

Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish



C/- 7 Mann Street, Mount Barker
South Australia 5251



We are a Community learning to be disciples of Jesus.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - 26 January 2020

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**Our Lady of Mercy
Mt Barker**

**SATURDAY VIGIL 6.00 PM
SUNDAY MORNING 9.00 AM**

**The Good Shepherd
Strathalbyn**

SUNDAY MORNING 10.45 AM

Weekday Masses This Week

Tue 28/01	St Thomas Aquinas	9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Wed 29/01		12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 30/01		9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 31/01	Funeral: Doris Smith	10.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 31/01	St John Bosco	7.00pm	St James the Less
Sat 01/02		9.30am	The Good Shepherd
Sat 01/02		11.30am	Our Lady's Rosary Garden

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass on Thursday and Saturday mornings for half an hour.

Reconciliation is available during and after Exposition, and by appointment.

Love is expressed through concrete actions

During his celebration of the Mass at Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis reflected on the First Letter of Saint John the Apostle. The Pope observed that Saint John understood love and how it manifested itself. His letter tells us how we love and how we can be loved.

"We love God because He loved us first", Pope Francis said. "If a newborn child could speak, he would certainly express the fact that he feels loved by his parents. Parents love their children just as God loves us. This [love] gives birth to and increases our capacity to love."

The Pope continued his reflection by commenting on Saint John's declaration: "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar." Deception, Pope Francis observed, is the profession of the devil. It is Satan who is "the great liar."

To hate one's brother whilst simultaneously claiming to love God is to engage in an act of deception. It is to be in league with the devil. Real life is filled with suffering and malevolence. It is easy, therefore, to justify hatred and indifference. However, John the Baptist underscored the concrete nature of love when he wrote: "he that loveth not his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God who he hath not seen." One cannot claim to love God if he is incapable of loving others.

Genuine love is expressed in everyday life. Often, we are prevented from loving others because we believe we should not interfere with their lives. True love, however, means being willing to get your hands dirty. As Saint Albert Hurtado observed: "it is good not to do evil, but it is bad not to do good."

Faith in God remains the greatest way to reinforce one's capacity for love. It is through faith that the kind of thinking that prevents us from loving others is overcome. Faith excludes those who are indifferent, who wash their hands of problems, who do not wish to interfere with the lives of others, and those who say that that they love God but do not love their neighbour."



The Parish Team:

Father Richard Morris PP

8391 1053

Father Ian Wilson, Assisting Priest

Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary (Wed/Fri)

8391 1053

Sue Eckert, Ministry Coordinator, Strathalbyn

8537 3053

Father Richard's email address: morrisri@bigpond.com

Website: www.barkerstrathcatholic.com

Email Address: mbstparish@adam.com.au

Our Lady's Rosary Garden

8391 1471

St Francis de Sales College

Gavin McGlaughlin - Principal

8393 1000

Please Pray For...

Sick

Ashlee Lloyd, Geraldine Griffin, Jannifer Green,
Irma Bachmeyer, Michael Porter, David Neville,
Helene Meijer, Patricia Smyth.

Names are kept on the sick list for 4 weeks.

Recently Deceased

Ottile Bennetts, Des McCarthy, Joseph Biro, Doris Smith,
Maureen Richardson, Joy Ross Santiago, Fr Ray Brain.

Anniversaries

Jonas Vildzius, Sarah Louise Entwistle, John Gauchi,
Jeffrey Finlay, Jason O'Toole, Jim Humphreys, Doris Bates,
Michael Fallon, William Robins, Monica Huppatz,
Vernon Almeida, Nigel Conlon, Ada-Mary Colville,
Gertrude Coffey, Ben Buckley, Valentine Slater,
George Scott, Alistair (Mac) O'Donnell.

Anniversaries from Saturday 25 Jan to Friday 1 February.

Parish Pastoral Council

Neil McGoran (Chair), Fr Richard Morris (Ex Officio),
Sonia Nelson (Ex Officio), Yesamma Hendry, Sandra Lloyd,
Jo Manalo, Jan Sobotta, Joanna Falkland, Teena Cobiac,
Mike Galea, Stewart Chilcott, Michelle Muller, Tung Pham.
Supporting our parish community on our journey of faith.

Parish Finance Council

Tom Hardy (Chair), Father Richard Morris (ex officio),
John Barton (Treasurer), Michelle Muller (Secretary),
Jim Mann, Noel Duffield, Martin Kidby.

For parish property, maintenance and finance matters.

Collections Last Week

1st Collection (supporting our priests)	\$ 963.95
2nd Collection (supporting the parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 749.00
Loose plate	\$ 397.50
Direct debit	\$ 355.00
Total second collection	\$ 1,501.50

Direct debits can be arranged for our Planned Giving program: BSB 085 005 Account 48 973 6784, or ring the office to receive a set of planned giving envelopes.

Parish Meetings this Week

Mon 9.45am Arty Crafty Ladies OLOM Foyer
Sun 10.30am Legion of Mary Parish House

Ecumenical Prayer at Strathalbyn

Come, join in, and help begin what God wants to do here.
Sunday 26 January, 7pm at the Church of Christ.

On the Noticeboard

Feb 8 March for Life from Pennington Gardens to
Parliament House.
Feb 9 Monastery Youth Group Mass @ Glen Osmond
Feb 15 Discernment: part 2 @ St Peter Claver, Dulwich.
Feb 21 New Horizons 2020: Youth Ministry Conference

Reflection on the Scripture Readings

Today's gospel helps us understand the first three Gospels were compiled. Although they are not biographies in the strictest sense of the word, they manage to tell Christ's story by incorporating well-known recollections of Christ among early Christians. The Gospel according to Matthew presents Christ to a predominantly Jewish audience. In his Gospel, Matthew expertly intertwines narrative sequences with long passages containing the teachings of Christ. Today's Gospel reading ends the first narrative section and serves as solemn prelude to the next three Chapters. These ensuing teachings, which includes the Sermon on the Mount, reveal the spiritual and philosophical centre of Christ's teachings.

Christ's career as spiritual leader and teacher began as Old Testament philosophy came to an end. This monumental event was inaugurated by the events that would lead to the death of John the Baptist. Matthew underlined the significance of this moment by invoking his theme: "this was to fulfil the words of the Prophet." Matthew expressed the conviction that the writings of the Old Testament would resonate with the anticipation of what was to come provided they were read in faith with Christ.



Indeed, the passage that Matthew sites is the first reading of today's liturgy. Isaiah refers to contemporary events – particularly the hope that the northernmost territories of David would be recovered by one of David's descendants. The idea, expressed by the Courtier, that Isaiah and his people should trust in the promises made to David's descendants has clear messianic overtones. Matthew saw Christ's ministry as a fulfilment of these expectations.

Christ's ministry in Galilee helps us firmly place him both in the temporal and spiritual realms. Galilee, the northern extremity of the old kingdom, was a cosmopolitan crossroads. Its people were bilingual – speaking both Greek and Aramaic – and were looked down upon by the elites based in Jerusalem. By God's design, His Son conducted His ministry in a place with virtually no influence.

As we shall see, the Church would become a central theme in Matthew's Gospel. This is anticipated in the fact that his solemn prelude to the Sermon on the Mount includes the calling of the four apostles who will be prominent in Christ's ministry.

John Thornhill SM

Question of the Week

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. (Mtt 4: 23)

Adults: To whom could you preach the good news of Jesus Christ this week with actions rather than words?

Young People: In what specific way could young people let God help them through difficult times? Do you know people who have responded to hard times by using their experiences to help others?

Children: What could you do for someone this week that would tell them something about Jesus?

A Sunday devoted to the Word of God

Pope Francis has decreed that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (this Sunday) will be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. The Pope has written a special letter of proclamation which states: "the various communities will find their own ways to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity. It is important however that in the Eucharistic celebration the sacred text be enthroned, in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's word. It would be particularly appropriate to commission readers, in order to bring out the importance of the proclamation of God's in the liturgy." We will take up this suggestion at all Masses this weekend.

Collection for Bushfire Victims

On January 7, the Australian Catholic Bishops announced that special collections will be taken up at Masses on Australia Day weekend to support communities affected by devastating bushfires in several states. The Bishops announced that money raised from the collection will support the Vinnies' bushfire appeal.

Day of the Unborn Child Appeal: Feb 2

In the Archdiocese of Adelaide, the Day of the Unborn Child occurs on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25. As this feast day falls during Lent it was felt it would be more appropriate to hold the Appeal early this year.

A special collection will be taken up on the weekend of February 1st and 2nd to support the work undertaken by Birthline, Right to Life in South Australia, Matercare Australia & Genesis Pregnancy Support.

In light of the proposed changes to abortion legislation, the important work done by all these organisations help support woman practically in their choice to be mothers.

The Day of the Unborn Child assists us to focus on those people in our families and communities who have experienced any sort of child-bearing loss, whether miscarriage, still-birth, the death of a baby soon after birth, or abortion.

We thank you in anticipation for your generous support of those who work tirelessly with individuals and families who require these important resources and services.

Arty Crafty Raffle

The Arty Crafty Ladies' raffle will be drawn this Sunday after the 9am Mass. First prize is a Beerenberg presentation box valued at \$150 and there are 20 other prizes. All proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Catholic cemetery.

March for Life: New Assembly Point

There will be a March for Life on Saturday 8th February 2020, starting at 9.30am at **Pennington Gardens**, opposite St Peter's Cathedral, and proceeding to Parliament House. Please set this time aside and invite your family and friends - we want as many people as possible to attend; in the thousands.

Parish Life Magazine

Are you seeking an outlet for your artistic flair? We are seeking volunteers to contribute to *Parish Life* magazine. You could take photos of parish events, draft articles or prepare the layout of each edition. Speak to Fr Richard or Michelle if you would like to be a part of the *Parish Life* team.

Expressions of Interest - Cleaner

We are looking for a cleaner for approximately two hours per fortnight to clean the Parish House. Please speak to Fr Richard or Michelle at the office if you are interested.

Marriage Matters

www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk

Marriage Matters supports, encourages, inspires, challenges and motivates couples to deepen their relationship with one another and with God. This week's short reflection:

God has a stake in our marriage. Today, we see two aspects of God's plan for our marriage: '... (I will make) their joy increase' (Isaiah) and 'I will make you fishers of men' (Matthew). God wants us to make our love for each other as close to Jesus' love for us as possible, that all whose lives we touch might experience how much God loves them.

A little Reorganisation

Our Lady of Mercy has had a little reorganisation of the sacristan folders in the church foyer, as they seem to move around between the kitchen bench and the small table in the foyer. The folders are now in the blue sideboard in the church foyer, as follows:

Top drawer: Sacristan clipboards and folder, rosters, Prayer of the Faithful folder (red folder) and pens.

Middle drawer: 'Reserved' signs, pins for KOSC noticeboard.

Bottom drawer: 'Order of Mass' cards, Hymns for Exposition.

Kids Stuff

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sunday in the 9am Mass at Our Lady of Mercy, Mt Barker. We listen to the Gospel from the Children's Lectionary and reflect on how God is speaking to us.



Mini Youth Group (u12) FRIDAY 7th FEBRUARY

There's **no lower age limit** for Mini Youth, so just come along! Friday night on the even weeks of school term, 6-8pm in the Parish House. Parents are welcome to stay and play. Please RSVP on 0413 800 995 and bring \$3 for food. Michelle.

Youth Group (12+) - 9TH FEB MASS AT THE MONASTERY

We are going to a youth Mass at the Monastery, 15 Cross Road, Urrbrae, at 5pm on Sunday, 9th February, 2020. After the celebration of the Eucharist, there will be a guest speaker, some refreshments and activities, finishing at 8pm.

Contact Ruby on 0499 172 740 if you would like to car pool.

Atrium (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) FROM 10TH FEB

Hearing and exploring the Gospel through the use of sensory-rich materials. Term 2 begins Monday 10 February. Teena.

Mary MacKillop Museum Now Open!

"Such a wonderful, interactive experience! I'll be back again!" (Peter).

"I really like this place and I would definitely recommend this place and it is very educational" (James- aged 9).

Did you know that there is also a gift-shop and a soon-to-be opened café? Open Tuesdays to Sundays, 10am to 4pm.

P: 8130 5910 www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING ISAIAH 8:23 - 9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 26:1, 4, 13-14

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **R.**

SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-13, 17

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

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollo', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of

philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION MATTHEW 4:23

Sung Antiphon

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Sung Antiphon

GOSPEL MATTHEW 4:12-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'.

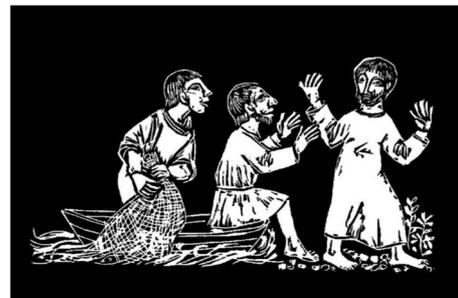
As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



February 2nd, The Presentation of the Lord, Year A

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 23:7-10

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40