FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

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

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

21ST/22ND NOVEMBER 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Matthew's, Birdwood
8.30am: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

St Joseph's, Lobethal
8.30am: 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month

St Matthew's, Bridgewater
6pm Saturday Evening
10.30am Sunday

Our Lady of the Rosary, Stirling East
5.30pm Sunday

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. But what kind of king is Jesus? He is not a king who seeks wealth, privilege, power or personal comfort. He is a shepherd who cares for His people, especially those who are forgotten, neglected and pushed to the margins of society. His kingdom is not measured by military strength, political influence or material possessions. It is measured by love, compassion, justice and service.

A month ago, we heard Jesus summarise the whole law and the prophets in two commandments: love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. If we want to love and serve the God we cannot see, Jesus tells us, we must love and serve the neighbour we can see. Today's Gospel takes that teaching one step further. Jesus identifies Himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned. Whatever we do for them, we do for Him.

But the needs of the poor and vulnerable are often greater than individual volunteers or parish ministries can address. We must also be concerned about the larger structures of society that affect people's lives. This includes community, state and national programmes that aid those who struggle to obtain food, housing, health care and other necessities.

The Feast of Christ the King challenges us to examine what kind of kingdom we are helping to build. If Christ is truly our King, then His values must become our values. We cannot honour Him in our churches on Sunday while overlooking Him in the suffering people we encounter during the week.

At the final judgment, Jesus does not identify Himself with the powerful, the wealthy or the influential. He identifies himself with the least among us. That is the remarkable message of today's Gospel: Christ is present in those who need our compassion and assistance.

As we bring this liturgical year to a close, let us remember that our allegiance to Christ the King is demonstrated not simply by what we profess but by how we live. The measure of our Christian faith is found in the love we extend to others, especially those who have the least.

To serve them is to serve Christ. And to welcome them is to welcome the King himself.

OUR JUDGEMENT DEPENDS ON LOVE



WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick: Betty White, June Harvey, Mirla Mills, Judy McPhee, Danilo Cruz, Fran Marshall, Fr Hans Meyer.

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

Recently deceased: Margaret Carroll, Jan McGrath

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 23rd	**Our Lady of the Rosary**	**9.00am**
Tuesday 24th	**Mass at St Catherine's**	**9.00am**
	Rosary at the OLOR	**4.00pm**
Wednesday 25th	**Mass at Birdwood**	**9.00am**
Friday 27th	**St Matthew's, Bridgewater**	**11.00am**
	Memorial Mass	**7.00pm**
Saturday 28th	**Reconciliation**	**12.00pm**

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sunday 22nd	**Feast of Christ the King**	
	Advent Retreat	**12.00pm**
Tuesday 24th	**Liturgy Meeting**	**11.00am**
Friday 27th	**Memorial Mass**	**7.00pm**
Sunday 29th	**First Sunday of Advent**	
Tuesday 1st DEC	**Parish/School Meeting**	**9.30am**
	Parish/Team meeting	**11.00am**
Friday 4th	**First Friday of the Month**	**11.00am**
Sunday 6th	**Second Sunday in Advent**	
	Stirling Christmas Pageant	
Monday 7th	**Parish Finance Council**	**4.00pm**
Tuesday 8th	**Feast ImmaculateConception**	
Friday 11th	**Penitential Rite Bridgewater**	**6.30pm**
Sunday 13th	**Third Sunday of Advent**	

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. The Memorial Mass is on Friday 27th November at 7.00pm at Bridgewater. Forms of attendance are available at the back of the church. It's important to remember that completing the form means commitment to attending.

VOLUNTEERS
ON THE CLEANING ROSTER NEEDED URGENTLY

In recent weeks, two of our cleaning volunteers have had to retire. The cleaning is rostered in pairs, takes only an hour for two people to attend to and is usually done on a Friday or Saturday, once every four or five weeks. If you wish to give back to your parish community, please consider volunteering. Email Cathie Oswald or Fr Fred...and yes, younger parishioners are very welcome to join this roster.

NATIVITY TABLEAU

A Nativity tableau will form part of the Vigil Mass celebrations at St Matthew's Bridgewater on Christmas Eve, 24th December 2026 at 6.30pm. Parents of children who are interested in participating in the Nativity Play should contact Cathie Oswald. There will be two rehearsals prior to the performance: Wednesday 9th December at 4.30pm (costume fitting) and Wednesday 16th December at 4.30pm. No costumes are required and there is only one speaking role. The parish would welcome assistance from parents and other interested parishioners.

LITURGY MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th November at 11.00am in the Parish House Meeting Room. Please consider joining this important group that looks at all the liturgy activities in our four churches.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	LOBETHAL Sunday 29th November 8.30am	BIRDWOOD Sunday 6th December 8.30am
Welcoming	Gayle Raven	Mary Nyeboer
1st Reader	Jo Brickhill	Lea Crosby
2nd Reader	Simon Murphy	Gayle Raven
Euch. Minister	Anne Moore	Margaret Smitherman
Cleaning	Hennie Murphy	Lea Crosby

BRIDGEWATER	SATURDAY 28th November 6.00pm	SUNDAY 29th November 10.30am
Sacristan	Mary Homann	Di Golding
Welcoming	Kathy Lloyd	Gina Kelly
Reader 1	Joan Davey	Jordan Gansan
Reader 2	Mark McGeough	Ric Sachse
Euch Minister	Mary Homann	Deb Stapleton
		Jenny Porter
		Di Golding
Musicians	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Counters	M.Berry/B.Sugars	M.Berry/B.Sugars
Cleaning	M.Berry/K.Dutton	M.Berry/K.Dutton
Our Lady	Orma Paine	Orma Paine
Flowers	Gloria Howe	Gloria Howe
Tea & Coffee		

OLOR	Sunday 29th November 5.30pm	Sunday 29th November 5.30pm
Welcoming		Rosy Jones
Cleaning	Jenny Johnston	Rosy Jones

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving Father,
we thank you for guiding us
in our spiritual journey
through the Church's liturgical year.
The year of grace 2026 is crowned
with the Feast of Christ the King.
He is our Master-Shepherd
and the Lord of history.
He is the almighty Lord
of heaven and earth.
As we remember the past with gratitude
and live the present with enthusiasm,
we look forward with confident hope
to the final advent of Jesus your Son,
the sacrificial king, our Redeemer King.
Bless us and strengthen us.
Form us into a serving,
suffering and loving Church.
Help us to be true witnesses
of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom value.
He lives and reigns, forever and ever.
Amen.

ADVENT RETREAT

The Church celebrates the Feast of Christ the King on 22nd November, the last Sunday before Advent, also known as the last Sunday of the liturgical year. As was the case last year, the Advent Retreat will be held on this Sunday. With parishioners not yet involved in Christmas celebrations, it's a good opportunity to prepare for Advent. The retreat will commence after the 10.30am Mass at Bridgewater and will end by 2.00pm.

THE NEW BELL

I wish to thank the benefactors who last weekend between them donated $1,620 for the new bell. FR FRED

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
This Sunday brings us to the close of the liturgical year, a day on which we celebrate the kingship of Jesus. His is a kingdom of love, mercy, peace and hope, of which we are invited to be part. The feast proclaims that Jesus Christ rules over all creation, all history and every human heart. It closes Ordinary Time, and Advent begins the following Sunday. Pius XI instituted the feast in the Holy Year of 1925, in a world shaken by the First World War. In Quas Primas, he explained why he chose a feast. At first, he placed the feast on the last Sunday of October, just before All Saints. In the reform of the calendar after the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI moved it, in 1969, to the last Sunday of the liturgical year and gave it its present title, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, so that it crowns the whole year of salvation.

ADVENT
Was it the bombing of Hiroshima that opened eyes to the fearful truth that humankind had the power to destroy the world?
In the decades since, fear of nuclear wipeout has waxed and waned. Now it's being overtaken by climate anxiety. Driven either by scientific evidence or the footage of devastating weather events or both, fear of climate catastrophe is real for many. The end times, so long believed to be entirely in God's hands, seem to be in ours as well.
Advent is the antidote to fear of doom. It's a season of hope and promise. It reminds us of God's creative goodness. It strengthens our trust. It unleashes energy. It frees us to imagine and help fashion God's new world.

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCES — Masses will be offered for the deceased relatives and friends of:
Susan McLean, Roberto & Jocelyn Fogagnolo, Domenic, Nancy & Frank Puntoriero, Bill, Pam & Dougal Thompson, Friends & Family of Paris Huffman, Troy Broadbridge, Janis & Frank Evans, Fay & Geoff Noble, Ted Lang, Bill & Nell Guthrie, Greg & Elizabeth Rohan, Noel Dermody, Jane Harrison, George & Kath White, Mavis & Lawrence Harrison, O'Dea Family, Golding Family, Greg Golding, Joanne McFarlane, Syln, Ralph & John Papandrea, Kath & Don Nicholls, Tony Clifford, Richard Fogden, Brian MacKenzie, Brian Sachse, Josephine Collins, Margaret Girvan, Ross & Alma Anderson, Paul Millhouse, Ron & Joan Peterson, Alfred & Elsie Smith, Karmenu Farrugia, Olga, Karmenu, Carmelo Schembri, Valentina & Zenon Sozecki, Maria & Adam Jeziorianski, John Fossey, Carol & Mima Irons, Hugo, Claudia, Pamela, Sandra & Celia Larenas, Fabiola Esquetini, Dean, Brett & Norma, Ray Irons, Mariana Larco, Beatrice Pollard, Maureen East, Con & Patrick Mulvihill, Tommie & Fay McGinn, Lino Farrugia, Freddie Aquilina, Erminio & Maria Tarca, Tarca families, John Ritzi, Linda Radic, Victor & Madge Pollard, Vera & Shiela, Jack Howith, Marie Doolan, Maureen Dorahy, Alec & Catherine Raven, Reece & Joan Angel, Claire O'Connor, Darryl Shephard, Arthur & Cath Dicker, Denis MacFarlane, Jim & Shiela MacFarlene, Family & Friends of Jo Brickhill, Charles & Agnes Davey, Norman, Ronie Deed, Margaret & Vera Holland, Eddie, Terry & Joan Reid, Ron Howith
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 towards eternity. Amen.

THE BRIDGE/SOUTHERN CROSS
Please take your copy of this month's edition of The Bridge. A kindly reminder that there is also this month's Southern Cross at the back of the church.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL
Members of St Vincent De Paul 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.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS
Up until last weekend, 50 envelopes had been placed in the second collection and others given directly to Fr Fred. The total amount given was $1,720. Thank you - and thanks, too, to those who donated through direct debit.

STIRLING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
During the Stirling Christmas Pageant, our parish is holding a bacon and egg sandwich stall on Sunday 6th December from 11.00am to 4.00pm. We are asking for volunteers who can help in the catering. Please speak to or contact John Leeton on 0419 2543 814, john.leeton2@bigpond.com, or Fr Fred.
Our presence is not only as a fundraiser but we can show that together with the other denominations, the Hills churches are vibrant, alive and full of people of all ages and stages. It's a free kick for us – it's soft and easy evangelism, and an opportunity to strengthen relationships among Christians who usually worship at different churches. Perhaps someone in the crowd will respond and attend our Christmas services this year.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH
The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) warmly invites interested parishioners to join a small working group to support our parish planning journey.
Commencing in the new year, the group will meet a few times to explore the social profile of our parish, using Census data and information provided by the Archdiocese. Together, we will seek to better understand our local community, its changing needs and the opportunities for us to grow and strengthen our parish life and mission.
We welcome parishioners who would like to contribute their ideas, perspectives and experiences to this important work. If you are interested in being involved, please call Inge Parodi on 0430829244 or send her an email (ingekatzke@gmail.com).

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Our last PPC meeting for 2026 was held on Wednesday 18th November. The discussion was mainly how to adopt the Social Parish profile and the implementation of the Synod document of the Archdiocese. A group is being established by the PPC and will comprise members and parishioners interested in joining (see paragraph above). Ideas proposed will be discussed at the PPC in preparation for our Parish Assembly 2027.

WEEKLY INCOME 14/15 NOVEMBER 2026

First Collection:	**$590.95**
Planned Giving Received:	**$2,585.00**
Loose Plate:	**$73.20**

If you would like to donate by direct debit, use the parish account below:

BSB 066 782
Account: 100000277
Refer payment as "Donation"

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

FIRST READING
A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest - it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. **R.**

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

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

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in the proper order: Christ as the first fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming
kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia.

GOSPEL
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."
Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING	Isaiah: 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8
SECOND READING	1Corinthians: 1Cor 1:3-9
GOSPEL	Mark: 13:33-37