



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.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10TH/11TH JANUARY 2026

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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SUNDAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

The baptism of Jesus is not simply a moment in his life; it is a revelation meant to shape ours. In today's Gospel, Jesus enters the Jordan not because he needs repentance, but to stand fully with a searching, vulnerable humanity. He steps into the water to make it holy, revealing a God who meets us where we are – not after we have tried and failed to purify ourselves in a futile effort to become "worthy."

At his baptism, Jesus reveals both who He is and who God is for us. The heavens open, the Spirit descends, and God's voice declares, "You are my beloved Son." The Trinity is present and active. Baptism, then, is more than membership in a community; it is a declaration of identity. Before we are called to follow Jesus or sent on mission, we are named and claimed as God's beloved children.

The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his mission – and, through him, ours. Immediately afterward, he goes forth to proclaim God's kingdom, to heal the broken, and to confront injustice. So, it is with us. We are not baptized for private holiness alone, but into a shared vocation: to live the Gospel publicly through mercy, forgiveness, truth, and self-giving love.

Jesus does not emerge from the waters to claim privilege or power over others. His way is humility and obedience to God's will. Our baptism, then, is not about status but about service – service shaped by compassion and sustained by hope.

The opening of the heavens at Jesus' baptism signifies that the divide between God and humanity has been bridged. As baptized people, we are invited to trust that the heavens remain open – that God's Spirit is at work in us even when the waters of life feel cold, uncertain, or unwelcoming.

This feast holds up a mirror to our own baptism. If Jesus was sent by the Spirit to "go about doing good," then baptism is not a once-for-all initiation, but a lifelong calling. We are anointed and sent into our workplaces, parishes, families, prisons, hospitals, and streets to be instruments of healing, justice, and peace.

Peter says of Jesus, "God was with him." At Jesus' baptism, heaven opened to proclaim God's presence. In our baptism, that same promise is made: we are never sent alone. We are called to continue what began when Jesus stepped into the Jordan and emerged on mission for us. Jesus' baptism assures us that we are beloved, sent, and accompanied by the Spirit. We are invited to live each day as people who have heard God's voice spoken over our lives: "You are my beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS



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

January Anniversaries: Brian Hanifen, Max Grubel, Peter Moyle, Peter & Thelma Streich, Alec & Catherine Raven, Alice Gaskin, Erminio Tarca, Janice Riordan, Marie Gourley, Frank Gregorczyk, Margaret Miller, Charles Coffee, Jack & Clare O'Dea, Jim Killick Michael Cramond, Simeon Cramond, Nigel Conlon, Leslie Howe, Shiela Mettam, Pauline Green, Helen Tingay, Collene Parker, Anthony Miller, Lorenzo Favretto.

Recently deceased:

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Monday 12th	BRIDGEWATER MASS	11.00a.m.
Tuesday 13th	Rosary at OLOR	4.00p.m.
Wednesday 14th	Mass at Birdwood	9.00a.m.
Friday 16th	BRIDGEWATER MASS	11.00a.m.
Saturday 17th	RECONCILIATION	12.00p.m.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES Jan 2026

Sunday 11th	The Baptism of the Lord	
Monday 12th	40th Anniversary of Fr Fred's Ordination to the Priesthood	

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus,
you are baptized,
And the very heavens
are opened.
We see the holy dove
and hear the Father's
voice on high.
Let us come
up from the water too,
into a new life of
your Spirit
and of your love.
And take the grace of our
Baptism to everyone
on earth.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Thanks to John Leeton, Des Stapleton, Dan De Fazio, Henry and Stasia Duszynski and Kevin Della Torre who helped to dismantle the Christmas decorations at Bridgewater on Monday 5th January. Thank You for your help and also those who helped in the other churches. Much appreciated.

TO ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The Archbishop has asked that before we introduce the cup, all Eucharistic ministers need to attend a two hour course as preparation in order once again use the cup during masses. This course will be held on **FRIDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2026** at our parish hall in Bridgewater at 6.00p.m. Please put this date in you diary.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN End	BIRDWOOD Sunday 18th Jan 8.30a.m.	LOBETHAL Sunday 25th Jan 8.30a.m
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Welcoming	Mary Nyeboeur	Gayle Raven
1st Reader	Gayle Raven	Margaret Smitherman
2nd Reader	Jo Brickhill	Michelle Chua
Euch. Minister	Janet Harrison	Anne Moore
Cleaning	Crossing family	Janet Harrison

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 17th Jan 6.00pm	Sunday 18th Jan 10.30am
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Sacristan	Anne Teteris	John Leeton
Welcoming	Kathy Lloyd	Gina Kelly
Reader 1	Mary Homann	Ric Schse
Reader 2	Alan Miller	Paul Somers
Euch. Minister	Kathy Lloyd	Gina Kelly
Musicians	Damien Mansfield	PowerPoint
Counters	Marianne Berry & Fr Fred	Colleen Sim
Our Lady	Colleen Sim	Colleen Sim
Cleaning	Marianne Berry & Karen Dutton	Gina Kelly
Flowers	Gina Kelly	Gina Kelly
Tea & Coffee	Volunteer please	

OLOR	Sunday 18h Jan 5.30pm	Sunday 25th Jan 5.30p.m
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Sacristan	Paul Anderson	Paul Anderson
Welcoming	Jenny Johnston	Kathy

ADELAIDE DIOCESAN SYNOD

The 2026 Archdiocesan Synod listening and feedback process, *Dialogue Week*, will take place during 22-28 February. Three key factors for Dialogue Week are: 1) the invitation for all people to engage with the Synod themes and papers; 2) participation in a conversation with others; 3) developing a shared response to provide feedback to the Synod. To ensure these factors are met, it will be important that our parish and community have prepared adequately. The PPC will discuss in their next meeting which day suits best between 22-28 February to organize this important event.

GABRIELLE MORGAN

At the moment Gabrielle is in Mt Barker hospital. I wish to thank the Porter's, Collene Sim and others for taking care of her. I feel that one of our Christian mission is to take care of those who are sick and vulnerable. Gabrielle is by herself and she needs our support at this stage of her life. Please contact Gabrielle on 0447 678 288. Her niece from Melbourne has hurt her foot and its difficult for her to drive from Melbourne at this stage.

FR FRED'S ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION.

Fr Fred is celebrating his 40th anniversary of his priestly ordination on Monday 12th January. Fr Fred will celebrate Mass of Thanksgiving at Bridgewater at 11.00a.m. We pray that God will bless you Fr Fred with abundant love, joy, grace, commitment, blessings and renew freshness in your priestly ministry as you reach out to many others in His name in many more of your priestly years. Congratulation once again.

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This feast serves to remind us of our own Baptism, compelling us to renew the promises our parents and godparents made on our behalf, when they presented us to the Church, to make of us disciples of Jesus.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Do you reject Satan? **I do.**

And all his works? **I do.**

And all his empty promises? **I do.**

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? **I do.**

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LENT 2026 (LAST CALL FOR LOBETHAL ONLY)

Lent will start on Ash Wednesday 18th February 2026. We need to start looking at ordering Lenten and Easter reflection resources entitled **COMPASSIO** (Compassion) If I have placed and paid an order of 60 copies to get a discount of 50cents on each copy. At the back of the church is a list to put down your name if you are interested to order the booklet which costs \$6.00 and the parish will contribute to the cost.

AUSTRALIA DAY

On Saturday 24th January we celebrate Australia Day. We encourage every Australian to acknowledge Australia Day in a way that's meaningful to them. Australia Day is about acknowledging and celebrating the contribution that every Australian makes to our contemporary and dynamic nation. From our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - who have been here for more than 65,000 years, to those who have lived here for generations, to those who have come from all corners of the globe to call our country home. Monday 26th is a public holiday and we will celebrate Australia Day during the 9.00a.m. Mass at the OLOR.

VOLUNTEERS THANK-YOU AFTERNOON TEA

Our parish is so fortunate to have so many wonderful and generous volunteers and you are all invited to a thank-you afternoon tea here at the OLAH parish hall. The date we are looking is **Saturday 14th February**. Everything will be provided so please just bring yourself. More details will be given in due time.

PARISH PICNIC

Once again we are again holding our Annual Parish/School Picnic on Sunday 22nd February 2026 at the Oakbank Racing Course from 9.30a.m. onwards. Mass will be celebrated at the racecourse at 10.00a.m.. Please put these important event in your diary.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

On Sunday 2nd February we commemorate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in the liturgy. Mass and blessing of candles will be celebrated at all weekend masses.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

On Monday 9th February, we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes - on this day we remember when Our Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette for the first time. February 11 was then proclaimed World Day of the Sick by St Pope John Paul II. You are invited to a celebration of the Holy Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick on Monday 9th February at 9.00am. at the OLOR..

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026

In keeping with the guidelines for the Sacraments of Initiation for Children Policy of our parish, the Sacramental Program offers is family centered and Parish/school based. Essentially, this programmed is a partnership in which families and the Parish/school community work together in the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation. For any enquiries please contact Cathy Oswald or the Parish office on 8359 0674. Information session will be held in the beginning of February.

CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast day of the Conversion of St. Paul Wednesday 25th January. St. Paul, named Saul at his circumcision, a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, was born at Tarsus, the capitol of Cilicia. He was a Roman citizen. He was brought up as a strict Jew, and later became a violent persecutor of the Christians. While on his way to Damascus to make new arrests of Christians, he was suddenly converted by a miraculous apparition of Our Lord. From a fierce persecutor he became the great Apostle of the Gentiles. He made three missionary journeys which brought him to the great centers of Asia Minor and southern Europe, and made many converts. Fourteen of his Epistles are found in the New Testament. He was beheaded in Rome around 66 A.D. and his relics are in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls near the Ostian Way. We should all be able to relate in a personal way to the conversion of St. Paul. We are all sinners.

Weekly Income 3rd/4th January 2026
THANK YOU

First Collection:	\$654.50
Planned Giving Received:	\$2215.00
Loose Plate:	\$129.40

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"

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.

Adore the Lord in his holy court. R.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. R.

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. R.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. 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.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Pope Leo's January prayer intention is that the Word of God be a nourishment for our lives and a source of hope. When people speak of the Word of God, we usually think of the Bible. And rightly so. The Scriptures are God's Word. This might suggest that when we pray, we should pray on the Scriptures and in their words instead of using other prayers and ways of praying. That conclusion is not so certain. Although it is certainly good to bring the Scriptures into our prayer, the Word of God speaks and works in many ways, and praying is complex.

READINGS FOR 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading
2nd Reading
Gospel

Isaiah 49:3,5-6
1 Cor 1:1-3
John 1:29-34