



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.

EASTER SUNDAY YEAR A

5th APRIL 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH Parish House

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

We look around the world trying to find logical arguments and hints of resurrection. We point to caterpillars that become butterflies with the gift of beauty and flight. We north easterners point to frozen earth, bleak and brown and then to green shoots that soon will become daffodils. Somehow we think these are arguments for the resurrection, signs that life comes from unexpected, even dead-looking places. But with so much evidence of death these days; with more slaughter from bombings in Iran and Lebanon to death by starvation for millions, unending murder, rape and pillage of innocents in numerous countries, and with our own more immediate losses from the death of loved ones--- caterpillars becoming butterflies do not offer enough comfort and assurance in our grief. As a relative told me recently when her husband died, "He was my whole life." More is needed to get through that kind of grief. The seeming "logic" of life--- to death-- to new life, leaves big question marks and not deep solace when death stares us in the face. We need more to keep us from faltering and, thankfully, we have more. Later in the story, though not in today's reading, Mary will meet the risen Lord and come to believe what we believe---the dark shadow of death has been driven out by the light of the risen Lord. Once given the gift of light, she will proclaim the good news to the frightened apostles waiting in the upper room, "I have seen the Lord"

Love invites us to take a close look at what is before us on this first day of new life. We don't look back over our shoulder at who we were and what we did in the past. This is a new day with new realizations and possibilities, after all, we are the beloved disciples. The love we have received is a basis for a new way to live. We can begin---or start again--- to act like loved ones. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we trust we will not fall out of the embrace of God's love and so we can take chances in loving others we might not ordinarily take.

We return from the empty tomb asking ourselves how we can live the life of a beloved disciple. How can we love better? Especially, how can we show love to those who don't have the signs our culture loves---like youth, looks, wealth and power? Each of us makes the trip to the empty tomb today, peers into the tomb and into our lives. Is there someone we have not forgiven? Have we hesitated getting involved in serving others? What signs of death do we see that we must turn away from or confront? In the light of what we "see" on this first day of the week, what new life do we experience and with whom should we share it in word and act?

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

HE IS RISEN ALLELUIA



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.

April Anniversaries: Jason Healey, Eilee Braithwaite, Bill McPhee, Roger Horne, Reg & Lillian Schumann, Alice Stephenson, William (Bill) Anderson, Judith Robertson, Kathleen Mundy, Lina Tarca, Francis McCarthy, John Rushforth, Linda Becker, Nell Guthrie

Recently deceased: Michael Brady, Gabrielle Morgan.

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 6th	NO MASS	
Tuesday 7th	WHOLE SCHOOL MASS	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 8th	BIRDWOOD	
Friday 9th	BRIDGEWATER	
Saturday 10th	Reconciliation	
		11.00a.m.
		12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES APRIL

Thursday 9th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Friday 10th	Gabrielle Morgan's funeral	10.00a.m.
Sunday 12th	Divine Mercy Sunday	
Wednesday 15th	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Sunday 19th	Children's Mass Bridgewater	10.30a.m.
Saturday 25th	ANZAC DAY Bridgewater	9.00a.m.
	Working Bee Bridgewater	9.30a.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God,
 who on this day,
 through your Only
 Begotten Son
 have conquered death
 and unlocked for us
 the path to eternity,
 grant,
 we pray,
 that we who keep
 the solemnity of
 the Lord's
 Resurrection may,
 through the renewal
 brought by
 your Spirit,
 rise up
 in the light of life.
 Amen.



ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	LOBETHAL Sunday 12th Apr 8.30a.m	BIRDWOOD Sunday 19th Apr 8.30a.m
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Welcoming 1st Reader 2nd Reader Euch. Minister Cleaning	Gayle Raven Liz O'Flynn Gayle Raven Margaret S Jo Brickhill	Mary Nyeboeur Roz Crossing Gayle Raven Janet Harrison Connie & Carmel
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BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 11th Apr 7.30pm	Sunday 12th Apr 10.30am
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Sacristan Welcoming Reader 1 Reader 2 Euch.Ministers	Mary Homann Ann Teteris Alan Miller Mark McGeough Kathy Lloyd	Gina Kelly Di Golding Paul Robinson Ric Sachse Paris Huffman John Leeton Deb Stapleton Damien Mansfield Ric Sachse Orma Paine Orma Paine Gina Kelly
Musicians Counters Our Lady Cleaning Flowers	PowerPoint Katherine Johnson & Orma Paine Otto Kovac & Ben Sugars Gina Kelly	

OLOR	Sunday 12th Apr 5.30pm	Sunday 19th Apr 5.30p.m
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Welcoming Cleaning	Tom Kenyon Jenny Johnston	Debbie Somers Jenny Johnston
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SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

We are pleased to report that the money raised through our fundraising efforts has been appreciated by The Hut Food Pantry (\$500), Orange Sky (\$500) and Bright Futures (\$505.50)

In the thank you letter, The Hut explained that our donation has enabled them to continue providing food for the Adelaide Hills community members struggling with the increasing cost of everyday bills. Our gift to Orange Sky will help their vans deliver warm showers and a laundry service to people throughout Australia requiring assistance. Their services also provide comfort and ease the isolation felt during tough times. Bright Futures and its development partners are thrilled to use our donation to provide support for communities in India, Uganda, Pakistan and Kenya. Their programs enable children and families to receive education, healthcare and training support that will help them break free from poverty. Thank you to all parishioners for supporting our endeavours. Together we are making a difference to many lives.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Our next PFC meeting will be held next Thursday 9th April at the OLAH Parish Hall at Bridgewater at 4.00p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Rick Irons a parishioner who will become a full member of the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil at Hectorville. We pray for Rick, his wife Nathalie and his children Leo and Eve that this occasion will bring joy and happiness in his family and in our parish community.



FR FRED'S EASTER MESSAGE

Dear brothers and sisters

Happy Easter Sunday! Today, we rejoice in the profound significance of this day. Jesus, our Lord, has risen from the dead, a proclamation that resounds in the Church throughout the world. This good news, like a new flame, was kindled on the Holy Night of the Vigil, a night when the world faced crucial challenges. Despite these trials, the resurrection of our Lord brings us hope and joy. As a parish, I want to invite you to let this Easter celebration be reflected in our commitment to faith and in the growth of our love for the Risen Lord and the Church, made concrete in our love for the parish. It is important to reflect on our baptismal commitment, which should be reflected in active participation in parish ministries. . We must rise with the Lord, begin energizing our parish more, and make our ministries flourish again. Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers who have made a great effort to ensure that the liturgy of these special days of Holy Week was beautiful, organized, and with great dignity. Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed. Please know that behind every liturgical act, there is a lot of work and organization; many have worked hard to ensure this is carried out with order and decorum. Dear volunteers and staff thank you so much for your help. You are very important to me and hold a special place in my heart.

Happy Easter

Fr Fred

EASTER RAFFLE

Please take a ticket for our Easter raffle. Proceeds will go towards to support our parish Ecology Group. Lots of chocolate, and \$50 voucher from Bridgewater Inn One ticket costs \$2 and 3 tickets for \$5. Thank you.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Divine Mercy Sunday is an observance in the Roman Catholic Church in which followers are encouraged to offer forgiveness and reconciliation to all. It is based on visions recorded from St. Faustina Kowalski. In 2000, it was decreed a solemnity, a high feast day, by Saint John Paul II. Divine Mercy Sunday occurs the Sunday after Easter. We will celebrate the feast of the Divine Mercy next Sunday 12th April during the 10.30am. Mass at Bridgewater.

ANZAC DAY— SATURDAY 25th APRIL

Like previous years while we encourage everyone to attend the Dawn Services. At Bridgewater church we will celebrate Mass on Saturday 25th April at 9 00a.m. As a parish community commemorate this day to pray for all those who lost their lives and those still defending our liberty.

SOUTHERN CROSS

This month's copy of The Southern Cross is free. Please take a copy.

WORKING BEE

On Saturday 25th of April we are having a working Bee at Bridgewater from 9.30 onwards. John Leeton is preparing a list of jobs that needs to be done. It will be appreciated if one can spare some time to help.

DELIVER A SPEECH ON MOTHER'S DAY.

We wish to give the opportunity to those who have not yet delivered a speech about his/her on Mother's day. This will happen during our weekend masses on Sunday 3rd May. Mothers are a gift from God. No one can deny the love and affection that is being shown by mothers. Paying tribute to your mother is something special. If you are interested please talk to Fr Fred.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 2nd May 2026 at the OLOAH Parish Hall, Bridgewater. Timings are as follows; 7.30am Registration, 8am Breakfast, Presentation & Questions, with Meeting close at 9am Our speaker will be Jack Snelling. One of the primary benefits of men's breakfast is the opportunity to build community. In a society where isolation is increasingly common, these gatherings provide a space for men to connect, share their struggles, and support one another in their spiritual journeys. The act of breaking bread together fosters trust, allowing participants to open up about their lives in a safe environment

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 5th May at 1.30p.m. at OLAH Parish Hall. Guest Speaker will be Janet Leitch who will speak about her Camino "Teresiana". Join the CWL activities that are a mixture of spiritual, charitable, educational and social so, apart from the simple pleasure of sharing a cup of tea and a chat, members ensure they have a varied programme that includes events such as organising the ecumenical afternoon teas, and outings.

BIRDWOOD CELEBRATIONS

Last Saturday at Birdwood we blessed the new Stations of the cross which were donated by Leon and Leonie Holmes In the process we bless the renovations of the Parish house. The works have cost \$50,000 which have already been paid. Hopefully after Easter the outside of the house will also be painted. Thanks for the CWL Birdwood for preparing lunch for all after the blessing.

MEMORIAL GARDEN OLOR

The artificial lawn in the middle of the garden has been installed. It looks really good. Unfortunately the lawn was not growing due to lack of sunshine because of the high trees around the garden. I wish to thank a benefactor who paid for the artificial lawn.

Weekly Income 28/29th March 2026
THANK YOU

First Collection: \$566.10
Planned Giving Received: \$2310.00
Loose Plate: \$261.35

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

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.' Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

R.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

R.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

R.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Pope Leo XIV during Mass in the Principality of Monaco over the weekend urged everyone not to grow 'accustomed to the clamour of weapons and images of war'. In his homily, the Pope stressed, 'Every life cut short wounds the body of Christ,' and reminded that, 'Peace is not merely a balance of power; it is the work of purified hearts, of those who see others as brothers and sisters to be protected, not enemies to be defeated. This Octave of Easter, let us pray for peace in our hearts, communities and world

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading	Acts 12:42-47
2nd Reading	1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel	John 20:19-31