



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.

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

14th / 15th FEBRUARY 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Those of us gathered for worship today are truly diverse: from different cultural backgrounds, countries of origins, races, etc. But what binds us together is our baptism in Jesus. Whatever our differences and whatever language we speak, we all say together, "We believe in Jesus Christ and so his way is our way." Our basic identity is that we are a community of Jesus' followers and we love him. Therefore, our love for him urges us to live like him.

But does not hearing the Sermon on the Mount these Sundays leave you weak in the knees? How can we ever live these teachings? How will we even know how to live them? Because of his miracles and teachings Jesus had attracted great crowds. In order to teach those closest to him, he took them up a mountain. Two Sundays ago, we heard the Beatitudes, the introduction to a collection of his teachings which we call the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes called for the profound inner change necessary for anyone wanting to follow Jesus. That kind of change is spelled out in his subsequent teachings. This weekend we are using the short form of the gospel today. The longer offering just seems like a lot. I do not want to overwhelm the congregation with a long list of "do's and don'ts." But even in the shorter version we hear Jesus calling us, not to a superficial, exterior performance of commandments, but to a far more profound response – deeper, interior change that will enable us to do as he instructs.

How discouraged his followers must have been when Jesus taught in this way! After all, the Pharisees were considered the righteous and holy ones. Jesus' challenge though was not only to his followers, but to the Pharisees and scribes as well. Their religion was to go deeper than exterior works – the right motives had to support right behaviour. His demands are high indeed! They seem impossible to achieve.

From today's gospel selection, we hear that Jesus wants to cut short, at its inception, a path that might lead to murder. So, he says to his disciples they are to control their anger. In cases of adultery, families would seek retaliation on the couple because of the shame brought down on those families, especially on the husband. To prevent adultery and the subsequent blood feud that would erupt, Jesus tells his disciples not even to think such a thing – no lust after another. In addition, good community relations, especially among believers, would be possible if people behaved honestly with one another; if they could trust each other's words. So, no lying.

Jesus Today he is giving concrete examples of what we heard him say to his disciples last week. They are to be "salt of the earth," "light of the world" and a "city set on a mountain."

ASH WEDNESDAY 18.02.2026

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, 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, Lino 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: Luzia Wohlfart

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 16th	OLOR MASS	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 17th	St Catherine's—Mass	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 18th	ASH WEDNESDAY	
Friday 20th	BRIDGEWATER MASS	11.00a.m.
Saturday 21st	RECONCILIATION	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Feb 2026

Wednesday 18th	ASH WEDNESDAY	
Sunday 22nd	First Sunday of Lent	
	Bridgewater comm. meeting	11.45a.m.
Tuesday 24th	OLOR community meeting	6.00p.m.
Wednesday 25th	DIALOGUE WEEK DAY	6.00p.m.
Saturday 28th	Volunteers Afternoon Tea	2.00p.m.
Sunday 1st	Lenten Retreat	12.00p.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus,
Let us grasp your teaching of the law.
Justice. Love. Compassion.
Let your law make us holy.
Not like the Pharisees,
who blow trumpets
before they give.
You showed us with your every breath
just what it means to be holy.
You are the wonder,
the goal, the summit of the law.
Teach us.
Turn all of our law-keeping
into love.

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 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.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 22th Feb 8.30a.m	BIRDWOOD Sunday 1st Mar 8.30a.m
Welcoming 1st Reader 2nd Reader Euch. Minister Cleaning	Gayle Raven Simon Cox Simon Murphy Margaret S Marie Littler	Mary Nyeboer Roz Crossing Simon Murphy Eric Toome Michelle & Brett T

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 21st Feb 6.00pm	Sunday 22nd Feb 10.30am
Sacristan Welcoming Reader 1 Reader 2 Euch. Minister Musicians Counters Our Lady Cleaning Flowers Tea & Coffee	Mark McGeough Karen Heusler Mark McGeough Mary Homann Ann Teteris Helen Cantwell Connie Golding & Janet Harrison Cantwell family Otta Kovac & Ben Sugars Jane McCaffrey	Di Golding John Leeton Paul Somers Phil Schulz Jenny Porter Nathan Sachse Cantwell family Jane McCaffrey

OLOR	Sunday 22nd Feb 5.30pm	Sunday 1st Mar 5.30p.m
Sacristan Welcoming	Paul Anderson Tom Kenyon	Paul Anderson Debbie Somers

DIALOGUE WEEK DAY

In our last PPC meeting held on Wednesday 4th February, we designated Wednesday 25th February as Dialogue Week Day in preparation for the 2026 Archdiocesan Synod. The Dialogue Week Day will be an open invitation to everyone to attend. This is another opportunity to gather, reflect on the themes and recommendations of the Synod, and provide feedback to the Archbishop and Synod members. The idea is another consultation process on the themes of the upcoming Synod. The themes are FORMATION FOR MISSION AND LEADERSHIP STRUCTURES AND PLANNING FOR COMMUNION MISSION AND PARTICIPATION BECOMING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES AND COMMUNION GRACE: SCARAMENT TO THE WORLD. The event will start at 6.00p.m. at the OLAH parish hall and will finish by 8.00 p.m.. Light supper will also be provided.. My wish is that a good number of parishioners will attend this event.

CWL STIRLING MEETING

Thanks to Pam Broadbridge, Gill Osborne and Barbara Mott who spoke during last Sunday masses about the CWL, thanks to Fr Fred who gave us this opportunity. Our first meeting for 2026 will be next Wednesday 18th February, 2026 at the OLAH Parish Hall for 12.30pm with a sandwich ready for 1pm start - Lady Parishioners invited to "Come and Try" - Afternoon Tea provided. Information - Pam Broadbridge 8339 5013.



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

LENT 2026

The real aim of Lent is, above all else, to prepare us for the celebration of the death and Resurrection of Christ. With the bulletin attached is the Lenten Program 2026—our parish program for our individual and communal parish pilgrimage through Lent to Easter 2026. The 2026 Lenten Reflection booklets from the Archdiocese will be delivered to each family across our parish to make sure that each family has access to a prayerful resource that can be used in a group setting or at home this Lenten season.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins with Ash on Wednesday February 18th. A sombre occasion that marks the beginning of the 40-day period of Lent observed by Christians. On this day, Christians attend services and receive ashes upon their forehead, usually with the words ""Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." For Catholics, it is a particularly observant day, with fasting and abstinence for those between the ages of 14 and 59. Non-meat meals should be eaten all day. **Masses: Birdwood – 9.00 a.m., St Catherine's – 10.30 a.m. Liturgy R/Yr2, 11.30a.m. Mass Yr3/6 and at Bridgewater at 6.00p.m.**

PROJECT COMPASSION

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. By taking home a Project Compassion donation box or envelope, you'll be answering the Gospels' call to care for our global family and walk alongside the most vulnerable. Your generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to communities facing poverty, food insecurity, lack of education, and water shortages, while building resilience against future challenges. Together, through faith and action, we can bring compassion and opportunity to those most in need.

THE NEW PROJECT AT BRIDGEWATER

Lately I have announced that I am planning to change the façade of the Bridgewater church. In the last storm we had in December, the Kids Room got flooded. Now we are faced with a lot of mould and damage to the furniture. The box room at the foyer had flooded too and the ceiling is wet and moulded. The same can be said about both the Ladies and Gents toilets. To change both roofs will not be ideal, besides we have been looking to make both toilets accessible from the church foyer adding a new handicap toilet. I think its time we make the necessary changes which will give the opportunity to enlarge the foyer, toilets accessible from the foyer, more natural light both in the sacristy and Kids room and a new complete façade to the church including a belfry and a statue of Mary. Hopefully soon we will have drawings from our architect Ben Clements. Once the plans are finalised they will be exhibited for comments. My hope is that works will start when plans are approved by the PPC and PFC of the parish and after all permissions are given both from the church and local council.

LENTEN RETREAT

The retreat will be held on Sunday 1st March at Bridgewater for 12.00p.m. with light lunch with 12.00p.m. start to finish around 2.00p.m. The retreat will be delivered by Fr Fred on the reflections by Bishop Barron.

WORKING BEE BRIDGEWATER AND BIRDWOOD

Parishioners are asked to spare two hours on a Saturday 28th February morning for the Working Bee at St Matthew's, Bridgewater and on Friday 27th February at Birdwood both at 9.00a.m. In Bridgewater there are many jobs which need to be done to keep the church and hall precinct in good repair and appearance, and we rely on our parishioners to get the work done. In the two hours we hope to clean off the cobwebs, clean the windows, weed, poison the weeds, mulch and water, prune, clean the gutters, rake up the leaves, trim the oak tree and install compost bays and much more. The more volunteers we have, then the more we get done. If you can help, even if it is only for an hour. If you are available and willing to help, please email John Leon: No particular skills or talents required just a willingness to help our Parish Community.

SAFEGUARDING 90MIN COURSE UPDATE

I have sent a detailed list of all our parishioners with their emails to the Training and Integrity Unit so now the names of all volunteers in the Adelaide Parish have been entered into the database. This means that every volunteer has now access to log-in and is now available for all volunteers those who have a Working With Children Check (police check). It is hoped now the problem has been fixed our volunteers will do the 90 min course on line. At this stage only 25 have done out of 120 volunteers. As we said before, those who do not emails or a computer (who are just a handful), 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.

PASTORAL LETTER FOR LENT 2026

The Archbishop has prepared a Pastoral Letter for Lent 2026. It's his wish that every Catholic faithful will have the opportunity to read and reflect on his Letter. Please see the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter at: <https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-people/archbishop-patrick-o-regan-dd/messages>. A QR code is also provided to view the Pastoral Letter



BRIDGEWATER COMMUNITY MEETING

Our next community meeting will be held on Sunday 22nd February after the 11.30a.m. Mass at Bridgewater for 11.45a.m. for light lunch ready for 12.00p.m. start. Agenda: the Lenten Program, the new entrance project for the church, Working Bee, ecology and finance report. Appreciate if you could bring a plate. (finger food)

Weekly Income 7th/8th February 2026
THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$596.65
Planned Giving Received:	\$2180.00
Loose Plate:	\$267.15

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"

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,

who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **R.**

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. **R.**

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **R.**

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

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



The gift of God's wisdom is threefold. One, it unveils the mystery of God's loving plan 'for our glory before the ages began'. Two, it highlights the truth that anger, lust and falsehood are at odds with God's rule. Three, it offers us the power to purify our hearts and the freedom choose the good.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. 'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his foot-stool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

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

READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

1st Reading

Gen 2:7-9,3:1-7

2nd Reading

Rom 5:12-19

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11