



We are a community learning to be disciples of Jesus

Welcome to Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish 16th February 2025

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Masses

Our Lady of Mercy Church

5 Mann Street, Mount Barker

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 9am

Tue	9.30am	18/02
Wed	12 noon	19/02
Fri	9.30am	21/02

The Good Shepherd Church

2 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn

Sunday 10:45am

St James the Less Church

24 Luck Street, Macclesfield

Closed for repairs

St Francis de Sales College

8 Dutton Road, Mount Barker

Thu	8.00am	20/02
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Feast Days This Week

Sat	The Chair of St Peter The Apostle
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Exposition of the BI Sacrament:
Tuesday morning after Mass.

Reconciliation: Tuesday during and after Exposition, Saturday 22nd February 5pm-5:30pm at Our Lady of Mercy, and by appointment.

Our Priests

Fr Philip Marshall

philipfxmarshall@gmail.com

Fr Ian Wilson

Assisting Priest

Our Personnel

Parish Secretary

Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary
7 Mann Street, Mt Barker SA 5251
M/W/F 9am-3pm Ph 83911053
mtbarkerparish@gmail.com
www.barkerstrathcatholic.com

Strath Ministry Coordinator

Sue Eckert Ph 0408 362 258

Child Safe Contact Persons

Michelle Muller Ph 8391 1053
Teena Cobiac Ph 0499 172 740
Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78



May we seek and recognize Jesus like the Shepherds and Magi

Reflecting on the Gospel reading for the Solemnity of the Epiphany marked on Monday 6th January, Pope Francis looked at how distance and closeness come into play in the narrative. The Pope described how closeness marked the attitude of those who welcomed the birth of Jesus, like the Shepherds who rushed to see Him or the Magi travelling from afar. On the other hand, distance characterized those living in Jerusalem who, although aware of the details concerning the Messiah, did not seek Him out even though they were physically closer to Him.

“Let us ask the Virgin Mary to help us so that, imitating the shepherds and the Magi, we are able to recognize Jesus close by, in the poor, in the Eucharist, in the abandoned, in our brother, in our sister.”

The Pope recalled "while these wise men from far away come to find Jesus, those who were close by do not take one step towards the grotto in Bethlehem," pointing out the great expenses they would have incurred in their travels, the time they put aside for it, and the many risks and uncertainties they would have faced in those days.

“And yet they overcome every difficulty to get to see the King Messiah, because they know that something unique is happening in the history of humanity, and they do not want to miss the event. They had inspiration within, and they followed it.”

In contrast, those who "should be the happiest" because they are close to the Messiah remain "still" and "do not move from their 'desks' as they are would appear to be content with what they have and do not consider it worthwhile to leave Jerusalem on such a quest.

The Pope said these attitudes also regard our own lives and he suggested we ask ourselves to which group we belong. Are we more like the Shepherds and the Magi who seek out, visit, and recognize Jesus? Or, are our hearts closed and insensitive to His presence among us, also in our brothers and sisters? In conclusion, he recalled the Lord's words that regard us all, “in truth I say to you, all that you have done for the least of your brothers, you have done it for me”.

Please Pray For...

Sick

Jack Ballinger, Henk Daams, Blossom (Teresa) Ferrarese, Brian Fiora, Andrew Harms, Ashlee Lloyd, Gertrude Stolarski, Helen Malin, Froilan Milan, David Neville, Michael Persse, Maurice Sequeira, Ailbe Sheehy, Cecelia Smeath, Barbara Turner, Alida van Dijk, Alwyne Williams, Mary Patricia Williams, Sandra Lloyd, Steve Parker.

Recently Deceased

Dino Barbieri, Ken Smeath, Peter Silverman, Gerry Roberts.

Anniversary of Death

Daphne Clark, Bessie Cooke, Rosemary Egan, Peter Fiora, Joe Kavenagh, Franz Laudenbach, Patricia Marriott, Adelina Costa, Erminio Papini, Betty Schirmer, Donald Storr, Margaret (Anne) Voumard, David Warren-Smith.

Anniversaries from Saturday 15th to Friday 21st February.

Parish Pastoral Council

Supporting our parish community on our journey of faith.

Chair: Neil McGoran (neil.mcgoran@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

Ex Officio: Fr Philip Marshall, Fr Ian Wilson, Andrew Baker.

Members: Stewart Chilcott, Joanna Falkland, Mike Galea, Yesamma Hendry, Lijo Kurian, Sandra Lloyd, Jo Manalo, Leo Sexton, Jan Sobotta.

Parish Finance Council

For parish property, maintenance and finance matters.

Chair: Peter Schaefer. **Ex Officio:** Father Philip Marshall.

Treasurer: John Barton. **Members:** John Cook, Bernard Croese.

Collections Last Week

1st Collection (supporting our priests) **\$ 1,009.95**

2nd Collection (supporting the parish)

Envelopes \$ 540.00

Online and direct debit \$ 1,030.00

Loose plate \$ 470.00

Total second collection \$ 2,040.00

Day of the Unborn Child Appeal \$ 639.85

Thank you for supporting our parish and our priests.

To give to our parish first and second collection, scan this QR code or log onto: adelaide.goodgiving.com.au/qr/parish/mbs.



Diary Dates This Week

Mon	17/02	9:45 AM	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Mon	17/02	4:00 PM	CGS / Atrium Level 2	Parish House
Tue	18/02	10:00 AM	CGS / Atrium Level 1	Parish House
Tue	18/02	5:30 PM	Finance Council	Parish House
Tue	18/02	7:00 PM	Parish Pastoral Council	OLOM Foyer
Thu	20/02	10:30 AM	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Thu	20/02	7:30 PM	Guitar Choir Practice	OLOM
Sat	22/02	9:30 AM	Organ Choir Practice	OLOM
Sat	22/02	3:00 PM	CGS / Atrium Level 3	Parish House
Sun	23/02	10:15 AM	Sunday Readings	Strath Hall
Sun	23/02	10:30 AM	Legion of Mary	Parish House
Sun	23/02	12:30 PM	Youth Group	OLOM Foyer



Reflection

on the Scripture Readings

This gospel passage (and its parallel, Matthew 5:1-11) has great importance for those who claim to be followers of Jesus. It brings his answer to the question: Where am I to find true happiness? – the ultimate concern, surely, in all our striving. Happiness – which is often confused in people’s minds with

the superficial contentment we call ‘a good time’ – will only be found in the things that meet our deepest needs as persons. And, in the end, only the things of God that will fill the ‘depths’ that are in every human person (John Paul II). As the world’s true Saviour, Jesus shows us how we can fill these depths – all that he stood for as he shared our life shows us the way to true happiness, even in this present life; and he promises to share with us his own happiness in the life to come. In today’s gospel he points out the way to those who want to be his true followers.

Note how Luke sets the scene. The audience addressed by Jesus is made up of two groups, ‘a large gathering of his disciples’ (those who have made a commitment to what Jesus stands for), and ‘a great crowd of people from all parts’ (those who are drawn to him, but hesitate to commit themselves more fully). Jesus ‘fixes his eyes’ on the first group, and addresses his teaching concerning true happiness to them. Note, however, that in the scene as Luke describes it there is no hard boundary dividing the two groups. Though the words of Jesus are addressed to the first group, they are also an invitation to those in the second group to find the joy that will be theirs if they take his paradoxical invitation seriously. And, because our Christian communities have always contained these two groups, Luke is inviting us to ask ourselves where we stand.

‘How happy are you who are poor’. Jesus’ teaching on true happiness – to be continued, we should note, in next week’s reading – overturns the assumptions of worldly wisdom. In Matthew we find a different wording: ‘Blessed (with true happiness) are the poor in spirit’. There is a subtle difference in what the two evangelists wish to convey of the teaching of Jesus. Luke does not canonise a state of material deprivation - in what follows, as we shall see, Jesus urges those who have material resources to use them with a generosity learned from their heavenly Father: what Matthew calls being ‘poor in spirit’. But it must also be recognised that Luke is calling to mind a fundamental biblical theme: those who are materially poor are privileged, not because they are morally superior, but because they are the object of God’s special concern: ‘God hears the cry of the poor’. Those who have learned to trust in this truth have found great blessings – whether their deprivation has been imposed on them by circumstance, or they have embraced a life of poverty that is voluntary, in imitation of the Saviour’s own life.

In our pursuit of happiness, God respects our freedom. As the first reading reminds us, the outcome depends the choices that shape our lives. Jesus contrasts true happiness with the ‘woes’ of an empty life. Perhaps we can see in today’s troubled world ‘a fulfilment of the woes Jesus directed against a rich, abundant, laughing, self-congratulating social order’ (Paul Tillich).

Fr John Thornhill SM

The Emmaus Series at www.themmausseries.com

Question of the Week

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.' (Luke 6: 20).

Adults: In what ways are you serving the poor, as Jesus did?

Young People: Who inspires you by how they favour poor people or those who mourn? **Children:** When have you helped bring God's love to someone who was sad, or hungry, or whom others made fun of?

Strathalbyn Sunday Mass

Father Philip is very grateful to our wonderful parishioners at Strathalbyn, for agreeing to change the Sunday Strath Mass time to 11am each week. This will help Father Philip to travel from one church to another and arrive on time! The new Mass time will commence on Sunday March the 2nd, 2025.

Welcome Lorelai Lobo

Please welcome Lorelai Lobo who will be managing the Parish Office over the next two weeks whilst Michelle takes annual leave.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

CGS is an approach to the faith formation of children that is grounded in scripture and the liturgy of the church. Children gather in an 'Atrium', a room prepared especially for them, which contains simple yet beautiful materials. Within this room they are given the freedom to choose their own pathway to prayer. Parents are encouraged to drop kids off at the beginning and pick up at the end. At least two police-checked adults are in attendance throughout each session.

Term 1 sessions will run through to week nine of term in the Parish House in Mt Barker. Now is a great time for children to begin if they have not tried CGS before.

Level 1 (3-6 year olds): Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00pm

Level 2 (6-9 year olds): Monday 4.00 - 6.00pm

Level 3 (9-14 year olds): Saturday 3:00 - 5:00pm

Bookings are essential and a payment of \$5 per session is appreciated. For bookings contact Teena on 0499 172 740.

Save the Date: World Day of Prayer

Friday 7th March - see next week's bulletin for more info!

Homeshare: A Solution to the Rental Crisis for Older Women

Homelessness among older women in Australia is increasing, making them one of the fastest-growing groups at risk of housing insecurity. The *Homeshare* program offers an innovative solution that fosters shared living based on mutual support and reciprocity - a model that has been successfully running around the world for years.

A partnership between St Vincent de Paul Society SA, Westside Housing and Shelter SA, the Homeshare Pilot Program is a fee free service that carefully matches female householders aged 55+ living on their own that have a spare bedroom, with female homesharers that need affordable accommodation from a similar age group that can offer some help around the house. Unlike a traditional flatmate arrangement, the matching process is rigorous: both parties undergo interviews, reference checks and police clearances to ensure a safe and reliable match.

If you're interested in learning more about becoming a householder or homesharer, please visit: www.vinnies.org.au/sa/get-involved/homeshare

2025 Jubilee Year of Hope - How to Obtain a Jubilee Indulgence

The Jubilee Year of Hope is a time for renewal, reflection, and spiritual growth. It gives us a chance to rediscover God's love, reconcile with others, and contribute to building a more just and merciful world. Through indulgences, pilgrimages, and acts of charity, the Jubilee invites us to grow spiritually and embrace our roles as peacemakers and witnesses to Christ's love.

What is an Indulgence?

A key feature of this Holy Year is the opportunity to gain an indulgence, part of the Catholic tradition aimed at deepening one's relationship with God and neighbour. Through an indulgence, once can be released from the temporal punishment due for sins that have already been forgiven through confession. It is an act of divine mercy, granted through the Church, that helps purify us and strengthen our commitment to a holy life. Indulgences remind us, particularly during a Jubilee Year, of God's abundant grace and call us to reconciliation and renewal.

To receive a plenary indulgence during the 2025 Jubilee Year, you must fulfil the usual conditions for a plenary indulgence:

- 1. Sacrament of Confession:** Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be in a state of grace.
- 2. Eucharist Communion:** Participate in Mass and receive Holy Communion, ideally on the same day as the pilgrimage.
- 3. Prayer for the Pope's Intentions:** Offer prayers, such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, or prayers of your choice, for the intentions of the Holy Father.
- 4. Pilgrimage to a Jubilee Site:** Visit a designated pilgrimage site. In the Archdiocese of Adelaide, the chosen sites are:
 - St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Adelaide
 - St. Joseph's Church in Penola, celebrating the legacy of St Mary MacKillop
 - St. Aloysius' Church in Sevenhill, home to the Jesuit winery and significant religious heritage.



This condition may also be fulfilled by alternate activities listed in the Apostolic Penitentiary Decree. These include making a pious pilgrimage of devoutly visiting any sacred Jubilee site and participating in Holy Mass there or other forms of prayer, through participation in formation of activities on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and Catechism of the Catholic Church, or through performing various works of mercy and penance.

Those who are unable to make a pilgrimage due to illness, age, or other constraints can still receive the indulgence by spiritually uniting themselves to the Jubilee celebrations through prayer and acts of charity.

St Vincent de Paul Soc. Campaign

We can Build a Fairer Australia. In the coming months, and in the lead up to the Federal election, St Vincent de Paul Society nationally will be releasing some ideas on how to improve the quality of life for all Australians, and how to find the funds to make Australia fairer. If this is of interest to you and you would like to comment or hear more, you are welcome to contact the SA Social Needs Analysis and Advocacy Committee – Jennifer Harvey on 8112 8702 or at svdp@svdpsa.org.au

Sunday Readings

FIRST READING JEREMIAH 17:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.

He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 1:1-4

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. **R.**

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. **R.**

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **R.**



SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12, 16-20

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

If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION LUKE 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL LUKE 6:17, 20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Next Week: February 23, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, *Be merciful as your Father is merciful.*

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, Psalm: 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13,

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, Gospel: Luke 6:27-38.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, Alleluia & Gospel verses, & Lenten Gospel Acclamation from *Lectioary for Mass*© 1969, 1981, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.