



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

ST PETER and PAUL, APOSTLES YEAR C

28th/29th JUNE 2025

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Isn't today's feast unusual? Who but Christ could have brought together two more different people than Peter and Paul? Though they were very different, both believed in Christ and gave their lives in service to him. Their lives were transformed by Jesus. Had Peter not met him, he likely would have continued fishing for a living. Paul would have remained a devout Pharisee, intent on persecuting Christians. But on the road to Damascus, he had a profound spiritual encounter with Christ. Peter and Paul—so different in background and temperament—each met Jesus and responded in faith. That encounter changed their lives completely. They surrendered in trust to God's plan. Today, rather than just admiring them, we could pray for a deeper commitment to lives that reflect, as theirs did, the Messiah they served.

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" He posed this question in an important location: Caesarea Philippi, in the far north of Israel—outside their usual territory. Isn't that often where faith is tested? When we face difficult decisions, or are outside our comfort zone, we may feel alone or distanced from our faith community. In those moments, our response becomes deeply personal.

Simon Peter answered on behalf of the others: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." At this point in the Gospel, Peter was not yet affirming Jesus' divinity as we understand it today. The title "Son of God" in Scripture often referred to someone with a special relationship with God. Peter was acknowledging Jesus as the one Israel had long awaited—not Caesar, not any earthly ruler, but God's chosen one, the true King of Israel.

Jesus' response to Peter shows he is not founding a city, or fortress. Instead, he is building a community—his Church—composed of faithful followers who pledge allegiance to him as God's anointed leader.

Each of us must answer Jesus' question personally: "But who do you say that I am?" We may offer many correct answers: "Son of God," "Lord and Savior," "King of the Universe." But beyond those titles, each believer must give a personal answer. Our response reveals our faith and shapes the path of our lives.

And our response must be lived out in action. If we say, "You are the Prince of Peace," we must work for peace. If we call him "Friend of the Poor," we must direct our lives toward those in need. If we proclaim him "Lover of Children," we must not only cherish our own families, but also work for the protection and welfare of all children in our society.

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

I WILL BUILT MY CHURCH



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, Neil Osborne.

June Anniversaries: Frances White, Stan Somers, Pat Coffey, Susan Newland, Anastasia Evans, Erica Haas, Chinlou Glumalid Tano, Brian Mackenzie, Greg Golding, Michael Chabrel, Stephen Ronan, Frank McEneaney, Theresa Kaukas, Jane Harrison, Tom Robinson, Robert Forester.

Recently deceased: John Mott. Helen Healy.

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 30th	Mass at OLOR	9.00a.m.
Tuesday 1st	Liturgy at St Catherine's	9.00a.m.
	Rosary at the OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 2nd	Mass at Birdwood	9.00a.m.
Friday 4th	MASS BRIDGEWATER	11.00a.m.
Saturday 5th	Reconciliation	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES JUNE/JULY

Sunday 22nd	Feast of Corpus Christi	
Tuesday 24th	Liturgy Group	11.00a.m.
Friday 27th	Feast of the Sacred Heart	11.00a.m.
Sunday 29th	Feast of St Peter and Paul	
Friday 4th July	First Friday of the month	11.00a.m.
Sunday 6th	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Sunday	
Thursday 10th	Parish Finance Council	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 16th	Our Lady of Mt Carmel	
Sunday 20th	Grandparents Day	
Tuesday 22nd	Parish/School meeting	9.30a.m.
Wednesday 23rd	Parish Pastoral Council	6.00p.m.
Sunday 27th	Ecology meeting after Mass	11.30a.m.
Tuesday 29th	Liturgy Group meeting	11.00a.m.
Wednesday 30th	Northern End meeting	9.45a.m.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Grant, we pray,
O Lord our God,
that we may be sustained
by the intercession of the
blessed Apostles Peter and Paul,
that, as through them
you gave your Church
the foundations
of her heavenly office,
so through them
you may help her
to eternal salvation.
Amen

ABORIGINAL ARTIFACTS

In celebrating Aboriginal Sunday and follow last year idea, we are asking parishioners to bring any artifacts made by the Aboriginals to showcase during next weekend Masses. Please speak to Fr Fred to organize the time to bring your artifacts.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 6th July 8.30a.m	LOBETHAL Sunday 13th July 8.30am
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Welcome
1st Reader
2nd Reader
Euch. Minister
Cleaning

Mary Nyeboeur
Lea Crosby
Ros Crossing
Janet Harrison
Volunteer

Gayle Raven
Jo Brickhill
Eric Toome
Janet Harrison
Marie Littler

BRIDGEWATER	Sat 5th July 6.00 pm	Sun 6th July 10.30am
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Sacristan
Welcoming
Reader 1
Reader 2
Euch. Minister
Musicians
Counters
Cleaning
Our Lady
Flowers
Tea & Coffee

Mark McGeough
Lyn Norris
Henry Duszynski
Alan Miller
Stasia Duszynski
Helen Cantwell
Ric Sachse & Katherine Johnson
Alan Miller & Ann Teteris
Cantwell Family
Gloria Howe
Paris, Sue, Marie, Cathy & Glenys

Di Golding
Gina Kelly
Nolan Parodi
Paul Robinson
Jenny Porter
Power Point
Cantwell Family
Gloria Howe

OLOR	Sunday 6th July 5.30pm	Sunday 13th July 5.30pm
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Sacristan
Welcoming

Paul Anderson
Jenny Johnson

Paul Anderson
Kathy

SECOND COLLECTION PLEDGE

Thank you for being an active and faithful member of our church community. By giving to our church on a weekly/monthly/quarter/annual basis, you are showing that our church has a meaningful place in your heart. We just wanted to let you know that you are in our heart, too. Donating to the church in the second collection through envelopes/credit or debit card allows us to maintain our churches day to day expenses, We earnestly appreciate your ongoing support and want to let you know we are here for you. If there's ever anything we can do for you and your family, don't hesitate to reach out. You are a valued member of our church family. And your financial support is making a difference.

EXISTING GIVERS: Please collect your new set of envelopes from the back of the Church.

NEW GIVERS: If you would like to start contributing to our second Collection pledge via weekly envelopes or Direct credit/Debit please speak to Fr Fred.

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Friday 4th July is the first Friday of the month. It's a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is based on a promise made by our Lord Jesus Christ during an apparition to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. There will be the usual 11.00am Mass followed by 20mins of silent adoration and benediction. .

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

I would appreciate that in our parish those who wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue are asked to come at the end of the communion procession. FR FRED

FEAST OF ST PETER & ST PAUL

This Sunday June 29th, the Church celebrates the martyrdoms of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles and martyrs. This will take preference over the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time. While there are no explicit testaments to the deaths of St. Peter or St. Paul in Scripture, and though they were not martyred at the same time, tradition has placed the commemoration of their deaths together, as a result of the Neronian persecution of Christians in 64 A.D. Placing the commemoration on June 29th was likely a reference to an event in 258 A.D. when the remains of the martyrs were moved from their resting places to avoid desecration during persecutions ordered by Valerian.

ORDINARY TIME

Welcome to Ordinary Time!

The Church Year revolves around two cycles:

1. the Christmas cycle (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany)
2. the Easter cycle (Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost)

But what about the rest of the year?

Well, there are two periods of the liturgical year that are called Ordinary Time that stitch together the Christmas and Easter cycles. One is the Season of Epiphany, and the other, which is what we most often call Ordinary Time, is alternately called the Season after Pentecost or the Season after Trinity. It covers around half the year, stretching from late Autumn until spring.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT SUNDAY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday 6th July falls within the National celebration of NAIDOC Week. A week where we celebrate history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This year, we come together under the theme: "Sent Forth in Strength and Hope." It is Christ who sends us to walk together in faith, grounded in the deep spirituality and culture of First Nations Peoples, strengthened by the Gospel, and filled with hope for the future God is leading us into. Today, we honour that truth. We celebrate the living story of faith and culture walking hand in hand — of ancient traditions alive in Christ, and of a Church made more whole when all are welcomed, seen, and heard. Our Catholic Church is a tapestry woven from many cultures. From the enduring wisdom of the world's oldest continuing cultures — the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples — to those who have journeyed from distant lands, we are one Body in Christ. In our diversity, we discover richness. In our unity, we find strength. And in every heart, we see the Spirit of God at work.

HOLY FATHER'S APPEAL - PETER'S PENCE

There will be a special collection for the Pope's Appeal on the first weekend of July. At this significant time in the life of our Church, it is good for us to do all that we can to support Pope Leo's ministry among us. The Holy Father's Appeal enables the Pope to respond to emergency situations throughout the world and provide financial aid to those who desperately need it.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

It will be celebrated on Sunday 22nd July during the 10.30 a.m. Mass at Bridgewater. More details to follow.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is one of the least understood of the sacraments of the Catholic Church. In reconciling us to God, it is a great source of grace, and Catholics are encouraged to take advantage of it often. But it is also the subject of many common misunderstandings, among Catholics. The purpose of Confession is to reconcile the person to God. When we sin, we deprive ourselves of God's grace. And by doing so, we make it even easier to sin some more. The only way out of this downward cycle is to acknowledge our sins, to repent of them, and to ask God's forgiveness. Then, in the Sacrament of Confession, grace can be restored to our souls, and we can once again resist sin. Catholics, often ask whether they can confess their sins directly to God and whether God can forgive them without going through a priest. On the most basic level, of course, the answer is yes, and Catholics should make frequent acts of contrition, which are prayers in which we tell God that we are sorry for our sins and ask for His forgiveness. But the question misses the point of the Sacrament of Confession. The sacrament, by its very nature, confers graces that help us to live a Christian life, which is why the Church requires us to receive it at least once per year. **Fr Fred is always available for the Sacrament of Confession.**

THE NICENE CREED

The Council of Nicaea met in the summer of the year 325, so that this year marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council, the first such gathering. The Council of Nicaea met to resolve two major controversies, creating the statement about how it understood the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. And it agreed that Easter should always be kept on a Sunday rather than on the spring full moon itself. To mark the anniversary, from next Sunday until the end of this year, during all weekend masses we will recite the Nicene creed.

BIRDWOOD NEW CEILING LIGHTS

The ceiling lights in the Birdwood church had to be changed. It was a decision taken after two of the ceiling lights were not working besides they were using a lot of energy. The height of the church caused a bit of problem. We had to get a scissors crane into the church to get to the ceiling. The new LED highbay lights were inaugurated on Sunday 15th July before the 8.30a.m. mass. The new lights are expectational bright in such a case that new cobwebs have been discovered!

Weekly Income 21st/22nd June 2025 THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$556.55
Planned Giving Received:	\$3321.00
Loose Plate:	\$144.00

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"

ST PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES YEAR C

First reading from the Acts of the Apostles

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!'- and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true,' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord set me free from all my fears.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

R.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

R.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

R.

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

R.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Timothy
My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading	Is	66:10-14
2nd Reading	Gal	6:14-18
Gospel	Lk	10:1-12, 17-20