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## Why don't Catholics bother to have their children baptised?

By Fr Fred

Not so very long ago, receiving the Sacraments was a benchmark of Catholic life. But now? Catholics seem to just shrug them off. For many, baptism – this moment of sacred welcome – has become a mere requirement to be met. For some, it's a social event. Naming someone a godparent is like asking them to be your maid of honour. They are missing the point.

Let's start by specifying the Catholic "spectrum". At one end, traditional Catholics prefer the Latin Mass, adhere to pre-Vatican II beliefs, and practice devotions that most Sunday Mass attendees have either forgotten or never knew. At the other end there are Catholics who only enter a church for weddings, funerals, Christmas and Easter celebrations. Somewhere in the middle are those who faithfully attend Sunday Mass.

Cultural Catholics who only want to follow a tradition by having their child baptised are

sometimes pressured by the grandparents. The Church requires that the parents intend to raise their children in the faith. Modern liberal Catholics don't know their faith due to poor catechesis. It would be reasonable to assume some parents don't believe what the Church teaches about the Sacrament of Baptism.

In our relativist culture, the concept that something can be true for everyone all the time is both foreign and unacceptable. The idea that something you don't believe can still be true is beyond the power of many even to imagine. An example within Catholic schools is that few teachers know the basics of Church teaching on the Sacraments. Among the minority who recognise the immense gap in their knowledge of the faith, even fewer are willing to spend the time and mental energy to bridge that gap through study.

*Continued on page 2*



St Matthew's  
Bridgewater



St Joseph's  
Lobethal



St Matthew's  
Birdwood



Our Lady of the Rosary  
Stirling



St Catherine's  
Stirling

Continued from page 1

## Why don't Catholics bother to have their children baptised

So, why is baptism requiring in our Christian faith?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) states: "The Lord himself affirms that baptism is necessary for salvation, baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament." (CCC 1257).

Through baptism, we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." (CCC 1213).

By baptism, *all sins* are forgiven, original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin. "In those who have been reborn, nothing remains that would impede their entry into the Kingdom of God, neither Adam's sin, nor personal sin, nor the consequences of sin, the gravest of which is separation from God." (CCC 1263).

Baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes the neophyte "a new creature," an adopted son of God, who has become a "partaker of the divine nature, member of Christ and co-heir with him, and a temple of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 1265).

The Most Holy Trinity gives the baptised sanctifying grace, the grace of justification: enabling them to believe in God, to hope in him, and to love him through the theological virtues; giving them the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit; allowing them to grow in goodness through the moral virtues.

Thus, the whole organism of the Christian's supernatural life has its roots in Baptism. (CCC 1266)

For many modern Catholics who believe everyone's going to heaven and who question the existence of sin, there's no need for salvation. If salvation is unnecessary, so is baptism, not to mention our Lord's passion, death and resurrection!

Sometimes there is apathy in believing today. Some parents accept their children go through the sacraments. Afterwards, you might see many of these children ass at only Christmas and Easter. They may even stop going altogether. Many families do not engage in religious conversations at home, nor do they say grace. When these kids grow up and have their own children, the chances are that they will not baptise their children.

Responsible parents don't give their children the choice of attending school, visiting the dentist, doing chores or choosing their bedtime. They also set rules about things like junk food and homework before fun. For their protection, parents set limits on which websites they can visit and which movies they can watch. If they believe in God, it makes sense that they do not leave their children to become sons/daughters of God and experience his unconditional love for them through baptism.

How can a child choose an option they know next to nothing about? Give your child the foundations of the faith through teaching and living it. Once free from the rules and influence of home life, you'll find out what they've chosen. They may choose a contrary path for a few years or even for a few decades. God's gift of suffering has a way of dropping us to the bottom, where our foundation is the only thing that supports us.

If you're a Catholic parent with unbaptised children, what hinders you from providing them access to this Sacrament?

## Make Saturday 30 May a day to 'Recreate'

By John Leeton

Not having much money and paying off a mortgage at interest rates of 18% can probably account for my inventiveness and penchant for picking up things from the side of the road and making something from other people's 'trash'.

It probably also explains my interest in 'Recreate', a project run by the not-for-profit community group, Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre Inc. that stands as a beacon for repurposing or recreating something from cast-offs. It brings people together to share ideas around upcycling and waste minimisation, as well as serving as an important fundraising stream for the group.

Our parish Ecology Group will visit 'Recreate' on Saturday 30 May, where we are sure to discover some really good ideas, find interesting books and pamphlets and a heap of things to buy, including cheap plants. During the visit, you will also learn about the history and purpose of the Centre and its growth to the point where it's now a recognised hub for locals dropping off pre-loved items and picking up new treasures. If you'd like to attend, call me on 0419 243 814 or email me at [john.leeton2@bigpond.com](mailto:john.leeton2@bigpond.com).



## Thank you, Gabrielle, for sharing your life with us

*Friends Eddie and Barbara Domin delivered the eulogy at Gabrielle Morgan's Memorial Service at Our Lady of the Rosary (OLOR) Church on 10 April 2026*

After Eddie and I met Michael Morgan, Gabrielle's husband to be, in 1984, and in the months leading up to the marriage of Michael and Gabrielle, Michael often spoke of corresponding with a lady he was becoming very fond of. Such was the power of their letters, that they decided to meet and share time together face to face.

A marriage proposal promptly followed and together a new journey ensued. They were married in Adelaide in 2002, thrusting Gabrielle into the amazing life of artist Michael Morgan. As was Michael's historic habit, Gabrielle was quickly initiated into a life of moving around the country answering the call of Michael's artistic endeavours.

Both Michael and Gabrielle made friends easily and there was never a moment where life was dull or devoid of culture. Their ability to surround themselves with a rich and cultured environment was evident to anyone who visited their home. Although they never had much money, they could embellish wherever they lived with beauty and good taste. Without a doubt both Michael and Gabrielle were very resourceful.

Thanks to Gabrielle's genealogical skills and after contacting the ABC, Michael was introduced to a brother, Karl, he never knew he had. The meeting of the two brothers was shown as a documentary on the ABC programme "Can We Help". Gabrielle went on to unite many other families through her genealogical investigations.

Their last bold adventure together was to move to Tasmania. Their first home was on Bruny Island overlooking the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, then Oyster Cove and finally Birches Bay, where sadly Michael passed away at 78 years of age. Gabrielle now had to face life on her own again and try to work out where to live in the midst of her grief for the loss of Michael.

Eddie flew over to help Gabrielle with the enormous task of packing up her house, Michael's studio and his art works. During the next few days, God's quiet voice spoke to Eddie and me individually about how we might be able to assist Gabrielle and we invited her to come and live with us at Aldgate for as long as she wanted. Gabrielle's face shone like the sun when Eddie suggested this during breakfast. And so she came to "The Land Of Blue Skies", as she told us, South Australia.

Gabrielle lived with us for about eight months and during that time established a spiritual and social network which included St Matthew's Church in Bridgewater, the Stirling Senior Tennis Group and the "Widows Club" (as it was called). Gabrielle

joined a choir for a while and even thought about joining an acting group. Her life became meaningful again as she established herself in the love and care of the friends that she made in the Adelaide Hills.

While her deep interest in writing and genealogy continued during the following years, the lure of "The Kondi" and Bridgewater Hotel lunches with her friends was always present. Gabrielle made a consistent effort to engage with people and as a result made many friends in the Hills.

After Gabrielle had lived with us, God found her a wonderful little home in Cave Avenue, Bridgewater, nestled in a tree studded rural landscape, where she lived until she was called home to be with the Lord.

Over the years, Gabrielle had many battles with different cancers, but always showed herself to be stoic and fearless in the face of her life-threatening conditions. The paradox of this seemingly gentle and petite woman was that she was also capable of being resolute and courageous in the face of her trials.

Thank you, Gabrielle, for sharing your life with all of us and thank you to all of you who cared for and supported her during her time here with us and especially at the end. God Bless.



*Gabrielle Morgan, RIP*

## ANZAC Day Mass – Lest We Forget

As is traditional in the Adelaide Hills Catholic Parish, an ANZAC Day Mass is held on 25 April to remember, with gratitude and reverence, the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives at Gallipoli back in 1915.

The Mass also thanks those who have served in the military since that day 111 years ago, some of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The solemn occasion also saw parishioner Paul Howe lay a wreath – made by his wife Gloria – on the altar, appropriately adorned with the Australian flag.

Lest we forget.



*Above: Fr Fred celebrates Mass from the altar appropriately adorned for the occasion*

*Right: Paul Howe presents the wreath to Fr Fred*

## Red is the colour for Pentecost Sunday Masses

With Pentecost Sunday 2026 to be observed on 24 May, the Adelaide Hills Catholic Parish will mark the occasion with a call to renew the commitment of all volunteers, encourage parishioners to wear something coloured red to Mass that weekend and have the Prayers of Intercession said in different languages.

Pentecost always occurs 50 days after Easter Sunday, but since Easter itself does not have a fixed date and is based on the lunar calendar, Pentecost also moves each year. Easter is calculated as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, and once that date is known, Pentecost is simply counted forward by 50 days.

The name itself reflects this exact timing, with ‘Pentecost’ coming from the Greek word for fiftieth.

Pentecost was originally the Jewish ‘Feast of Weeks’, celebrated 50 days after Passover and associated with the harvest.

In our Christian beliefs, Pentecost took on a deeper meaning and became the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Jesus. It marked the beginning of the spread of the Christian message and began with divine action.

We look forward to a sea of red across our parish later this month.





*While the table and seats above are not on a parish property but outside the Glen Osmond Scout group, they're a reminder that ecology also includes creating a peaceful space of beauty where we can take a rest, reflect, contemplate and enjoy nature..*

*The Ecology Group is hoping to create a similar contemplative space in the garden halfway up from the church to the carpark at St Matthew's Bridgewater*

## Exciting projects on the cards for the Ecology Group's upcoming Working Bees

By the Ecology Group's John Leeton

While our Parish Working Bees are less frequent (the next one is set for Saturday 23 May at St Matthew's Bridgewater), there is ample opportunity to put your green thumbs to good work on a far more frequent occasion as we now gather on the fourth Monday morning of each month to tackle a range of gardening and maintenance projects.

Sessions run from 9.00am to 11.00am and are followed by a social cup of tea with Fr Fred and an update on Parish Ecology Group's activities.

Neither the Working Bees nor the monthly Monday sessions don't require a big commitment as we understand people have different fitness and energy levels...and we always have little projects.

It's great for our mental wellness, too, as good friendships and belonging comes from volunteering.

It really makes you feel a part of your parish community and, of course, you will feel good knowing your efforts have saved the parish money as it would otherwise have had to pay someone to do this work.

The Ecology Group also has a dedicated page in each month's issue of *The Bridge*, and we encourage and welcome contributions and any useful ideas we can share with others.

Some examples include making fire lighters from empty toilet rolls by taping one end, filling it with sawdust or the like, making a wick from an old bit of cotton fabric and pouring hot wax into the wick end. It's also good for using up bits of old candles.

Right now, we have two significant projects on our 'to do' list.

The first is to create a safe path from the parish house that passes behind the shed and ends at the parish hall. This frequently used route is currently dirt – or mud in these wintry months – and has a retainer step that needs removing.

The second is a rest area, perhaps a table and seats, in the garden half way up the path from the church to carpark. We hope to have a statue of St Francis there to commemorate Laudato Si' and the Season of Creation. During the Laudato Si' week of 17 to 24 May, you could do something to appreciate God's creation.

It's as easy and simple as making a quiet time each day in a nature setting, where you can feel the Holy Spirit's presence.

You could also contemplate a flower, a bird or a bee and admire the awesome complexity of God's creation.

# St Catherine's Catholic School News

*In our latest St Catherine's School update, APRIM, Krystina Dawe, tells us about students' participation in a moving ANZAC Day service, the St Catherine's of Siena Feast and a lovely idea coming alive*

## Paying respect at ANZAC Day service

Our school community was proudly represented at the recent ANZAC Day service in Stirling, where our Year 6 students participated in this deeply significant occasion. As part of the ceremony, our students had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of our school, paying their respects to those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

It was a moving and memorable experience for all involved, and a wonderful opportunity for our students to demonstrate reverence, gratitude and understanding of the importance of remembrance. We are incredibly proud of the respectful way they represented our school and the broader community on such a meaningful day.



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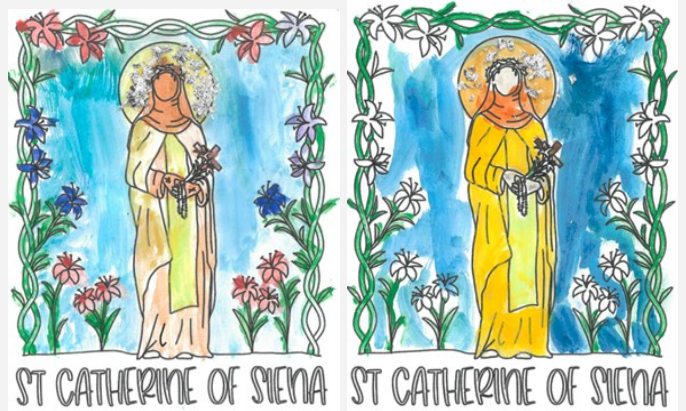
## St Catherine of Siena Feast Day

Our school community came together in a spirit of joy and reflection to celebrate the feast of our patron saint, St Catherine of Siena. We were blessed to share in a whole school Mass, beautifully led by Fr Fred, giving thanks for the life and witness of St Catherine, and the example she continues to offer us today.

Throughout the week, students explored the story of St Catherine's life, learning about her courage, her commitment to truth and her deep faith.

Across classrooms, they reflected on the qualities she embodied and how these can inspire us in our own lives. It was wonderful to see students making meaningful connections and striving to live out these values within our school community.

Each day, we are proud to walk in her footsteps and to be part of a community that has such a rich Dominican heritage.



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## UNO Club idea comes alive!

Last term, our student leaders brought a fantastic idea to life with the launch of our lunchtime UNO Club. Led by students in the Community leadership group, this initiative was created as a way of giving back to the school and providing a fun, inclusive opportunity for students to connect.

From the outset, our leaders showed great initiative—developing tournament rules, sharing invitations and confidently running each session.

The response was overwhelming, with strong participation and plenty of excitement each week. It was wonderful to see students of all year levels coming together, building friendships, and refining their UNO skills in such a positive environment.

Our student leaders should be incredibly proud of the success of this initiative and the joy it brought to our school community!





## Memorable Mother's Day tributes across parish

Parishioners at OLOR, St Matthew's Bridgewater and the Northern End were treated to wonderful Mother's Day tributes to their mothers from **Rachel Baulderstone** (OLOR), **Ric Sachse** (Bridgewater) and **Liz O'Flynn** (Lobethal) at the Sunday Masses. We share these tributes over the following pages.

### Patsy's life shaped by faith, resilience and love

By Rachel Baulderstone

Today, as we celebrate Mother's Day, I would like to share a little about my mum Patsy (pictured right), a woman whose life has been shaped by faith, resilience and deep love for her family.

Mum's childhood was not easy. The seventh of eight children, she was just nine years old when her father was tragically killed by a drunk driver. Before that, she had already experienced the heartbreak of losing both of her sisters, Joyce and Margaret, to diphtheria, and she nearly died from the illness.

Yet even through such suffering at a young age, Mum's faith never wavered. It became her strength and her foundation. Two of her older brothers entered the priesthood when they were young, and their presence brought enormous comfort to Mum and our family. I recall how special it was when they would come and stay with us for months at a time. Faith was never something distant or occasional in our home, it was lived every day.

Until Dad became unwell, Mum and Dad attended Mass together daily. The Rosary was also a regular part of our lives, especially on long road trips to visit family in Wagga. Those journeys weren't just about travel, they were moments of prayer, connection and togetherness.

Mum left school at just 15 to begin a hairdressing apprenticeship so she could help support her family financially. Even as the youngest of eight children myself, I know Mum continued to make sacrifices throughout her life for all of us. With Dad serving as an Army officer and often away, including during the time he was in Vietnam and didn't meet their



seventh child until she was seven months old, Mum carried enormous responsibility with quiet strength.

Despite everything, there was never a time when we didn't go to Mass together, sit down as a family for meals or give thanks for what we had. Mum and Dad shared an extraordinary marriage of 65 years. They stood by one another through everything, always supporting each other and always sharing their faith.

When we lost Dad almost two years ago, Mum's cognitive health began to decline. But one thing has never changed: her unwavering faith. She still speaks about her childhood and her family with trust in God's presence through every hardship. No matter how poor, how sick, or how heartbroken they were, she never believed God had left them.

That faith is her greatest gift to me. Today, I am deeply grateful for Mum's courage, her example, her love and the faith she has passed on to me.



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## Barracking for Mum, every moment of every day

By Ric Sachse

Given that I have always really enjoyed hearing from parishioners about their mums, I think having to do it myself gives me a greater appreciation for the gift of those talks. I feel like I have two older sisters scrutinising everything I have written, which is a slightly uncomfortable feeling!

I'm really, really proud of my Mum for who she is and for the life she has lived. It's not before you sit down and consider it that you begin to see more deeply how extraordinary it is.

Mum, who is now 88 years old, was born in 1938 and had a younger brother, Maurice, who died young at 50. Mum was raised in the northern wheatbelt area of WA, at Morawa, where her parents ran a range of different businesses. When aged 10, they were running a country hotel and decided to send Mum to boarding school near Geraldton, run by the Dominican nuns.

Mum's faith has been central to her life. It's a strong faith, grounded but open to thought, questioning and reason. It has been her bedrock, a source of great comfort and, at times, pain. Her worldview is definitely one she would love her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to share.

There is a lot of Dominican in Mum, but in the stories she shares about this time in her life, it becomes apparent how much she learnt to appreciate kindness and those who possess it.

One manner where kindness is evident is that I have never heard her say a bad word about anyone. We were in business for many ears, and not every customer is easy or right, but never did she utter an ill word. We lived in a small country town where

people like to talk about one another or position themselves in slightly superior states, but that was not Mum's cup of tea.

Mum is definitely a person of substance and her friendships are a big part of that. I remember regularly being taken aside by strong women in their own right and told how much they valued Mum's friendship. She was a support, a trusted confidante, someone to relieve a burden or share a laugh, someone with a take on life that opened up the next step, knowing that it would be a shared step.

I look back on my life and Mum has always been there with the practical details and provisions – generally one step ahead of the curve. The thing I'm probably most proud about Mum is how she has lived since 2008, when Dad died and she lost the love of her life and soul mate.

They had forged a life and love together, cleared and developed a farm from virgin bush in Esperance, raised a family of four children and later run a successful business in Bencubbin.

You would have to say they were an independent and adventurous couple who made their own life and were central to one another.

The first few years after Dad's death were very difficult. We, the children, didn't know which way she would go. Since then, though, I can't help but notice how Mum kept growing. While her physical capabilities deteriorated, her appreciation for the everyday, her kindness and life keep growing.

Mum's in Perth now and lives in a simple but nice two-room suite in a nursing home she moved to last year when she lost the ability to live independently.



*Lesley Sachse surrounded by her (then younger) grandchildren Nathan (left), Jess, Jacob and, seated front, Sam and Isaac*

I feel part of me lives in that room, the long hours, the frequent interactions with the staff and family and friends that visit. There is a fullness in every moment. There are fewer words these days, but more presence. I feel her life is an incredible witness to all that matters most. Her life is a gift, it inspired me to see more in life.

The most important things in Mum's life, after her faith, is the hope and wish that her children all get on and continue to love and support each other. Material goods mean very little. Her latest TV upgrade was pathetic by any standard.

Overwhelmingly, I just feel so proud of Mum. I feel like I'm barracking for her every moment of every day.

I am very grateful for her life and I love her lots.



## Mum: a quiet achiever and mighty force at once!

By Liz O'Flynn, pictured above with parents Barbara and Francis

When I told Mum I'd put my hand up to speak about her today at Mass, she said, "Oh, Elizabeth... why would you want to do that?" An unsurprising response from my no-fuss Mum.

No need to draw attention please. No interest in accolades...and certainly no desire to be the subject of a Mother's Day speech at Mass.

Mum is a quiet achiever and a mighty force at once! My mother stands under five foot tall – she'll be 91 next month. Good things certainly come in small packages! She's as sharp as a tack – she has all her faculties – and she lives independently in our family home, where she lived with my dad until he passed away last year. Mum refuses home help. She cooks for herself, vacuums and dusts, and washes the floors the good old-fashioned way — on her hands and knees.

Mum doesn't miss a trick. She is smart, logical, a quick thinker, and is right most of the time. She had eyes in the back of her head when my two brothers and I were growing up – she still has them – and I'm fairly sure she can still see through walls. She has a finely tuned 'truth' antenna and can sense insincerity a mile off.

Mum is incredibly well informed, well read, and always across what's happening in the world. When Parliament is sitting, she settles into her spot on the lounge to watch proceedings closely. She holds firmly to her political views. In fact, her loyalty to the ALP runs so deep – she's requested we bury her membership card with her.

She's also remarkably tech savvy. She knows exactly how to use Google to keep herself informed,

she keeps up with the extended family through Facebook and Messenger, and loves sending us reels she finds online. Music, quotes, poetry, she loves it all.

As you'd expect, Mum's home is immaculate, beautifully put together, tasteful and organised down to the finest detail. Mum and Dad always lived frugally. Mum has always held the purse strings. She's never wasteful, yet incredibly generous with what she has, quietly helping family out when they need it.

Mum keeps herself busy and active, especially in the garden, where she delights in colour, texture and the small details others might miss. A blue-banded bee hovering fills her with joy, or a family of honeyeaters dipping into nectar-rich flowers.

The green bin goes out FULL every fortnight without fail. Jobs others might think too hard for her, she tackles. And if she does need to accept help, she takes on the role of supervisor.

We chat each morning at 7:30am about how she's slept and what she heard on talkback radio overnight. We talk each night after work for a full update on my day, her day, the state of the nation and what's happening in the world. If I'm on my way to stay with her, we talk all the way home. If I'm heading back to Lobethal, we still talk the whole way.

So that's an outward snapshot of how Mum shows up in the world – but Mum has a very deep and beautiful side too.

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## Mum: a quiet achiever...

Over this last year, we've all done a great deal of reflecting. Life feels very different now. Since Dad passed, there's been more space to simply be present – and to look back with clearer eyes at all that was happening while we all cared for him at home – and got him to his many appointments.

And in that space, we've come to see Mum more clearly – her strength, her resilience and the quiet beauty of her spirit. The way Mum cared for Dad was extraordinary. She gave herself completely. Yes, there were the odd barneys – disagreements about small things, like how to do a wound dressing – but when it mattered, they were always together. Dad would often say, "Ahh Elizabeth, that woman frustrates me... but I love her so much." And he really did. And Mum loved Dad, too.

They were good companions in the easy seasons of life, and even more so when life became harder. As Dad's health declined and more was asked of them both, Mum stayed right beside him through it all. She carried so much quietly. And sometimes she would say, "Oh Elizabeth, I don't know what I'd do without him."

We saw her love. We saw her frustration – and his. And they held it all, as Mary did, in the heart of ordinary life. Neither of them ever gave up. If there was a bridge to cross, they crossed it. Together.

And Mum keeps going. That's something I've always admired about her. When life gets hard, she doesn't turn away. She just keeps moving forward, one step at a time. She often says "people these days need to toughen up a bit" – always with love. Her favourite line is: "If all you can do is crawl... then crawl."

As you'd expect, I've made my fair share of questionable decisions in life. I know that look – the one that says, "What on earth are you thinking, Elizabeth?" Mum never hesitates to tell me when something is a bad idea – and she is usually right. But her love never wavers. Mum never dismisses pain or pretends things are easy. She simply reminds us that we are stronger than we think.

Mum and Dad were always there – steady, united, and firmly in my corner. Even when they didn't agree with me. Even when I got things wrong. That kind of love doesn't just sit with you – it lives in you, shapes you.

We grew up in a home where kindness, respect,

honesty and faith weren't ideals, they were simply how life was lived. We had a good, solid Catholic upbringing. And when we stepped out into the world and realised not every home was like ours, it was confronting – but it also gave us something solid to measure life against.

Faith, in its quiet and steady way, has always been part of Mum's story... and mine. Not simple or unquestioning faith, but one that searches. I've watched Mum question, and keep questioning, looking for God and experiencing God in her own way. There sits a big pile of books next to her on the lounge. Lots of spiritual texts, Richard Rohr, John O'Donoghue, poetry of Mary Oliver with some Monty Don, Mum's favourite English horticulturist, thrown in for balance.

Then there are the moments I hold closest now. Our Mondays together. The car conversations, little markets and op shops, always stopping for coffee and cake, because that part really matters.

And my sleepovers at Mum's – chatting over dinner, a quick washing of dishes then sitting up watching whatever series Mum has chosen, usually after checking the day's top temperature. I love spending time with her.

I think about the home she's created – a place where there is room for good conversation and music, a place that is quietly 'good' in the middle of ordinary life. Mum is there at the centre of it, not in grand gestures but in steady, everyday ones. In giving. In strength. In the way she's always held her family together – keeping things going, no matter what.

In closing I'd like to share what I've scribed in Mum's Mother's Day card that I'll give her over lunch today.

*Dearest Mum...I just want to say from my heart to yours: Thank you.*

*Thank you for your love, your strength, your honesty and for everything you give. I will always cherish remembering how you loved and cared for Dad. Thank you Mum!*

*Thank you for shaping me into the person I am, for helping me become a good mother myself, for grounding me in faith and showing me what steady, unconditional love looks like in real life. I feel so grateful for our time together now – for the simple things, the routines, the laughs... all of it.*

*I'll give you an extra tight hug today, because every moment with you is more precious than the last.*

*I love you Mum*

*Elizabeth xxx*





# Over 100 gather to celebrate Feast of St Joseph

By Connie Golding

Parishioners from the Northern End and the wider Adelaide Hills Catholic Parish gathered at St Joseph the Worker Church in Lobethal on Sunday 26 April to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph.

A well-attended yearly event for the past 10 years, the Feast has been organised by the local Filipino community, with this year's event led by Timi Chua and his team of helpers, who organised the Mass and attended to the delicious pig spit roast. The pig was generously donated by the Filipino community.

Timi also arranged for the choir to travel from the Murray Bridge church to sing hymns in English, Italian and Filipino. Some hymns were sung by a soloist, adding a moving element that was enjoyed by all.

The Mass, conducted by Fr Fred, attracted over 100 guests, most of whom stayed on to enjoy the pig roast and the welcoming atmosphere.

It was again a wonderful celebration and we look forward to perhaps inviting Archbishop Patrick O'Regan to our Feast of St Joseph in 2007.



*Top right: Fr Fred receives the Offertory during Mass*

*Above, left: The talented choir from Murray Bridge added to the memorable occasion*

*Above, right: Most remained after Mass to enjoy the delicious spit roast pig, kindly donated and prepared by the local Filipino community*

*Left: A great turnout of over 100 parishioners and visitors attended the Feast of St Joseph celebrations at Lobethal*



## Record turnout at Men’s Breakfast learns about empowering work of Bright Futures

A record turnout of over 50 fathers and their sons gathered in the Our Lady of the Adelaide Hills Hall in Bridgewater on Saturday 2 May to hear guest speaker Jack Snelling share insights into the work of Bright Futures Child Aid and Development Fund.

CEO of the organisation, Jack took his audience through a presentation highlighting Bright Futures’ work in empowering change in developing countries such as India, Pakistan, Kenya and Uganda.

He noted that the organisation’s primary focus is to provide women and children with a better quality of life and, in the process, break the cycle of poverty that has gripped so many in these societies.

Interestingly, he stressed that the most productive outcomes are achieved when income-generating opportunities are direct at women as they are far more likely to use the money wisely, much of it going towards the education and health of their children.

“By giving women and children access to vaccinations, doctors and medicine, we improve



their chances of leading healthy lives,” he said, adding that by supporting education initiatives, there’s a very real chance of breaking the cycle of poverty.

Other areas where Bright Futures makes a real difference is in delivering clean, potable water to rural communities and offering skills training – in the fields of cooking, sewing and hairdressing – which allows the women to earn an income. The organisation also provides children with disabilities with access to therapies.

Anyone interested in learning more about Bright Futures can visit the website – [www.brightfutures.com.au](http://www.brightfutures.com.au) – or, if you would like to support the organisation and its work, drop Jack and his team an email – [office@brightfutures.com.au](mailto:office@brightfutures.com.au).



*Top: The breakfast attracted a record crowd  
Above: Guest speaker Jack Snelling makes a point  
Left: One of Bright Futures’ water filtration projects*



## Janet's 'Pilgrimage Adventures' lights up CWL tea

By CWL Stirling Secretary Pam Broadbridge

It might have changed this year from the annual CWL Ecumenical Luncheon to the CWL Ecumenical Afternoon Tea but this 'minor' alteration didn't seem to bother the 45 ladies and Fr Fred, who thoroughly enjoyed what was a wonderful occasion, highlighted by the exceptionally entertaining speech by enthusiastic guest speaker, Janet Leitch.

Janet's topic, 'Pilgrimage Adventures', recounted her walking trip to Europe that was interrupted in January 2025 in the United Kingdom when she slipped on ice, fractured her ankle and wrist and found herself admitted to Addenbrook's Hospital in Cambridge, a facility she had nonchalantly strolled past earlier that very day!

She later spent six weeks in a Cambridge hotel recuperating and a further six weeks of gentle sightseeing before it was time to again venture off...

Janet had carefully planned to celebrate and visit the area of three saints – Hildegard von Bingen in Germany, St Teresa of Avila in Spain, and the Italian St Rita of Cascia, in Santiago de Compostela. She shared beautiful photographs of the countryside and wonderful churches – and if they were open and empty, she'd step inside and sing!

As she loves to sing, it was appropriate that the afternoon ended with Janet leading the ladies in a rousing rendition of 'Amazing Grace'.



Above: Enjoying the afternoon are, from left, Jo Burton, Deb Stapleton, Tina Infante, Sue Williams and Elizabeth O'Leary

Top: Pam Broadbridge, left, and Barb Mott thank guest speaker Janet Leitch, centre.



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## Upcoming Parish Activity

- Sunday 17 May –  
Safeguarding Essential Course, St Matthew’s Birdwood, 9.30am
- Sunday 17 May –  
Ascension of Our Lord
- Sunday 17 May – Ritual of Choosing, St Matthew’s Bridgewater, 10.30am
- Sunday 17 May –  
Children’s Mass, St Matthew’s Bridgewater, 10.30am
- Week of 17 to 24 May –  
Laudato Si’ Week
- Week of 18 to 24 May –  
Volunteer’s Week
- Tuesday 19 May –  
Parish /School Meeting at St Catherine’s School . 9.30am
- Tuesday 19 May – Faith and Formation Team Meeting at Our Lady of the Adelaide Hills Hall, 6.00pm
- Wednesday 20 May –  
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at Our Lady of the Adelaide Hills Hall, 6.00pm
- Sunday 24 May –  
Pentecost Sunday
- Saturday 30 May –  
Ecology Group Visit to ‘Recreate’

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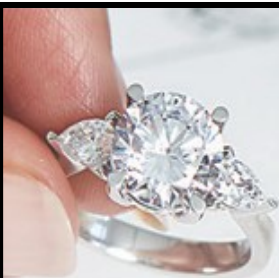
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As this directory changes from time to time, anyone wishing to volunteer for any of the parish activities listed below is asked to please contact the parish office.

1 Wembley Avenue (PO Box 713), Bridgewater SA 5155

P: 08 8359 0674 W: [www.adelaidehillsparish.com.au](http://www.adelaidehillsparish.com.au) E: [stmatthew@adelaidehillsparish.com.au](mailto:stmatthew@adelaidehillsparish.com.au)

## PARISH OFFICE

### Parish Priest

Fr Alfred Farrugia 8359 0674

### Parish Pastoral Coordinator

Cathie Oswald 8359 0674

### Parish Secretary

## Baptism Teams

Helen Cantwell 8390 3290  
 Maria Thompson 0408 898 357  
 Anne Moore 0417 861 373  
 Eric Toome 0418 896 695  
 Deb Stapleton 0408 835 990  
 Pam Broadbridge 8339 5013

## Catholic Women's League

Barbara Mott (Bridgewater) 8339 1083  
 Gayle Raven (Birdwood) 8389 8410

## Children's Liturgy

Jane van Mierle 0438 723 259

## Choir

Damien Mansfield 8339 4133

## Christian Life Communities

Paris Huffman 0400 283 683

## Ecology Group

John Leeton 0419 243 814

## Faith Formation Team

Fr Fred (Chair) 8359 0674  
 Paris Huffman (Secretary) 0400 283 683

## Finance and Maintenance (F&M) Committee

Paul Howe (Chair) 8388 5281

## F&M Birdwood Contact

Gayle Raven 8389 8410

## Hills Combined Christian Churches

Maria Thompson 0408 898 357

## Liturgy

Birdwood and Lobethal - Fr Fred 8359 0674

## Men's Spirituality Coordinators

Paul Somers 8339 5118  
 Dan De Fazio 8339 3393

## Our Lady of the Rosary Community

### Representative

Debbie Somers 8339 5118

## Parish Atrium

Sue Sachse 0431 117 840

## Parish Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/adelaidehillsparish](http://www.facebook.com/adelaidehillsparish)

## Parish Pastoral Council

John Leeton (Chair) 0419 243 814

## Rosary Group

Paul Anderson 0416 032 925

## Sacraments

Call Parish Office 8359 0674

Baptisms  
 Weddings  
 Reconciliation  
 Communion to the Sick  
 Religious Education

## Safeguarding (formerly Child Protection)

Mark McGeough 0419 150 758

## St Catherine's Catholic School

22 Ayers Hill Road  
 Stirling SA 5152 8238 8238

Principal - John Low  
 School Board Chair - Ben Clements

## St Matthew's Sewing Group

Stasia Duszynski 8339 4396

## St Vincent de Paul Society

Marianne Berry (Stirling) 0407 903 382  
 Lea Crosby (Northern End) 0431 092 725

## Social Justice Group

Cathie Oswald 0428 244 958

## The Bridge

Paul Robinson (Editor) 0408 855 178

## WHS Volunteer

Marianne Berry 0407 903 382