



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

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C

23RD/24TH FEBRUARY, 2019

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

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LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

A friend said that when she was a girl she heard today's Gospel in church and thought, "That's awfully hard! But no one does it in my church so I don't have to do it." If ever I were tempted to change the Gospel reading, this would be one of those Sundays I would give in and look for an easier one. (Actually, there are no "easy" passages, but some seem to require less of a gut-wrenching struggle for the preacher.)

Where I grew up this Gospel flies in the face of the behavior we learned from earliest childhood. You would be laughed to scorn if you suggested, "love you enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." And, of course, nobody would have suggested, "turn the other cheek." Even if it were noted, "Jesus said it," someone would surely have retorted, "Yeah, well that was back then, this is now." Or, "Well he could do it because he was God, he can't expect us mere humans to do that."

You can see why this preacher would be tempted to find another reading. Who wouldn't? There are just too many innocent people suffering at the hands of tyrants in the world to make this passage acceptable at first glance. Maybe we would be "nutz" to take it seriously. But then again, considering the condition of our world, nothing else seems to be working. Let's not dismiss this passage too handily. Let's give it a chance to speak its liberating message to us.

Jesus is asking a lot, a whole lot! It's perfectly clear that he isn't just presenting a slightly improved way to live, an ethical code a notch or two above other such codes. He's not just proposing a way of behaving that good people, with extra effort, might try. "Be just a bit kinder...bite your lip and forgive one more time..." If he were doing that, we wouldn't need him, we could, with effort, manage it on our own and then collect our hard earned reward from God.

The most difficult part of Jesus' teaching is to consider its consequences for those who have suffered abuse, who have been victimized. Some people might misinterpret Jesus and hear him saying that they are to remain victims and suffer abuse. Jesus isn't telling us to be victims. We are reminded that the people to whom Jesus is speaking are the most poor, victims of abusive Roman power and wealthy land owners. He suggests Jesus' teachings are about how not to be a victim.

Jesus is saying: take charge of your life and the situation, by taking the initiative in loving, caring and giving.

PLEASE TAKE HOME YOUR COPY OF THE BULLETIN

PRAYER FOR OUR PASTORAL VISITATION

Gracious God, for all these years you have guided and sustained the mission and ministry of the Adelaide Hills Catholic Parish. As we prepare for another Pastoral Visitation, stir up your life-giving Spirit in our congregations of Bridgewater, Stirling, Lobethal and Birdwood to revive and renew us to continue for the spreading of the Gospel through the Parish Renewal Program. Draw us out among the lost sheep and help us understand the deep longings of their hearts. Guide us forward so that we may be leaven for the world; a gathering strong for service and glad in praise; and a people listening and responding to your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and steadfast companion. Amen.

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS ...

For those recovering from surgery, illness and the sick
Todd Murfitt, Frances Marshall, Noah Baker, Betty Johnson,
Rob Mills, Dennis Macfarlane, Sue Streich, Marguerite Bok, Fr
Richard Morris and Todd Murfitt.

FEBRUARY Anniversaries:

Barrie Grahame, John Balogh, John Joseph Monaghan, Ada
Schultz, Margaret & Chappie Guthrie, Bob Disher, Fr Vincent
Regan, Laurel Brady, Emilo Tarca, Lynn Davies, Shirley Heath-
field, Juine Herr, Chris Ferris, Lena Shepherd, Maureen Robin-
son, Alice Harris, Betty Ryan, Ted McLoughlin, Ted Szwedzinski,
Sr Betty Brown, Eileen Deede, Silvano Girardi, Margaret Surguy,
Helene Booker, Marianne Fisher, Derek Horsnell, Juliana
Hatherly, Rina Tarca, Jill Balogh, Petronella McDougall, Bernie
Leverington, Juia Farrugia, Eddie Wells, Fr Jim Honner.

Recently deceased: Delina Bonaci (Fr Fred's aunt in Malta),
Benjamin Morris

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

February

Tuesday 26th Liturgy Group 6.30p.m.

Wednesday 27th Seeds of Affinity 7.00p.m.

PARISH VISITATION

The whole program of the Parish Visitation will be dis-
tributed during the weekend of the 2/3 March 2019.
The Visitation will commenced on the weekend of 16/17th
March when Fr Philip Marshall will celebrate all our mass-
es. Tuesday 19th March the Visitation team will meet
with all our parish/school communities. The concluding
mass will be on Sunday 24th March at 10.30a.m. at
Bridgewater.

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Day	Location	Time
Monday 25th	Bridgewater	8.00a.m.
Tuesday 26th	St Catherine's Liturgy whole school	9.00a.m.
Wednesday 27th	Birdwood	9.00a.m.
Thursday 28th	Bridgewater	9.00a.m.
Friday 1st March	Bridgewater	11.00a.m./5.30p.m.
Saturday 2nd	Reconciliation (Parish House)	12.00 - 12.30pm

IMPORTANT NOTICES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 1st March, 2019
and the Theme is 'Come - Everything Is Ready.' and it has
been organised by the women from Slovenia. Sunset Rock
Uniting 40 Spencer Street, Stirling will host the event at
10am followed by Morning Tea - Sunset Rock Uniting, Won-
derful for Parishioners to attend this Ecumenical service -
please save the date and attend. Pam Broadbridge, Sec CWL
Stirling. The World Day of Prayer Service for the Northern
end of the parish will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church,
Birdwood at 2pm on Friday 1st March. Leonie Holmes

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

NORTHERN END	BIRDWOOD Sunday 3rd March 8.30am	LOBETHAL Sunday 10h March 8.30am
Welcome	Carmen Fairbaine	
Children's Liturgy	Leonie Holmes	Janet Harrison
Readers 1	Emma Crossing	Margaret Smitherman
Reader 2	Adam Crossing	Ian Crossing
Special Ministers	Roz Crossing	Meg Crossing
	Margaret Smitherman	Roz Crossing
Cleaning	Ann-Marie Morales	Gayle Raven

BRIDGEWATER	Saturday 2nd March 6.00pm	Sunday 3rd March 10.30am
Sacristans	Maria Greg	Gina Kelly
Welcome	Diana Healey	Pam & Wayne Broadbridge
Introduction	Monique Rammers	Paul Robinson
Reader 1	Karen Dutton	Catherine Simes
Reader 2	Mary Homann	Les Tulloch
Music	Helen Cantwell	Youth Band
Special Ministers	Rosalie Jenner	Pam Broadbridge
	Ann Teteris	Wayne Broadbridge
	Kathy Lloyd	Di Golding
		Jeremy Roberts
		Anne Buckley
Children's Liturgy	Sue & Jacob Sachse	
Tea and Coffee	Claudine Clarke	
Our Lady	Catherine & Jacob Simes	
Cleaning	Pace family	
Flowers	Gina Kelly	
Counting	Emmi Rowe	Rosalie Jenner

OLOR	Sunday 24h February 5.30pm	Sunday 3rd March 5.30pm
Sacristan	PARISH PICNIC	Diana Healey
Cleaning	Jenny Johnston	Debbie Somers

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6th and is a som-
ber occasion that marks the beginning of the 40-day period
of Lent observed by Christians. On his day, Christians at-
tend services and receive ashes upon their forehead, usually
with the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust
you shall return." For Catholics, it is a particularly ob-
servant day, with fasting and abstinence for those between
the ages of 14 and 59. Non-meat meal should be eaten all
day. **Masses: Birdwood - 9.00 a.m., St Catherine's -
11.30 a.m. and Bridgewater at 7.00 p.m.**

LENTEN GROUPS

Lent is a six week period leading up to Easter when traditionally, Christians across the denominations have created space in their lives to prepare to remember and celebrate the momentous events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. This Lent, for six weeks, we are inviting you to join one of our Lenten Groups. Why not consider joining one for Lent and alongside connecting with other members of our parish set aside some time to grow in your discipleship.

Every Wednesday at Mary O'Dea Community Centre Birdwood ay 10.00a.m.(after the 9.00a.m. mass)

Every Friday at Parish house, Bridgewater at 7.00pm led by Fr Fred

LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKS

This year we will again be running a Lenten Reflection Program. We will be using Evangelisation Brisbane booklets. Fr Fred needs to order the books not later than Monday 25th February at \$12 (including postage) **No late bookings will be accepted**

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "HOPE". You will be empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes (which will be distributed on the 1st Sunday of Lent) or by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.

THE BRIDGE

Please take your copy of the first edition of The Bridge for 2019. Once read you can give it to someone else. You can access it also through the parish website adelaidehillsparish.com.au. Once again we thank all contributors and all those who are involved in giving us such an interesting parish magazine every month.

SEEDS OF AFFINITY

Both men and women are encouraged to attend the Seeds of Affinity Wine and Cheese night, held on Wednesday 27th Feb at 7pm at St. Catherine's School in the Treehouse (library). This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and actively support a charity doing so much good. If you cannot attend the event but would like to support the charity please bring donations of shampoo, conditioner, body wash and body lotion. All items are decanted into different containers, so opened items are accepted. Please these donations into the basket in the church provided.

TIME CAPSULE TO BE OPENED

You are all invited on the morning of 26 February at St Catherine's Catholic school after the 9.00a.m. whole school liturgy when we will be opening a time capsule after 25 years at the Siena Hall. We look forward to seeing what items will be revealed and are thrilled to have a number of old scholars from 1994 joining us for the occasion. All welcome and we would love to see you there

HOME MASSES

Our next home mass will be held on Thursday 21st March at Marcia Philips home at Stirling. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

MINISTERS RENEWAL MEETING

Last Thursday 21 parishioners from different ministries attended the meeting. Fr Fred raised the importance that each ministry is given to us by God and when we extend ourselves for others, know that we are responding to your baptismal call to serve so we need to be aware of what the minister is doing especially when proclaiming the Word of God and distributing the Eucharist. The issue of ministers missing out when they are roster and not advising or finding a replacement was brought up. It was also a time to indicate if besides ministry about the possibility to join another service such as counting and cleaning. To renew the list of mobile numbers of each ministry, Fr. Fred said that ministers are at the heart of all that is accomplished during the celebration of the the Eucharist and extended his appreciation to all present.

I wish to thank Paul and Debbie Somers and Diane Golding for accepting to be part of the counting teams. WE NEED TWO VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THE CLEANING GROUP. Fr Fred

BINGO NIGHT

We wish to thank all those who were involved in organizing the Bingo Night at Lobethal last Saturday. Around 65 people attended the activity and raised \$1455.

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

The First Friday 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. This promise was implicitly approved by the Church in the 1920 canonization of St. Margaret Mary. There will be the usual 11.00a.m. Mass followed by morning tea and 5.30p.m. Mass will be followed by 30mins of silent adoration and benediction on Friday 1st March

VINNIES MONTHLY MEETING

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Tuesday 26th February at Sue Arthurson's, 116 Rudd Parade., Bridgewater, at 7.00 pm sharp. All Welcome.

LITURGY GROUP

Next Liturgy next Tuesday 26th February at 6.30p.m. at the parish meeting room

Weekly Income 17th February 2019

First Collection:	\$726.65
Planned Giving Received:	\$2020.00
Loose Plate:	\$274.85

If you would like to donate by Direct Debit use the parish bank account details below:

BSB: 085 005

Account 489502427

Account Name CCES ADEL HILLS

Refer payment as "donation"

A reading from the book of Samuel

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

*It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.*

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repays us according to our faults.

*As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.*

R.

R.

R.

R.

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

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Next Week's Readings: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

1st Reading	Sirach 27:4-7
2nd Reading	1 Cor 15:54-58
Gospel	Lk 6:39-45