only given these titles, but through the energizing role of the Spirit, we can live them in the unique vocation each of us has. Christ is risen and the Spirit sustains us in that belief, as well as in the words and actions that flow from it.

When we fail to live up to our vocation as "living stones," a "spiritual house," "a holy priesthood," as has happened through the ages and again these days with clergy scandals, financial mismanagement, feuds over liturgical practices, political alliances etc., Christ, the "cornerstone," holds us together and continually reminds us, "Whoever believes... shall not be put to shame."

THE CORNERSTONE



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 Surguy, Jim Rooney, Damon Currow.

May Anniversaries:

Phyllis Richards, Gene Dearman, Peter Begg, Gordon Surguy, Jack & Christine Mundy, Kingsley & Trixie Moyle, Anton Meyer, Isabel Scougall, Anya Siebert, Hanafin Families, Pam Thompson, Theresa Moyle, Jim O'Dea, Maria Feijen, Heather Dimasi, Greg Golding, Robin Harrison, Brian Medhurst, Frank D'Angelo, Valentina Sobolewski, John Mott

Recently deceased:

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK		
Monday 4th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 5th	Liturgy St Caherine's	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 6th	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 7th	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES APRIL/MAY		
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	10.30a.m.
	CHILDREN'S MASS	
17-24th May	Laudato Si' week	
18-24th May	Volunteers Week	
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

Loving Father,
we thank you for
Jesus Master-Shepherd.
In the Easter event of his
death and resurrection,
he became the Way that leads to peace,
the Truth that reveals your love,
and the Life to live and to share.
We thank you for the witness
of the early Church.
In the springtime of its creative growth,
the believers are receptive to the Spirit,
responsive to the needs of each other,
and marked by serving love.
Let us truly be "holy people"
set apart to proclaim your praises,
now and forever.
Amen. Alleluia.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 10th May 8.30a.m	BIRDWOOD Sunday 17th May 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Gayle Raven	Mary Nyeboeur
1st Reader	Marie Littler	Eric Toombe
2nd Reader	Anne Moore	Margaret S
Euch. Minister	Eric Toome	Janet Harrison
Cleaning	Hennie Murphy	Mick & Margaret S

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 9th May 6.00pm	Sunday 10th May 10.30am
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Sacristan	Mary Homann	Gina Kelly
Welcoming	Ann Teteris	Di Golding
Reader 1	Alan Miller	Phil Schultz
Reader 2	Mark McGeough	Paul Robinson
Euch.Ministers	Mary Homann	Deb Stapleton

Musicians	PowerPoint	Damien Mansfield
Counters	Alan Miller & Ben Robertson	
Our Lady	Paula Zanchetta	Paula Zanchetta
Cleaning	Alan Miller & Ann Teteris	
Flowers	Gloria Howe	Gloria Howe
Tea & Coffee		

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 10th May 5.30pm	Sunday 17th May 5.30p.m
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Welcoming	Annette Lamont	Jenny Johnston
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.

RITUAL OF CHOOSING

The children who are preparing for the Sacraments this year will be doing the Ritual of Choosing during the 10.30am. Mass next Sunday 17th May at Bridgewater. This Ritual will encourage the children and their parents to join more deeply into the life of the church by choosing to continue on their journey of faith and to commit themselves to grow in God's love and truth. It will also be Children's Mass.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

May 13 is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. She appeared six times to Lucia, 9, and her cousins Francisco, 8, and his sister Jacinta, 6 between May 13 and October 13, 1917. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia. Mass of Our Lady of Fatima will be celebrated on Wednesday 13th May at 9.00a.m. at Birdwood.

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

It was really a wonderful experience last Sunday 26th April when we celebrated the feast of St Joseph the Worker at Lobethal. The Murray Bridge Philippine choir who added the splendour of the occasion. Thanks to the Philippine communities under the guidance of Timi and Michele Chua who organised the catering and especially the roast pig. Thanks to the Lobethal community for helping with the decoration of the church and the catering.

VOLUNTEERS

Mark McGeough will conduct a training session for the Safeguarding Essential Course at **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.

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.

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 **2nd/3rd, 9th/10th, 16th/17th, and 23rd/24th** and are to be conducted during all our weekend masses.

LAUDATO SI' 17th-24th May 2026



Invites us to move from hope to action. Hope is not passive; it is lived and shared through daily choices, community life, prayer, and concrete acts of care. This year reminds us that ecological conversion grows step by step—through relationships restored, creation protected, and communities strengthened. The next chapter of Laudato Si' begins with us, wherever we are.

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.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week Events will take place from 18-24 May 2026, to say thank you to the millions of Australians who volunteer their time. National Volunteer Week will celebrate the power of volunteering to bring people together with the theme **'Your Year to Volunteer'**, which encourages Australians to recognize the contributions of volunteers and to get involved in meaningful ways throughout the year.

MAY—THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Hail Mary, full of grace

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.



The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month includes the solemnity of 'Our Lady, Help of Christians', who is the patroness of Australia. Usually held on 24 May, this year it will be commemorated on Monday, 25 May Pope Leo XIV has expressed his love for the Holy Rosary many times since his elevation to the papacy just over a year ago. For the month of October 2025, he invited everyone to pray the Rosary every day for peace. Earlier this month (11 April), he led a Prayer Vigil for Peace at St Peter's Square, saying, 'Now joined in the prayer of the Holy Rosary, as we ask for the intercession of our Mother Mary, we wish to tell the whole world that it is possible to build peace, a new peace; that it is possible to live together with all peoples of every religion and every race; that we wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ, united as brothers and sisters, all united in a world of peace.'

STATUE OF OUR LADY

A statue of our Lady has been put into the backyard of the parish house looking towards the church. May the Virgin Mary protect our parish. Thanks to John Leeton who did all the work to install the statue.

Weekly Income 25th/26th April 2026
THANK YOU

First Collection: \$422.45
Planned Giving Received: \$2175.00
Loose Plate: \$149.00

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 About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

*R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.*

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

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



The challenges of today require followers of Christ to unite in a personal and generous faith. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, (12-19 May in the southern hemisphere) is an opportunity for Catholics to take up Pope Francis' challenge to go out to the edges of the Catholic Church and engage with all to whom Christ came. It is an opportunity for Catholics to take up Pope Francis' challenge to go out to the edges of the Catholic Church and engage with all to whom Christ came. Prayer is vitally important if the desire for Christian unity is to be achieved.

READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
2nd Reading	1 Peter 3:15-18
Gospel	John 14:15-21