



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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

9th/10th MAY 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH
Parish House

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Child Safe Contact Person
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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus speaks tenderly to his disciples as he prepares to leave them. He tells them that love is not just a feeling, but a way of living. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Love shows itself daily in the choices we make: how we treat others, how we forgive, and how we remain faithful even when it is difficult.

Jesus also promises that we are not alone. He says his Father will send the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, to remain with us. For those who come to worship each week, this is comforting – a reminder that the Holy Spirit is active in our lives: in our families, in our parish community, and in the quiet moments when we seek guidance. Even when we feel uncertain about the future, God's Spirit dwells within us, strengthening our determination to live as disciples.

Finally, Jesus says, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." These words speak to every believer who has known loss, confusion, and disappointment. Our faith tells us that Christ is present – risen and alive – working with us through every season of our lives. He encourages us to trust his presence and let it shape how we love one another.

For us today, in the name of Jesus Christ, "driving out evil spirits" usually means confronting the real forces that enslave hearts, communities, and societies. Most Christians are not called to perform formal exorcisms – that ministry in the Catholic Church is carefully entrusted to trained priests – but every Christian is called to resist evil and promote healing.

What might "unclean spirits" mean today? What are the destructive forces that take hold of people and communities? For example: hatred and violence; despair and hopelessness; racism and prejudice; greed and the exploitation of others; fear that paralyzes us; shame that convinces a person they are beyond forgiveness. How can we "drive out" these spirits today?

Not primarily by dramatic gestures, but by faithful, everyday discipleship in the spirit of Christ:

by prayer, inviting God's presence into places of darkness;

by truth, challenging lies and injustice;

by compassion, standing with those who suffer;

by forgiveness, breaking cycles of resentment;

by community, refusing to leave people alone in their struggle.

In short, the Acts of the Apostles is important for contemporary believers because it tells us:

The Holy Spirit is still active.

The mission of Christ continues.

Courage and hope are always possible.

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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



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 11th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 12th	Mass St Catherine's	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 13th	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 15th	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES MAY		
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

O gracious Father, our almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for the saving mystery that Jesus, your Servant-Son, accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Easter event released the tremendous energy of life in Christ and in the Spirit. We believe in Christ's affirmation, "I live and you will live." We trust fully in the other Advocate who unites our trials and sufferings with your Son's redemptive passion, transforming them into moments of resurrection. Make us truly an Easter people, who are Spirit-filled and powerful witnesses of hope in today's troubled world. Amen

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 17th May 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 24th May 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Mary Nyeboeur	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Eric Toombe	Margaret S
2nd Reader	Margaret S	Eric Toome
Euch. Minister	Janet Harrison	Anne Moore
Cleaning	Mick & Margaret S	Hennie Murphy

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 16th May 6.00pm	Sunday 17th May 10.30am
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Sacristan	Ann Teteris	Di Golding
Welcoming	Karen Huesler	Gina
Reader 1	Alan Miller	Ric Sachse
Reader 2	Joan Davey	Nathan Sachse
Euch.Ministers	Mary Homann	Karen Dutton
		Nolan Parodi
		Di Golding
Musicians	Damien Mansfield	Folk Group
Counters	Kathrine Johnson & Ric Sachse	
Our Lady	Paula Zanchetta	Paula Zanchetta
Cleaning	Dan Defazio & Rhiannon Dimasi	
Flowers	Gloria Howe	Gloria Howe
Tea & Coffee	Volunteers please	

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 17th May 5.30pm	Sunday 24th May 5.30p.m
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Welcoming	Jenny Johnston	Kathy Decosta
Cleaning	Rosy Jones	Rosy Jones

RITE 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. Mass of Our Lady of Fatima will be celebrated on Wednesday 13th May at 9.00a.m. at Birdwood.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is all about celebrating the woman who raised you and shaped who you are as a person. From all the packed lunches with napkin notes, to the bandages and kisses after falling off your bike, to being the first one to cry at your graduation— your mom was there for it all. It's important to thank her for all the love and work she put in through the years. Remind her of your love and appreciation today on Mother's Day.

THE ASCENSION

Next Sunday we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord to heaven. Traditionally the Ascension of Our Lord was held 40 days after Easter, falling on a Thursday. However in Australia the observance of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord Year A is moved to the following Sunday, superseding the 7th Sunday of Easter. The feast of the Ascension of the Lord commemorates the day that Jesus Christ ascended into heaven. He also gave the Great Commission, that all of the world should be saved. In the first reading the ascension of Jesus is recounted and the Apostles told they will receive the Holy Spirit. In the second reading we hear that Jesus Christ rules heaven and earth. And in the gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to preach the Good News to the whole world.

MARIAN PROCESSION

77th Annual Marian Procession - Sunday, May 17 2026 at 2.00pm. Each year the Archdiocese hosts the annual Marian Procession in honour of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church. The procession will be held in the city, Assembling at Victoria Park (Wakefield Road) and processing to Victoria Square.

A VISIT TO "RECREATE" MT PLEASANT

Recreate is a project of the not-for-profit community group the Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre Inc. Run as a social enterprise, recreate brings people together to share ideas around upcycling and waste minimisation as well as providing an important fundraising avenue for the MPNRC. The ecology group is organising a visit to Recreate on Saturday 30th May 2026. At Recreate there are some really good ideas, books and pamphlets, things to buy as well as cheap plants for sale. If you are interested to come please contact John Leeton:
0419 243 814 john.leeton2@bigpond.comn

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.

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 three weekends next will be the weekend of **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.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Next meeting on Thursday 14th May at 4.00p.m. at the OLAH parish hall in Bridgewater,

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.

THANKS FROM THE CWL

The CWL Stirling wish to thank members and parishioners and Ladies from other Hills Ecumenical Churches who last Wednesday 6th May attended for another enjoyable CWL Annual Afternoon Tea. Thanks to Janet Leitch who was the Guest Speaker. The Mothers' Day Raffle was drawn and the winner was Debbie Grace. Thanks to all who catered, helped and cleared on the day.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Pentecost in 2026 will be observed on Sunday, May 24. Pentecost always occurs fifty days after Easter Sunday. Since Easter itself does not have a fixed date and is based on the lunar calendar, Pentecost also moves each year. Easter is calculated as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. Once the date of Easter is known, Pentecost is simply counted forward by fifty days. This places Pentecost on a Sunday, seven weeks after Easter. The name "Pentecost" comes from a Greek word meaning "fiftieth," reflecting this exact timing. In the Bible, Pentecost was originally a Jewish feast known as the Feast of Weeks, It was celebrated fifty days after Passover and was associated with the harvest. For Christians, Pentecost took on a deeper meaning. It became the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Jesus. This event marked the beginning of the spread of the Christian message. It was not planned by human effort. It began with divine action.

On Pentecost weekend we plan to renew the commitment of all volunteers, have prayers of intercession said in different languages, invite parishioners to wear something coloured red to Mass that weekend.



Weekly Income

2nd/3rd May 2026

THANK YOU

First Collection: \$640.30

Planned Giving Received: \$3785.00

Loose Plate: \$362.90

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

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.
Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R.**

Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **R.**

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave your orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Pope Leo's prayer intention for May that everyone might have food is so simple and the need for nourishing food is so evident that at first sight it should hardly need to be prayed.

The earth is bountiful enough to provide food for everyone, fertilisers available enough to make the earth grow, and transport sufficient to transfer skills and surplus food in one nation to meet crises in others. And yet people, including most unforgivably children, go hungry, and money that could be spent on food is spent in excluding the hungry when they knock on the door of nations with more than enough food.

The need to notice lies at the heart of Pope Leo's prayer. To feed the hungry in any society requires more than a technical solution of providing adequate production, transport and financing. It demands the conversion of heart needed to make these steps a priority. That, in turn, demands conversion of the eyes so that they notice the people who are hungry. The habit of noticing, being moved by, and staying with people who go hungry lies at the heart of prayer. It requires discernment, noticing the movements of our hearts and the needs of our brothers and sisters, and the courage to remedy what we see.

READINGS FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

1st Reading	Acts 1:1-11
2nd Reading	Ephesians 1:17-23
Gospel	Matthew 28:16-20