



Catholic Communities of:
St Matthew's, Bridgewater
Our Lady of the Rosary, Stirling East
St Joseph the Worker, Lobethal
St Matthew's, Birdwood

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING of the UNIVERSE

22nd/23th November 2025

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Kings and queens – those with real authority – exercise “top-down” power over their subjects, much like the control we exert over things, animals, or subordinates. I once witnessed this kind of power at a Marine base in South Carolina: when a drill sergeant barked, “Attention!” his recruits instantly stiffened, eyes fixed straight ahead. Some imagine Jesus’ kingship in that way – as the ability to command instant obedience or crush opposition at will.

But on the cross, where is that power? Why doesn't he use it to descend, destroy his enemies, and establish his reign? Instead, to see our King, we must look upon the terrible sight of the cross, where he is pinned and powerless. What kind of kingship is this?

From the cross, Jesus reveals a different kind of power. St. Paul tells us in Philippians that Jesus “emptied himself,” setting aside divine privilege and humbling himself, even to death on a cross. His power is not the power of force, but of self-giving love. He invites us into union with him – a relationship that appears weak yet is stronger than any earthly rule. In that union, we share in his power: the power to heal, to forgive, and to serve as agents of reconciliation. Through our relationship with Christ, we become strong – not by dominating others, but by sharing his life and love with them.

In accepting the cross, Jesus entered into solidarity with the lowest in society. Who could be lower than a condemned criminal? The crucified Christ shows that he gives himself to all, especially the least and the lost – not by imposing himself, but by offering himself in apparent defeat. Earthly rulers, and at times even religious authorities, assert power to achieve their own ends. Jesus, by contrast, exercises power through service – laying down his life for us.

We are free to accept or reject his rule. He will not compel us. He seeks not subservient subjects, but friends: “I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends...” (John 15:15). Those who accept his reign live as brothers and sisters in his kingdom, already present among us.

Yet the world daily tempts us to follow other rulers – greed, violence, indifference, cruelty, aggression. Accepting Jesus’ kingship, then, is not a one-time act; it must be renewed each day through deliberate choices. Living under his reign can sometimes feel discouraging, since his kingdom often appears incomplete or fragile in our world. A glance at the day's headlines confirms that! There is still much to do to make Jesus’ “peaceable kingdom” visible – not only in the world around us and within the Christian community, but within each of our hearts.

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 REMEMBER ME



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, Tanya Farrugia.

November Anniversaries: Thelma Smerdon, Fr Brian Schmidt, Stella Dacko, Frank Clements, Stephen Man-na Susanne Movat, Daniel Clements, Tony Nicolas, Mario Della Torre, Colin Sutton.

Recently deceased: Armando Puccetti

WEEKDAYS MASSES

Monday 24th	OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 25th	Mass at St Catherine's	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 26th	BIRDWOOD	9.00a.m.
Friday 28th	BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Nov/Dec

Sunday 23rd	Feast of Christ the King	
	Advent Retreat	12.00p.m.
Tuesday 25th	Parish School Meeting	9.00a.m.
	Liturgy meeting	11.00a.m.
	OLOR Community meeting	6.00p.m.
Friday 28th	Mass 3rd/4th Yr St Catherine	9.00a.m.
	Memorial Mass	6.30p.m.
Sunday 30th	Beginning of Advent	
Wednesday 3rd	Northern End meeting	9.45a.m.
Friday 5th DEC	First Friday of the month	
Saturday 6th	Baptism Afternoon tea	2.00p.m.
Sunday 7th	Second Sunday of Advent	
Monday 8th	Feast Immaculate Conception	9.00a.m.
Wednesday 10th	Graduation Mass St Catherine	10.15a.m.
Thursday 11th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Friday 12	Advent Penitential Rite	6.30p.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Christ,
with your last breath
you cared for the lost and lonely.
Please
remember us.
Call all of us to mind,
each and every one of us,
when you come into your kingdom!
We entrust ourselves,
with Dismas, to you,
to your infinite love and mercy,
And like him,
we ask simply:
remember us.
Amen

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 30th Nov 8.30a.m	BIRDWOOD Sunday 7th Dec 8.30am
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Welcome	Gayle Raven	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Simon Murphy	Lea Crosby
2nd Reader	Simon Cox	Roz Crossing
Euch. Minister	Margaret S	Janet Harrison
Cleaning	Henny Murphy	Anne McEvoy

BRIDGEWATER	Sat 29th Nov 6.00 pm	Sun 30th Nov 10.30am
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Sacristan	Mark McGeough	Gina Kelly
Welcoming	Karen Heusler	Gina Kelly
Reader 1	Mark McGeough	Phil Schultz
Reader 2	Alan Miller	Christian D
Euch. Minister	Mary Homann	Jenny Porter
Musicians	Helen Cantwell	PowerPoint
Counters	Marianne Berry & Mary Feijen	
Cleaning	Marianne Berry & Karen Dutton	
Our Lady	Di Golding	Di Golding
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly
Tea & Coffee		

OLOR	Sunday 30th Nov 5.30pm	Sunday 7th Dec 5.30pm
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Sacristan	Paul Anderson	Paul Anderson
Welcoming	John Rodella	Tom Kenyon

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE

Masses will be offered for the deceased relatives and friends for:

Lew Brickhill, Rita & Frances Gourley, Charles, Agnes, Norman & Veronica Davey, Bill & Margaret Guthrie, Terry, Eileen, Ann & Cyril Deed, Duszynski & Naraniecki families, Valentina & Zenon So-becki, Maria & Adam Jezioranski, Malcolm Golding, Shirley Forster, Neil Osborne, John, David & Selena Murphy, Stephanus & Bernar-da Bennink, Guilia, Paul & Lino Farrugia, Puntoriero & Thompson Families, Ermino & Maria Tarca and Families, John Ritzi, Linda Radic, Tommy Moore, Catherine & Patrick Rooney, Eilish & Louis Donachy, John Crosby, Kerry-Anne Leewton, Troy Broadbridge, Janis Evans, Susan McLeans, Christine Evans, Ralph, Sylu & John Papandrea, Kath & Dan Nichols, Tony Clifford, Catherine & Alec Raven, Dorothy & John McKeown, Gay & Arthur Morris, Mary & Hubert Biggs, Brian Mackenzie, Brian Sachse, Claire O'Connor, Michael Grohs, Karmenu Farrugia, Olga, Karmenu & Carmelo Schembri, Jane Harrison, Kath & George White, Rosemary Hood, Audine & Julian Andrews, Neil Faggotter, Roos & Alma Anderson, Paul Millhouse, Sue Crabb, Ralf Lightfoot, Ruth & Les Howe, Glen-da Le Gallant, Francis & Patrick O'Flynn, Poul Waul, the Preece family, Bill & Neil Guthrie, Greg & Elizabeth Rohan, Noel Dermody, Eva Burton, Brian Pyn, Margaret Pyne, Dr Remington Pyne, John & Joan Evans, John & Beverley Twelftree. Departed members of Huffman and family.

O Lord Jesus Christ, grant to the souls of the faithful departed, the full remission of their sins. Be mindful, most merciful Saviour, of that Soul in Purgatory who was most devoted to Thee in the Holy Eucharist. Shorten the moment of his deliverance, that he may glorify Thee, and aid me in my journey toward eternity. Amen.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Last weekend members of St Vincent De Paul will launched their Christmas Appeal in our parish by distributing the usual envelopes. Christmas is all about family. Spending time together, sharing a meal and creating meaningful memories. These moments are precious. But what if you couldn't provide a meal for your family, or even a home? This is the reality many Australian families face this Christmas.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the Feast of Christ the King on the last Sunday before Advent, also known as the last Sunday of the liturgical year. As Catholics, we've been recognizing Christ as our King for over 2,000 years. Each time we attend mass, genuflect in front of the altar, or receive a sacrament, we are honoring our King. So why do we have a special day set aside to remember our King? Its a wakeup call for all of us, to stop and assess our lives. Are we including our faith in all the decisions we make? Do we only remember to pray when we need something? When we attend mass do we actively listen to the Scripture readings and reflect on the messages?

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2025

Sunday 30th November marks the beginning of the Advent season. Advent is the beginning of the Church's Year. It is a time of promise, expectation and participation as we prepare for the great celebration of the birth of Jesus. Advent is the time we wait in joyful hope for our God to be born in our hearts. The season of Advent recognizes the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, in a special way. God's Son became one of us and one with us, to share our human experience fully and completely. Please follow the Advent and Christmas program of our parish distributed last weekend.

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

The Social Justice team wishes to thank all parishioners who supported our Melbourne Cup Lunch. Through your generosity, we raised a little over \$1600. At our meeting this week, the decision was made that to use the proceeds to support three charities. *Orange Skye* - supports people experiencing homelessness through access to free laundry and shower services; it is a simple service that makes a huge difference. *Bright Futures* - is an Australian based Christian aid and development agency which works with partners in India, Pakistan, Kenya and Uganda to provide schooling, health clinics, self-help groups and disability programmes. *The Hut, Aldgate* - offers diverse services engaging with residents in the Hills community. Services include financial assistance, social support, education, fun and fitness programmes.

NATIVITY TABLEAU WITH NARRATION.

We will once again have a Nativity Tableau at the Christmas Vigil Mass this year. Children who are interested in participating, and parents who are available to assist are asked to speak or email Fr Fred as soon as possible. Please note Christmas Eve is Family mass is on Tuesday 24th December at 6.30p.m. at Bridgewater.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday 8th December. It is a widely observed event among the Catholic community in Australia. The Feast centres on the belief that Jesus' mother, the Virgin Mary, was conceived without sin. Pope Pius IX issued an apostolic constitution, known as the *Ineffabilis Deus*, on December 8, 1854. This document clarified the importance of the Immaculate Conception in the Catholic Church. **Mass will be celebrated at OLOR at 9.00a.m. and 6.30p.m.**

FRIDAY MASS NEXT WEEK

The Year's 3&4 from St Catherine's School will be joining us for the celebration of Mass next Friday 28th November at Bridgewater. To save transport costs parents will bring their children to St Matthew's and so Mass will be at 9.00a.m. not 11.00a.m. Afterwards we can meet with the children and parents at the parish hall for light refreshments.

OLOR COMMUNITY MEETING

Meeting will be held at Paul Anderson's residence on Tuesday 25th November at 6.00p.m. Agenda looking at the Advent and Christmas activities, memorial garden, booklet about the church windows.

LITURGY GROUP MEETING

Our monthly meeting will be held next Tuesday 25th November at 11.00a.m. at the Paris meeting room at Bridgewater. Please consider to join this important group.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Council meet last Wednesday and much of the Agenda was taken to discuss the report of the Parish Assembly 2025 prepared by our secretary Inge Parodi. The outcome seems to be very positive with practical suggestions from the discussion groups. The next step a sub committee has been formed to discuss and implement the report. In order to save cost on paper, the final report can be downloaded from our parish website. Anyone who wants a printed copy please put your name in the list provided at the back of the church. John Low and Carla Thomas gave the school report. Fr Fred the finance report, and John Leeton the Ecology report.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Sadly, we have recently lost many of our volunteers for the various ministries. If you would like to be involved in the Parish, particularly in Bridgewater, please contact Cathie or Fr Fred to discuss the many opportunities which exist. Thanks already to three parishioners has volunteered to be part of ministries in Bridgewater. FR FRED

MEMORIAL MASS

As November is traditionally the month of remembrance within the Catholic Church we are given the opportunity to reflect on and pray for those who are no longer with us especially those who died during this year on Friday 28th November at 6.30p.m. at Bridgewater. Forms of attendance will be available from next weekend. It's important that filling the form means that one will be attending.

Weekly Income 15/16th November 2025 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$499.95
Planned Giving Received:	\$2035.00
Loose Plate:	\$131.00

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:
BSB: 066-782 Account: 100000277
Account Name Adelaide Hills Parish
Refer payment as "donation"

A reading from the second book of Samuel

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:

'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R.

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

R.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgment
of the house of David.

R.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation; for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominions, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The people stayed before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said, 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



In the run-up to Christmas many charities are seeking support to help struggling families over the festive season. See for example, Vinnies and Caritas. However, ways in which you can help others do not need to stop once Christmas is over. Don't Bin Your Blessings. Holidaymakers are encouraged to donate leftover non-perishable food to local food banks and community kitchen

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK
FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT**

1st Reading
2nd Reading
Gospel

Is 2:1-5
Rom 13:11-14
Mt 24:37-44