



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.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A

16th/17th MAY 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

Parish House

**1 Wembley Avenue (P O Box 718)
BRIDGEWATER S A 5155
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Facebook: Adelaide Hills Parish

Parish Priest

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Cathie Oswald

**Pastoral Coordinator
Custodian of Parish hall
catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com.au**

St Catherine's Catholic School:

John Low

Principal:

**Telephone: (08) 8238 8238
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Safeguarding Officer

**Mark McGeough
mcgeough@internode.on.net**

WHS Parish Officer

**Marianne Berry
marianne3079@gmail.com**

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

The account of Christ's Ascension in Acts is the way Luke terminates the post-Easter appearances of Jesus to his disciples. Luke depicts the risen Christ instructing his disciples about God's kingdom. Now, with his departure, they are to be his witnesses—they will speak and act on his and the kingdom's behalf. But first they have something to do. They must wait – wait for the Spirit Jesus will send them so that then they can go and announce the new age Christ inaugurated.

We are living in the "in-between time" – a moment of pause between Jesus' first coming and his return. It has been a long pause! There's the danger in each generation that the waiting church will lose its fervour and enthusiasm for Christ, who can seem a long way off in the distant past. We can get nostalgic about the past. Our churches are not supposed to be memorial places for a long-dead leader. It's clear from the angel's message to the disciples staring up at the space left by their departed leader, that we are not just to be Jesus' fan club which meets regularly to bask in nostalgia.

Instead, as Jesus promised, we are gifted with the same powerful Spirit that animated Jesus and sustained him, not only through his preaching and healing ministry, but through his long suffering and death. It is that same Spirit that keeps us from stagnating and being just a curious, antiquated relic from the past. Because of the Spirit people should not say of us, "Aren't they quaint? Aren't their beliefs and practices so historic and original!" Thanks to the Spirit, we are called and empowered to be modern witnesses to the living Christ still with us, who is reaching out in a new age to do through us, what he did in his lifetime—preach the gospel, heal the sick and bring people back to God.

In a little over a week we will celebrate Pentecost when the promised Spirit was poured out on the gathered disciples. We and the whole church are in constant need for renewal in that Spirit. We may not be sent out into "the whole world" to witness to Jesus; but to places closer to home – to our family, school, job, etc. Still, we are called to bring to those people and places our faith, energized by the Spirit. During the week ahead of us we do again what Jesus instructed his disciples to do – we wait. While we wait we bring to prayer our personal needs for a renewal of faith in the risen Christ. We also pray for those we know who have lost their commitment to our church community, as well as for those whose spirits are battered in any way because of loneliness, poverty, violence, sickness etc.

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

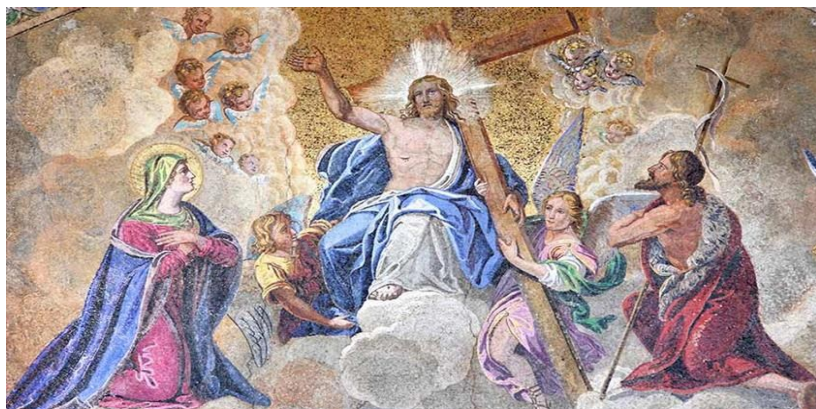
6pm Saturday Evenings

10.30 am Sunday

Our Lady of the Rosary East Stirling

5.30 pm Sunday

JESUS ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN



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 Sur-guy, 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 Gold-ing, Robin Harrison, Brian Medhurst, Frank D’Angelo, Valentina Sobolewski, John Mott

Recently deceased:

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK		
Monday 18th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 19th	Liturgy at St Catherine’s	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 20th	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 22nd	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES MAY		
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.
	Liturgy Meeting	11.00a.m.
	Social Justice meeting	5.00p.m.
	Faith & Formation Team	6.00p.m.
Wednesday 20th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Saturday 23rd	Working Bee Bridgewater	9.00a.m.
Sunday 24th	Pentecost Sunday	
Monday 25th	Mary Help of Christians	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 26th	Parish Team meeting	10.00a.m.
Sunday 31st	Trinity Sunday	
	Bridgewater comm. meeting	11.45a.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord Jesus, you ascended into heaven.
 Extolled by the Father, you are our Risen Lord.
 You continue to be present among us.
 You are our intercessor before God.
 You are with us through
 the power of the Holy Spirit.
 Be with us as we proclaim
 the Good News of salvation
 in the “here and now”.
 Make us your faithful witnesses
 so that we may lead
 our brothers and sisters to you.
 Bring us all to heaven.
 We love and serve you.
 We extol and glorify you,
 now and forever. Amen

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 24th May	LOBETHAL Sunday 31st May 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Gayle Raven	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Margaret S	Simon Cox
2nd Reader	Eric Toome	Jo Brickhill
Euch. Minister	Anne Moore	Margaret S
Cleaning	Hennie Murphy	Hennie Murphy

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 23rd May 6.00pm	Sunday 24th May 10.30am
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Sacristan	Joan Davey	Di Golding
Welcoming	Karen Huesler	Pam Broadbridge
Reader 1	Mark McGeough	Paul Robinson
Reader 2	Joan Davey	Christian D
Euch.Ministers	Ann Teteris	John Leeton

Musicians	PowerPoint	Youth Group
Counters	Maria Thompson & Di Golding	
Our Lady	Paula Zanchetta	Paula Zanchetta
Cleaning	Dwyer Family	Dwyer Family
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 24th May 5.30pm	Sunday 31st May 5.30p.m
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Welcoming	Kathy Decosta	John Rodella
Cleaning	Rosy Jones	Rosy Jones

SOUTHERN CROSS

Please buy a copy of the May edition of the South-ern Cross. Every copy cost \$2 and \$1 goes to the parish..

THE BRIDGE

Please take your copy of the May edition of The Bridge. Once again we thank Paul Robinson for his contribution to such an excellent parish monthly magazine each month and all those who contribute to the various arti-cles.

WORKING BEE BRIDGEWATER

Parishioners are asked to spare two hours on a Satur-day 23rd May morning for 9.00a.m. start for the Work-ing Bee at St Matthew’s, 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. The more volun-teers 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 contact John Leeton. No particular skills or talents required just a willingness to help our Parish Community.

STATUE OF OUR LADY—MISSING

The statue of Our Lady tha goes to one of our families has been missing from nearly a month. Please if you still have the statue bring it back to Bridgewater. In the pass month or even more we couldn’t continue this chain of prayer for vocations through the intercession of the Virgin Mary,

THE ASCENSION (Lapsi)

The Ascension is celebrated this Sunday and it's a liturgical Solemnity celebrated by all the Christian Churches. It falls on the fortieth day after Easter Sunday. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Augustine make reference to it, but it was probably Saint Gregory of Nyssa who influenced the propagation of the feast. Since it falls on Thursday, in many countries, this Solemnity is transferred to the following Sunday. With his Ascension into heaven, the presence of the "historical Christ" comes to an end, and the presence of the Body of Christ, the Church, is inaugurated.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Next Sunday we remember, we celebrate, we believe in the presence of the Holy Spirit within us and among us on this feast of Pentecost. Pentecost is a time to remember what God has done, to celebrate what God is doing and to affirm our belief that, "The Spirit's power working in us can do more than we can hope for or imagine." Ephesians 3:20.

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.

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

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 **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.

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.

MINISTRY VACANCIES – CAN YOU HELP

If you can assist with either (or both) the Counting and Cleaning Ministry please let me know. These two ministries work as pairs, and because of retirement and unavailability, I find that I have one volunteer in the Counting Ministry and one volunteer in the Cleaning Ministry who need a partner before they can be rostered. If you can help once a month, please let me know: catherine@adelaidehillsparish.com.au

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event of an emergency please follow directions of the Parish Priest, reader or commentator who shall act as the Chief Warden and take control of the emergency response. The collectors shall assist as Wardens. When directed to evacuate the church/office/hall:

- Move quickly and orderly to the nearest safe exit, do not run.
- If required, aid disabled, mobility impaired persons and the elderly.
- Alert the Chief Warden / Warden if someone is unable or unwilling to evacuate.
- Proceed to the designated assembly area (as shown in the Evacuation Diagram on the Noticeboard in the foyer) and await further instructions from the Chief Warden or emergency services.

Bridgewater – car park

OLOR – tree area north of the foyer

Lobethal – grass area behind the church

Birdwood – area in front of the church

Do not re-enter any buildings until advised by the Chief Warden or emergency services.

BIRDWOOD PARISH HOUSE

The Parish house at Birdwood has also been painted from the outside. Now it's ready to be rented. The church office has taken the decision that any rental property belonging to the church needs to go through a real estate. The parish has awarded Inwood real estate to take care of our property to find a tenant. The property is already advertised and the agent had a couple of enquiries already. Here is the link if one like to have a look! <https://www.realestate.com.au/property-house-sa-birdwood-444143160>

Weekly Income

9th/10th May 2026

THANK YOU

First Collection: \$647.65

Planned Giving Received: \$2600.00

Loose Plate: \$277.60

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"

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **R**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **R**

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

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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



We pray for missionaries and their communities in lands where Christians are an unwelcomed minority, that they will stay strong in the Spirit of the Risen One.

READINGS FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

1st Reading	Acts 2:1-11
2nd Reading	1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13
Gospel	John 20:19-23