

Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish



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



We are a Community learning to be disciples of Jesus.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 16 February 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 18/02		8.15am	St Francis de Sales College
Wed 19/02		12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 20/02		9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 21/02		9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 21/02		7.00pm	St James the Less
Sat 22/02	The Chair of St Peter The Apostle	9.30am	The Good Shepherd

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.

Our relationship with God is the essence of life

During mass on 17th January at the Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis stated that it is through forgiveness that the diseases of the soul are cured. Speaking on the miraculous healing of a paralytic in Saint Mark's Gospel, the Pope observed that Jesus heals, but is not a medicine man. Rather, He focuses on what is essential.

Christ teaches that we must preserve our spiritual health just as fervently as our physical health. That is why Christ is just as quick to tell a sick man not to sin anymore as he is to inform a sinful woman that her sins are forgiven.



Our relationship with God is essential. "We often forget this as if afraid of an encounter with the Lord", Pope Francis observed. We are prepared to go to great lengths to preserve our physical health. We seek the advice of doctors and use medicines to make ourselves feel better. Sadly, we often forget about the health of the soul.

According to Pope Francis, Christ's words to the paralytic can help us in this quest. We can become so used to finding forgiveness for our sins and our mistakes that the potency of forgiveness becomes watered down. Today Jesus tells each and every one of us: "I want to forgive your sins."

The health of both body and soul is essential. We watch what we eat, exercise regularly, and visit the doctor frequently to take good care of our health. Let us therefore trust in Christ Jesus for the health of our souls.

The Parish Team:

Father Richard Morris PP	8391 1053	Website: www.barkerstrathcatholic.com	
Father Ian Wilson, Assisting Priest		Email Address: mbstparish@adam.com.au	
Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary (Wed/Fri)	8391 1053	Our Lady's Rosary Garden	8391 1471
Sue Eckert, Ministry Coordinator, Strathalbyn	8537 3053	St Francis de Sales College	
Father Richard's email address: morrisri@bigpond.com		Gavin McGlaughlin - Principal	8393 1000

Please Pray For...

Sick

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

Names are kept on the sick list for 4 weeks.

Recently Deceased

Maureen Richardson, Joy Ross Santiago, Jannifer Green, Doris Smith, Eileen Barry, and Assunta Scamoni.

Anniversaries

Rosemary Egan, Adelina Costa, Bessie Cooke, Peter Fiora, Betty Schirmer, Erminio Papini, Franz Laudenbach, and Joe Kavenagh.

Anniversaries from Saturday 15th to Friday 22nd 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, and Thao 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, and Martin Kidby.

For parish property, maintenance and finance matters.

Collections Last Week

1st Collection (supporting our priests)	\$ 853.65
2nd Collection (supporting the parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 1,073.00
Loose plate	\$ 439.40
Direct debit	\$ 365.00
Total second collection	\$ 1,877.40

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
Tue 7.30pm	Parish Pastoral Council	OLOM Foyer
Thu 10.30am	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Fri 4pm-ish	Mini Youth Group	Burkett Dr, Strath
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 16 February, 7pm at Strath Family Church in the Catholic Church Hall.

On the Noticeboard

Feb 21	Discover and Rediscover @ Parkside
Feb 23	Our Lady's Rosary Garden High Tea
Feb 25	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes @ Strathalbyn
Mar 6	World Day of Prayer @ St Marks Lutheran Church

Reflection on the Scripture Readings

Today's gospel continues the 'Sermon on the Mount.' In this discourse Matthew gathers the fundamental teachings of Jesus which will form the constitution of His new Kingdom. Since Matthew's gospel was written for a community of Jewish converts, it is not surprising that this charter includes teaching concerning the attitude of Jesus to the traditions of old Israel. Understanding this helps Christians understand the scriptures of the Old Testament and their relationship to old Israel. During his earthly life, Jesus was a faithful observer of Old Testament customs. Clearly, the challenge he brought to the scribes and Pharisees led to confrontations in which he made it clear that he did not seek an abolition of the traditions of old Israel. The words: 'until its purpose is achieved' – help us to understand what he meant when he declared, 'I have not come to abolish the Law and the prophets, but to complete them'.

The Old Testament was an expression of the Word of God. It was an expression that was to give way to the absolutely final expression of the divine Word, in the life, death and resurrection of the one who was the divine Word Incarnate.

The Old Testament gave witness to the eternal truth of God and God's designs for humanity, but it was only a witness in hints and shadows, giving rise to boundless expectations concerning the future. These expectations were fulfilled in Jesus Christ; but as Paul tells us in the second reading, this fulfilment was to be a stumbling block to those whose hopes were shaped by expectations of an earthly triumph of God's people. The New Law, that 'completes' and 'achieves the purpose' of the Old Testament's hints and shadows, must, of course, be promulgated by the divine Lawgiver himself. The first Christians loved the Old Testament – its hints and shadows gave them a fuller understanding of what God did for the world in Christ.

John Thornhill SM

Question of the Week

Jesus said, 'So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your sister or brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your sister or brother, and then come and offer your gift'. (Matthew 5: 23 – 24)

Adults: When in your life have you been able to keep the spirit as well as the letter of God's law?

Young People: What strategies would you propose to young people who struggle with feelings of anger and envy?

Children: When have you taken the first step to make up with someone?

High Tea at Our Lady's Rosary Garden

Our Lady's Rosary Garden is hosting a High Tea on 23rd February, from 2.30pm for a 3pm start. \$10pp.

RSVP 8391 1471 or 0416 194 731. See flyer in the foyer.



Launch of Project Compassion in Mount Barker - Strathalbyn Catholic Parish

The Mount Barker-Strathalbyn Parish has been selected to launch Project Compassion 2020. Our local parish school, Saint Francis de Sales College, will be launching the initiative for Catholic schools on February 19th, commencing with workshops about Project Compassion and concluding with a liturgy at 12:30pm.

Similarly, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Mount Barker will be launching Project Compassion for the whole Diocese. Vicar General Phillip Marshall will be celebrating the Mass and members of the Caritas Committee will be guests of honour.

There will be a simple shared meal in the foyer afterwards. You are invited to contribute a dish towards this meal, perhaps a rice or noodle dish. This could be an excellent opportunity to taste some new dishes in our multi-cultural community.

Southern Cross for February

The February edition of The Southern Cross Catholic is available. Read about a stained glass window depicting Jesus' crucifixion that has become a talking point for Norwood parishioners. There's a report on how royalty and religion are depicted in movies and an article about the recent Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Cost \$2.00.

Sacrament Preparation

The next family session for those preparing for the sacraments of Confirmation and first Holy Communion will be held on Thursday, 20th February at 6.30pm. Families will be welcomed back into the program with a BBQ provided by the Knights of the Southern Cross.

Unplanned DVD

Our parish copy of the Unplanned DVD has arrived! Call in to the office at 7 Mann Street if you would like to borrow it, or ring Michelle on 8391 1053 if you would like me to put it into the Strath or Maccy bag for you to collect after Mass.

Wine & Cheese Evening: 20 Feb

Adelaide Hills Parish

The Adelaide Hills Parish Social Justice Group is holding a Wine and Cheese Evening at St Catherine's School, Ayer's Hill Road, Stirling, on 20 February at 7 pm. There will be a small charge of \$10 for the evening. For further details contact Cathie Oswald 0428 244 956 or email cathie.oswald@gmail.com.

Free building materials

There are some surplus iron sheets and timber available behind Our Lady of Mercy, Mount Barker, for anyone who would like to come and pick them up.

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes 25th Feb

You and yours are welcome to the **free** Pancake Tea at the Park. Soldiers Memorial Gardens (Opposite the Victoria Hotel), Shrove Tuesday February 25th, from 5.30pm-7pm.

Any donation offered will go to Strathalbyn Neighbour Centre in High Street. The tea is provided by the Strathalbyn Inter-Church Council.



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) ZIP LINE!!

This term we are trying something different. We will meet once a month on a Friday after school, in a local park. Our first meet-up will be this Friday 21 February at the nature playground on Burkett Drive / Kennedy Crescent, Strathalbyn. There are two zip lines and other play equipment. Parents must stay to supervise their children. See you there!

Youth Group (12+)

Our Youth Group meets on Thursday nights on the odd weeks of school term, from 6-8pm in the Parish House. Asher.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Hearing and exploring the Gospel through the use of sensory-rich materials. Term 2 begins Monday **9th March**. Teena.

Ministry Formation Program

Developing Vibrant Communities, Welcome and Hospitality

Jane Angha, Ministry Blueprints USA is dedicated to training, equipping and empowering parish leaders and ministers to create warm and welcoming environments for those they serve. Thursday Feb 27, 2020, 5.30pm-8.30pm, Catholic Education Conference Centre, 116 George Street, Thebarton, Room 7. RSVP to shoran@adelaide.catholic.org.au.

Fringe Organ Recitals

In St Francis Xavier's Cathedral on Wednesday February 19, March 4 and 13. The Archdiocese of Adelaide along with the Adelaide Fringe invite you to attend the *Lunchtime Organ Recitals* in the Cathedral. The recitals begin from 1pm.

The three organists this year are Jacinta Jakovcevic (Feb 19), Sian Gardner (Mar 4) and Christopher Trikilis (Mar 11). Entry is free. Further information: Archdiocesan Events P: 8210 8220.

Meeting, Good Shepherd Hall

Monday 24th Feb, 9.30am. Anyone wanting to have a say in how we best spend some money we have made from our catering please feel welcome to come to the above meeting. The suggestions so far: new storage shed; soundproofing the main room; a prayer garden with large cross and seat at rear of car park. You may have other suggestions to add to this list. Please see me if you want something else added before the meeting. We purchased the beautiful Nativity Set you saw over the Christmas celebrations with some of our proceeds. There may be other matters to discuss at the meeting. If you have any issues you want added to the agenda please contact me.

Blessings...Susan Bagley. 8537 0533

February 23, Seventh Sunday in Ord Time, Year A

Love your enemies

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Psalm 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING SIRACH 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you;

put out your hand to whichever you prefer.

Man has life and death before him;

whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;

he is almighty and all-seeing.

His eyes are on those who fear him,

he notes every action of man.

He never commanded anyone to be godless,

he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm

to obey your statutes. **R.**

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. **R.**

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,

to keep it with my heart. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-10

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

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION OF MATTHEW 11:25

Sung Antiphon

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Sung Antiphon

GOSPEL MATTHEW 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: ' Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.