



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.

PALM SUNDAY YEAR A

28TH/29TH MARCH 2026

**ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH
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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus confronts all that Jerusalem represents and he seems to lose to the reigning power. He submits, doesn't fight, or hide or try to outwit the powers. He chooses to be there, in Jerusalem, exposed to all the forces against him. It looked like Jesus was a loser; God seemed to have gambled and lost. But Jesus' submission really was a confrontation with evil: he did not run away, his suffering was God's way of working through him. Through Jesus' loss, we are all winners.

Each of us believers must join Jesus and go "up to Jerusalem." Like Jesus, our personal Jerusalem may be a place where we seem to be losers: where our faith values are disregarded or trashed; where we face daily encounters with forces that oppose our best efforts; where political structures defeat the disenfranchised; where the world of high tech and privileged education broaden the gap between the haves and the have-nots. We are called to be present to our own experience of Jerusalem and there we are invited to take up the cross and risk what previously we have cherished and clung to. But first, before we straighten our shoulders and prepare for the struggle we must let Jesus go ahead of us. We follow him into the city this week; watch how he surrenders to God's ways and identify with his loss. But, through his death and resurrection we also experience new life. Why are we waving our palms for today? Not because everything goes well in our world; not because there is no suffering—not while there are ongoing wars, civil strife, AIDS throughout the world, terrorism, drugs and on and on! We are not waving our palms in ecstatic religious display with our eyes closed to reality. No, there is too much suffering in the world for that; the good, the poor and the vulnerable are not spared suffering. Jesus reminds us of that today. Rather, God has entered our "holy city"—the places of defeats and pain and transformed them. God has personally confronted evil, walked the same path we have. But not in the triumphal way we might have, instead God has contradicted our usual ways of dealing with evil might and chosen instead the cross—as Paul says, a way that our world judges as foolishness and a scandal.

Because Jesus chose to enter the Holy City, every place we suffer can become a holy city for us, a place God chooses to visit and share with us—most especially those places where, like Jesus, we choose to confront religious hypocrisy and worldly powers. We know what the excited crowds at the entrance to the city don't know. At this point they smell triumph in the air, they expect a victorious Jesus to sweep into power and they wish with him. In Jerusalem their plans would collapse, their hopes would be dashed. We know what they didn't and couldn't know at this stage of their journey with Jesus: that early on the morning of the first day of the week, God's power will raise Jesus from the tomb.

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

BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING



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.

March Anniversaries: Eileen McGlasham, Sr Carmel Slattery Op, Zenon Sobocki, Zofie Gregorcyz, Wally Finch, Norm Davey, Kevin O'Grady, Claire Sobels. Tony Arthurson, Steve Sarlay, Stan Greg, Les Way, Karmenu Farrugia, Claire Klavins, Max O'Brien, Noel Fiebiger, Bastiaan Kradolfer, Ava Lynch.

Recently deceased: Michael Brady, Gabrielle Morgan.

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 30th	OLOR MASS	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 31st	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 1st	NO MASS	
Thursday 2nd	Holy Thursday	
Friday 3rd	Good Friday	
Saturday 4th	Easter Vigil	
Sunday 5th	Easter Sunday	

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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

A very large crowd before and behind cried out with

"Hosanna to the Son of David,"
as they spread their cloaks
and strewed leaves from the palm trees,
preparing the way for the king to enter Jerusalem.
The city's people were dazed and they cried out.

Who can this be, this great one?

Now we cry out too!

Who can this be?

We wave psalms in welcome,
but we ask, Jesus of Nazareth,
who are you to us?

Our God who walks alongside us?

A king, crowned with thorns?

A light that shows our way to the truth?

INVITATION BY LEON HOLMES

Top of Torrens Gallery, 9 Shannon Street Birdwood invites you for an exhibition of Leon Holmes's art work along with that of his niece, Marie Louise Egar on Sunday 29th March at 2.00pm. by Dr Ken Sieben. The exhibition will continue until 10th May. .

GARDEN WORKING BEE

There will be Garden working bee at the OLOR on Saturday 4th April at 8.00a.m.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 5th Apr 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 12th Apr 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Mary Nyeboeur	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Jo Brickhill	Liz O'Flynn
2nd Reader	Lea Crosby	Gayle Raven
Euch. Minister	Eric Toome	Margaret S
Cleaning	Connie & Carmel	Jo Brickhill

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 4th Apr 7.30pm	Sunday 5th Apr 10.30am
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Sacristan
Welcoming
Reader 1
Reader 2
Euch.Ministers
Musicians
Counters
Our Lady
Cleaning
Flowers
Tea & Coffee



Alan Miller & Bill Robertson
Orma Paine
Alan Miller & Ann Teteris
Gina Kelly
Cathy

OLOR	Sunday 5th Apr 5.30pm	Sunday 12th Apr 5.30pm
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Welcoming	NO MASS	Tom Kenyon
Cleaning		Jenny Johnston

HOLY WEEK 2026 MESSAGE FROM FR FRED

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, After our Lenten journey we enter into the final Lenten ceremonies of the Holy Triduum, the commemoration of the last days that Christ lived through here on earth which help us enter deeply into the climax of His suffering, death and resurrection. The Holy Triduum is like a package taken as one, that is it only benefits and understand its significance if we attend the whole Triduum. Lets us celebrate together with the whole parish community these Holy days which will lead us all to the great feast of Easter. FR FRED

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.

LENT 2026

Palm Sunday which is the Sunday before Easter Sunday and the start of Holy Week for Christians is a feast day commemorating Jesus's entry into Jerusalem on a Donkey (symbolizing peace versus a horse which symbolized war). The name Palm Sunday comes from the palm branches the crowd scattered on the ground in front of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem.

HOLY WEEK PROGRAM

Sunday 29th March: Palm Sunday

8.30a.m. St Joseph the Worker, Lobethal

10.30a.m. St Matthew's Church, Bridgewater.

5.30p.m. OLOR Stirling East

Monday 30th March: Mass of the Oils,

Cathedral at 6.00p.m.

Tuesday 31st March: Passion of Jesus Christ

7.00p.m at OLOR, Stirling East.

Thursday 2nd April: Holy Thursday

6.30p.m. St Matthew's Church Birdwood.

7.30p.m. St Matthew's Church Bridgewater.

Friday 3rd April Good Friday

11.00a.m. Stations of the Cross at OLOR Church.

11.00a.m. Stations of the Cross at Lobethal.

3.00p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday at Bridgewater.

5.00p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday at Lobethal.

Saturday 4th April: Easter Vigil

7.30p.m. St Matthew's Church Bridgewater.

Sunday 5th April: EASTER

8.30a.m. St Matthew's Church, Birdwood.

10.30a.m. St Matthew's Church, Bridgewater.

N.B. There will be no evening mass at Our Lady of the Rosary at Stirling East.

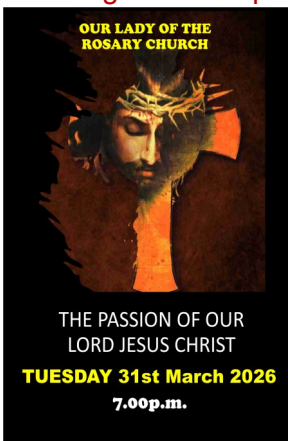
STATIONS OF THE CROSS * GOOD FRIDAY

The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. **The stations will be prayed at Lobethal and the OLOR on Good Friday at 11.00 am.**

PASSION OF THE JESUS

Reading from Scriptures depicts the last 12 hours in the life of Jesus opens with his betrayal by Judas, his condemnation by the Pharisees and his appearance before Pontius Pilate. Pilate defers to King Herod, but Herod returns Jesus. Pilate then asks the crowd to choose between Jesus and Barabbas. The crowd chooses Barabbas. Pilate washes his hands of the matter, and Jesus is forced to carry the cross through the streets to Golgotha where Roman soldiers crucify him. Although Jesus briefly

fears that God, his Father, has abandoned him, he regains his faith, proclaiming "Into Thy hands I command my spirit." **The Passion of the Jesus will be presented next TUESDAY 31st March at the OLOR church, Stirling East at 7.00p.m.**



THE GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land is on Good Friday. This collection promotes the work of the Church by providing assistance to local Christians, parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land. The collection is also used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus visited by millions of Catholics every year.

THE MASS OF THE HOLY OILS (Chrism Mass)

Once a year, the priests of the Archdiocese of Adelaide gather together with the Archbishop to celebrate what is known as the Mass of the Holy Oils or Chrism Mass. It gets its name from the part of the liturgy where the Archbishop blesses the three sacramental oils of the Church to be used for that year- the oil used in the Anointing of the Sick, the oil of the Catechumens and the Oil of Chrism. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop O'Regan on Monday 30th March at the Cathedral at 6.00pm with the priests of the Archdiocese. Everybody is encouraged to join in this significant event for the life of our local church.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, **for all future generations.** You can still donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available at the back of the church.

EASTER SUNDAY 5 APRIL

Please join with other parishioners and Father Fred to celebrate his birthday after 10.30 am Mass on Easter Sunday. There will be a birthday cake, and parishioners are asked to bring a plate of either savoury or sweet food to share. Father's family is in Malta, we his parishioners, are his family in Australia. Please come along to the party.

EASTER RAFFLE

Please take a ticket for our Easter raffle. Proceeds will go towards to support our parish Ecology Group. Lots of chocolate, wine and a \$50 voucher from COLES. One ticket costs \$1 and 3 tickets for \$2. Thank you.

LENTEN MISSION

This year as preparation for Holy Week we organised the Lenten Mission from Monday 23rd to Thursday 26th March at the OLOR church. I wish to thank those parishioners who attended through out the week. I wish to thank Paul Anderson who patiently set up everything for us at the church. Thanks to John Leeton, Annette Lamont, Paris Huffman and Deb Somers who led the reflection each day. Thanks goes to Fr Fred for celebrating mass and preparing the powerpoints each day.

**Weekly Income 21st/22nd March 2026
THANK YOU**

First Collection:	\$545.20
Planned Giving Received:	\$2345.00
Loose Plate:	\$153.50

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:
BSB: 066-782 Account: 10000277
Account Name CCES ADEL HILLS
Refer payment as "donation"

PALM SUNDAY

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

*R. My God, my God,
why have you abandoned me?*
All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver;
let him rescue the one in whom he delights. **R.**

For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me.
My hands and feet have shrivelled;
I can count all my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O Lord, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid! **R.**

I will tell of your name
to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation
I will praise you:
You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him,
all you offspring of Israel! **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
(REFER SEPARATE SHEET)



The week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday is the richest and busiest time of the Church year. It took many centuries to take its present form. In the very early Church each Sunday was seen as a celebration of Jesus' rising. Later Christians wanted a special feast to mark Jesus' death for us and accompanied it by a long fast. For many centuries the Eucharist was celebrated only on Sundays, while people also gathered to pray on other days of the week.

Holy Week draws us beyond thinking about our faith from outside to feel with Christ as he endures his Passion, to be humbled when we see him wash our feet and feed us in the Eucharist on Holy Thursday, to stay with him as he hangs on the Cross on Good Friday, and to share his joy and life as he rises from darkness to light on Easter Sunday.

Holy Week is a time for praying with our legs, eyes and heart as well as with minds and words. It is heart time.

EASTER SUNDAY

1st Reading
2nd Reading
Gospel

Acts 10:34, 37-43
Col 3:1-4
John 20 1:9