



We are a community learning to be disciples of Jesus

Welcome to Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish 23rd February 2025

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Masses

Our Lady of Mercy Church

5 Mann Street, Mount Barker

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 9am

Tue	9.30am	25/02
Wed	12 noon	26/02
Thu	9.15am	27/02
Fri	9.30am	28/02

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

None this week

Feast Days This Week

None this week

Exposition of the BI Sacrament:
Tuesday morning after Mass.

Reconciliation: Tuesday during and
after Exposition, Saturday 01/03
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 Cobiack Ph 0499 172 740

Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78



We must share the joy of the Gospel to bring hope to the world

“Never fear ‘to go out’ to the world” where “men and women live their joys and sorrows” and allow yourselves to be “shaken by the Holy Spirit” who spurs us to announce the joy and hope of the Gospel with creativity.

Addressing the delegation in the Consistory Hall, Pope Francis commended Congrès Mission for their “faithful commitment” to the service of the Gospel, which he said “is a source of light and hope in a world that so desperately needs it.” Noting that this year’s gathering to be held in the city of Bercy will take place in the context of the current Jubilee of Hope, Pope Francis remarked that “Joy is inseparable from hope and mission.” It is “not limited to fleeting enthusiasm but arises from a personal encounter with Christ and directs us toward our brothers and sisters.”

To be pilgrims therefore means “walking together in the Church, but also having the courage to go out and meet others” to bring hope by “offering the world a living word, rooted in the Gospel, a word that consoles and opens new paths.” Acknowledging that hope is often put to the test in our world marked by conflict, injustices, and “torn apart by individualism”, the Pope emphasized that the Christian certainty that “Christ is our hope” is “a gift to be shared, a light to be passed on.”

He therefore urged the Congrès Mission leaders to respond boldly to the call to mission allowing themselves “to be shaken by the Holy Spirit” “At times, this might mean stepping out of our usual schemes and even being willing to ‘create some confusion’ but the Holy Spirit pushes us toward creativity”, he said.

Pope Francis invited Congrès Mission to inspire especially young people, “the first pilgrims of hope”, by helping them grow in faith, dare to make courageous choices, and become themselves missionary disciples of Jesus. “Instill in them the boldness to dream of a more fraternal world, and accompany them so that they may become artisans of hope in their families, schools, and workplaces,” he urged, also encouraging them to cultivate relations between the elderly and young people.

Finally, Pope Francis invited Congrès Mission to never lose sight of communion which he said, is “a powerful witness to the world, a living demonstration of the love that identifies Christians as followers of Christ.”

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, Ailbe Sheehy, Cecelia Smeath, Barbara Turner, Alida van Dijk, Alwyne Williams, Mary Patricia Williams, Sandra Lloyd, Steve Parker.

Names are kept on the sick list for 4 weeks.

Recently Deceased

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

Anniversary of Death

Patricia Buswell, Mary Ann Callagher, Deborah Coad, Mary Harris, Robert Kinchington, Nick Neagle, Adeline Neville, Audrey Penter, Dorothy Scott, Brian Smith, Robert Snook, Maurice Stanslaus, Lorel Alice Tonkin, Philip Andrew Turner, Susanna Varley, Winifred & Ernest Woodland.

Anniversaries from Saturday 22nd to Friday 28th 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)	\$ 818.75
2nd Collection (supporting the parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 769.00
Online and direct debit	\$ 800.00
Loose plate	\$ 429.50
Total second collection	\$ 1,998.50

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 24/02 9:45 AM	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Tue 25/02 10:00 AM	CGS / Atrium Level 1	Parish House
Thu 27/02 10:30 AM	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Thu 27/02 4:00 PM	Vinnies	OLOM Foyer
Thu 27/02 5:00 PM	Piano Choir Practice	OLOM
Thu 27/02 7:30 PM	Guitar Choir Practice	OLOM
Sat 01/03 9:30 AM	Organ Choir Practice	OLOM
Sat 01/03 3:00 PM	CGS / Atrium Level 3	Parish House
Sun 02/03 10:15 AM	Sunday Readings	Strath Hall
Sun 02/03 10:30 AM	Legion of Mary	Parish House
Sun 02/03 3:00 PM	RCIA	OLOM Foyer

Reflection

on the Scripture Readings



Last week we heard Luke's presentation of 'The Beatitudes'. Today we continue the same passage – as Jesus spells out practical implications of a teaching that has immense importance for those who want to be his followers. We have heard

many times of the 'New Commandment' and the 'Law of Love'; but have we made them our rule of life? Today's gospel can help us to do this. 'Love your enemies', Jesus tells us. David's gesture towards king Saul demonstrates a certain nobility; but it is still far removed from the ideal of selflessness Jesus sets before us. 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you ... lend without any hope of return' may well seem an impossible ideal as a way of life. The first disciples of Jesus may well have made this judgment, had it not been for the memory of the life Jesus had lived in their midst. In the New Testament, these first followers share with us how they came to recognise the central importance of the New Commandment of love - as they reflected on the selfless life of Jesus and its culmination in his tragic death. St Paul, in today's second reading, tells us that he has come to see how Jesus has inaugurated a new beginning for the whole of humanity - far greater than that of the first creation. 'Bear one another's burdens', he wrote in another place, 'and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ' (Gal 6:2). It is the gift of the Saviour's own Spirit, he has come to see, that makes this possible: 'God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us' (Rom 5:5). John's interpretation of the teaching of Jesus is the same: 'I give you a new commandment ... that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends' (Jn 13:34; 15:12-13)

Clearly, this Law of Love – so insistently spelt out by Luke – is an ideal that none of us will ever fully realise. How can we love others as Christ himself has loved them? 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate'. How can our concern for the needy around us be compared with the loving mercy of the Father who 'gave his own Son', that the world may 'have eternal life' (Jn 3:16). Perhaps it is because this Law of Love seems an impossible ideal that Christians rarely think of it as a practical way of life. As his true disciples, however, Jesus tells us that we must never turn away from this ideal; it must be the measure of our lives. In the presence of the mystery of divine love, we will certainly be humbled, as we reflect upon our own performance. But in today's gospel takes us beyond this: Jesus teaches us how we can put the Law of Love into practice – we should never set limits to the practical good will we have towards our fellow human beings: be they friend or enemy, likely to repay us or not, reasonable or unreasonable in their demands. An impossible ideal it may still seem; but through the gift of God's own spirit, the example of followers of Jesus in every age is there to encourage us, as they gave their times a glimpse of what Jesus was really like. With them, the only reward we should seek is the joy that we share with our Lord, the joy of the selfless giver. And so Luke's presentation of the teaching of Jesus ends as it began, pointing the way to true happiness – in the gifts of God that will be ours when we identify with the generous ways of God, our joy will be 'a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running.

Fr John Thornhill SM

The Emmaus Series at www.themmausseries.com

Question of the Week

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. (Luke 6:27) **Adults:** What helps me to be able forgive those who hurt me? **Young people:** How have I shown compassion this week? **Children:** How do I think I can be like God?

Baptisms This Weekend

This weekend we welcome Luca James Burns into the Faith through the sacrament of Baptism. We ask God to bless Luca, his parents Edwina and Lachlan and godparents Clementine Mead, Rebecca Van Eldik and Sam Scudds on this special occasion. The baptism is on Sunday in the 9am Mass at Our Lady of Mercy.

We also welcome Charlotte Piper Pascoe into the Faith through the sacrament of Baptism. We ask God to bless Charlotte, her parents Annalyse and Daniel and godparents Leigh Phillips, Amanda Phillips, Scott Milway and Bruce Pascoe on this special occasion. The baptism is on Sunday at 1pm at Our Lady of Mercy.

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 next Sunday March the 2nd, 2025.

Couples For Christ Australia

Couples For Christ Australia (CFCA) is active within the Mt Barker / Strathalbyn Catholic Parish and would like to invite you to join in with our household groups to attend a Christian Life Program (CLP) of 7 weeks of inspiring talks and fellowship. The Christian Life Program strengthens the family in Christian growth, promoting understanding in the Catholic Faith and values and is the stepping stone into CFCA. Please view the brochure inside for more details and contact details. Scan the QR Code for access to the website for more details.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Term 1 sessions are currently running 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

There will not be a session for Level 2 on the 24th of February.

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

An invitation to respond with love to God and all his creation.

Our Parish now has a small Laudato Si' working group formed as part of being an Earthcare Parish through Cariitas Earthcare. Responding to the invitation of Pope Francis, the Australian Bishops Conference and our own Bishop Patrick O'Regan we have made a commitment to care for our common home and begun our journey to becoming a living Laudato Si Community. We hope you will join us on the journey! For more information go to the notice board (in the foyer) and/or contact: Jane Corin 0468516596 janefrancescorin@gmail.com

World Day of Prayer 2025

Parishoners and friends are invited to attend this year's World Day of Prayer service to be held at **10:30am on Friday 7th March** at Christ Church, Anglican Church, at 24 East Terrace, **Strathalbyn** and St. Marks Lutheran Church, 29/33 Hampden Road, **Mount Barker** at **7pm**. This year's prayer service is for Cook Islands. All are welcome.

PPC Report

At this week's PPC meeting, we discussed four main items of business.

1. Gospel reflection

Father Philip led us through Luke's gospel, focusing particularly on when Jesus read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. We were asked to consider the following, and what we as a PPC – and as individuals – might be being called to this year:

- Who are the poor to whom we should bring good news?
- Who are the captives who should be released?
- Who are the blind who require their sight to be restored?
- And who might be the downtrodden who should be set free?

2. Becoming an Earth care parish

We received a presentation from Jane Corin and Norbert Sobotta about Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' and how the Catholic community might contribute even more earnestly to the challenge of "hearing the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor". Jane and Norbert explained that to learn more about this, and to ultimately increase our contemplation and action in this area, we have registered as an Earth care parish, and a small group of parishioners has commenced meeting. More information about this initiative will be featured in the newsletter.

3. Hospitality and welcome

Given the opportunity that we have in such a growing community, and to support our pastoral work into the future, the PPC has agreed to undertake training being offered by the Archdiocesan Community Life and Worship team focusing on growing hospitality and welcome across our parish. We hope the training will offer us some practical strategies that we can use to meet new parishioners and help ensure that they feel part of our parish community.

4. The sacramental program

The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated in November and was a special occasion for everyone to share. With the support of the Knights of the Southern Cross, the children and their families came together in early February for a BBQ and Family Session. The Ritual of Belonging will be celebrated at each Mass time on the weekend of 1-2 March. We look forward to the celebrations of Confirmation and First Holy Communion on the long weekend in June when Father Philip will be the celebrant for the Sacrament of Confirmation Liturgy at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Mt Barker on Friday 6 June at 7 pm.



St Francis de Sales COLLEGE *Belong for life.*

Book a Tour Today.

Discover our Early Learning to Year 12 Catholic co-educational College located in the heart of Mount Barker.

Join us for one of our next College Tours to be held
Wednesday 5 March, 5:00pm - 6:00pm
Thursday 3 April, 9:30am - 10:30am

Ph: 8393 1000 | stfrancis.catholic.edu.au

Sunday Readings

FIRST READING 1 SAMUEL 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

A reading the first book of Samuel

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

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

R. 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. **R.**

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. **R.**

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. **R.**

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.**

SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 15:45-49

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

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION JOHN 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL LUKE 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

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: March 2, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, A person speaks from what is in his heart.

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7, Psalm: 91:2-3, 13-16, Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58, Gospel: Luke 6:39-45.

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