



Welcome to Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish 2nd March 2025

We are a community learning to be disciples of Jesus

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Masses

Our Lady of Mercy Church

5 Mann Street, Mount Barker

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 9am

Tue 9.30am 04/03 OLOM

Ash Wednesday

Wed 9.30am 05/03 Murray Bridge

Wed 12:00pm 05/03 St Francis De Sales College

Wed 6.00pm 05/03 The Good Shepherd

Wed 6.00pm 05/03 Our Lady of Mercy

Fri 9.30am 07/03 OLOM

The Good Shepherd Church

2 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn

Sunday 11am

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 06/03

Feast Days This Week

None this week

Exposition of the BI Sacrament:
Tuesday morning after Mass.

Reconciliation: Tuesday during and after Exposition and by appointment.

Our Priests

Fr Philip Marshall

philipxmarshall@gmail.com

Fr Ian Wilson

Assisting Priest

Our Personnel

Parish Secretary

Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary

7 Mann Street, Mt Barker SA 5251

Wed & Fri 9am-3pm Ph 8391 1053

mtbarkerparish@gmail.com

www.barkerstrathcatholic.com

Strath Ministry Coordinator

Sue Eckert Ph 0408 362 258

Safeguarding Contact Persons

Michelle Muller Ph 8391 1053

Teena Cobiac Ph 0499 172 740

Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78



Where we are lacking, the Lord responds abundantly

When we lack something, the Lord is ready to come to our aid and exceed our expectations.

Pope Francis made this observation to the faithful, he reflected on the Gospel according to St. John, which recounts Jesus' first "sign" of turning water into wine at the Wedding at Cana, responding to his mother's request. The Holy Father observed that the episode anticipates and summarizes the entire mission of Jesus, as he recalled how the Prophets Isaiah and Amos foresaw that on the day of the Messiah's coming, the Lord would prepare "a banquet of choice wines." Jesus, the Pope recalled, is the bridegroom who brings "the new wine." "They have no wine"

In this Gospel, the Pope said, we observe the two elements of lack and superabundance. "On one hand, the wine runs out, and Mary says to her Son: 'They have no wine'," he recalled. "On the other hand, Jesus intervenes, having six large jars filled, resulting in such an abundance of exquisite wine that the banquet master praises the bridegroom for keeping it until the end." Thus, Pope Francis reminded, "the sign of God is abundance."

When humanity is faced with need, he emphasized, God always responds, and never meagerly. God responds with abundance

The Holy Father went on to suggest that even at the "banquet" of our own lives, we sometimes realize that the wine is missing, especially when worries trouble us, fears that assail us, or destructive forces of evil rob us of the taste for life, the exhilaration of joy, and the flavour of hope. "Yet, in the face of this lack," he said, "the Lord abundantly pours out His love, bringing into our lives the wine of the Holy Spirit, which is the wine of joy and hope," and "gives it to us in abundance. "The Holy Father observed how it seems contradictory to think that the more we lack, the more superabundantly, the Lord responds, but, Pope Francis explained, it is because "the Lord wants to celebrate with us."

Pope Francis concluded by urging the faithful to pray that the Virgin Mary might intercede for us and, in this Jubilee Year, to help us rediscover the joy of encountering the Lord Jesus. The Holy Father observed how it seems contradictory to think that the more we lack, the more superabundantly, the Lord responds, but, Pope Francis explained, it is because "the Lord wants to celebrate with us."

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

Kenneth Anderson, Ernesto Baraglia, Generoso Barolo, Fr Robert Cleary, Rhoda Colyer, Joseph Cooke, Antonio Dаметto, Jennifer Fahey, Jennifer Faye, Harry & Nita Fenwick, Wally Finch, Geraldine Griffin, Alexandro Grossi, Fr Brendan Harnett, Lena Kukla, Mary Lawless, Maxwell Nayda, Leith Wallace, Brian Weatherall.

Anniversaries from Saturday 3rd to Friday 10th December.

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)	\$ 856.20
2nd Collection (supporting the parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 512.00
Online and direct debit	\$ 935.00
Loose plate	\$ 494.25
Total second collection	\$ 1,941.25

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	03/03	9:45 AM	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Mon	03/03	4:00 PM	CGS / Atrium Level 2	Parish House
Tue	04/03	10:00 AM	CGS / Atrium Level 1	Parish House
Wed	05/03		Ash Wednesday	
Thu	06/03	10:30 AM	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Thu	06/03	7:30 PM	Guitar Choir Practice	OLOM
Sat	08/03	9:30 AM	Organ Choir Practice	OLOM
Sat	08/03	3:00 PM	CGS / Atrium Level 3	Parish House
Sun	09/03	10:15 AM	Sunday Readings	Strath Hall
Sun	09/03	10:30 AM	Legion of Mary	Parish House
Sun	09/03	12:30 PM	Youth Group	OLOM Foyer
Sun	09/03	3:00 PM	RCIA	OLOM Foyer



Reflection

on the Scripture Readings

Once more, to appreciate what Luke intends to convey in today's gospel reading, we must hear it as a continuation of the passage we have reflected upon the last two Sundays. The parables of Jesus recalled in this reading are so familiar that they have become proverbial: the blind leading the

blind; the splinter in the brother's eye, a tree known by its fruits. Luke wants us to recognise that - as part of the teaching of Jesus - these parables are far more than the expression of homely truths. They certainly do express truths that are applicable to every human situation - continuing the wisdom tradition of old Israel, so wonderfully expressed in the reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus. But the Good News of the Kingdom brought by Jesus (expressed in the teaching to the disciples we have already reflected upon) brings a truth far greater than has ever been expressed before. It is the promise of a new kind of existence, to be found by identifying with the ways of the living God - after the example of the One who is the revelation of the Father.

Luke invites us to find this deeper meaning that these parables had for Jesus. In the light of Jesus' teaching concerning true happiness this deeper meaning is not difficult to grasp. The 'blindness' Jesus warns against, especially for those who are leaders and guides in the community of disciples, is the blindness of those who assume the role of leadership although they have not owned the Saviour as the Light of the world and committed themselves to the new order he has inaugurated with his Law of Love. Disciples who have not made this conversion will see living according to their old ways - placing selfish limits on their practical love for their neighbour - as no more than a tiny 'splinter' obscuring their vision. Such people do not recognise that presenting themselves as disciples of the Lord is kind of 'hypocrisy' - they make this clear by their readiness to point out the more obvious failings of their brothers and sisters. Genuine disciples will be known by their 'fruits': not in clever words or orations but in the witness of the quiet convictions that shape their lives - as, through the gift of Christ's Spirit, the disciple grows 'like his teacher'.

'The good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart'. Again, when related to the central message of the teaching of Jesus, these words are more than wise advice about the conduct of our lives. Jesus is speaking of the hearts of disciples - transformed by their acceptance of the ways of God after the example of Jesus, and putting no selfish limits to the love, or practical good will, they have towards their fellow human beings. The 'examination of conscience' has long been part of the practice of a dedicated Christian life. Today's gospel helps us to find the life-giving measure against which, as the Lord's disciples, we should review our lives. Those who have found the joy of true discipleship will recognise that something of the 'victory' Paul speaks of can already be ours, even in this present life.

Fr John Thornhill SM

The Emmaus Series at www.themmausseries.com

Question of the Week

Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? (Luke 6:41)

Adults: What have been my blind spots this week?

Young people: How do I feel when people criticize me?

Children: Who do I need to forgive?

Bring a Friend Weekend

To help grow our numbers and build the sense of welcome and hospitality, we have designated the second weekend of every month (and any time!) as a special opportunity bring a friend or family member to Mass... Who will you bring?



Ritual of Belonging

During Mass this weekend, the children and their families that are preparing to celebrate their Confirmation and First Holy Communion in June will celebrate the Ritual of Belonging.

They invite the Parish Community to continue to pray for them as they continue their journey towards full initiation into the Catholic Faith.

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.

Lenten Reflection Books

Our Lenten reflection booklets for 2025 have arrived. These are a free publication provided by the Adelaide Catholic Archdiocese Office for Worship, which can be picked up from church foyer this weekend.

We are still looking for someone to lead a Lenten Reflection group on Tuesdays, 6.45pm, The daytime session will meet on Wednesdays at 10am in the Our Lady of Mercy foyer, starting 5th March.

There may also be a group for Strathalbyn - to be advised.

Help Needed

Unfortunately we are now down to one person doing all of the cleaning at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Mount Barker. This is a very big burden to place on one set of shoulders. Are you able to help? Please contact Michelle or Lorelai in the Parish Office (mtbarkerparish@gmail.com) if you can help by joining a roster to clean occasionally.

Ash Wednesday Mass Times

Ash Wednesday Mass : Church of the Holy Redeemer, Murray Bridge, 9.30am

Ash Wednesday Service: Saint Francis de Sales College School gymnasium, 12.00pm (note this is a service not a mass)

Ash Wednesday Mass: Church of the Good Shepherd, Strathalbyn, 6.00pm

Ash Wednesday Mass: Church of our Lady of Mercy, Mt Barker, 6.00pm

Pancakes in the Park



Come and enjoy FREE pancakes in the park on Shrove Tuesday, 4th March from 5:30-7:00pm at Strathalbyn Soldiers Memorial Gardens, opposite the Victoria Hotel, sponsored by the Strathalbyn InterChurch Council. Range of sweet and savoury toppings, and Gluten Free options available. Please BYO own plate.

90th Birthday

It is Ian Paech's 90th Birthday on the 2nd March. We wish him a very Happy Birthday with many more to come.

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.

Loving the Least of These

Embrace Life, the pro-life focus of the Archdiocesan Justice, Healing and Inclusion Office invites you to its second Interactive Forum, "**Loving the Least of These**" with a focus on **Genesis Pregnancy Support Services**, presented by Ms Juli Sharpe on **Wednesday March 19 at 6pm-7:30pm** at John and Mary Fennessy Rooms, level 2, Centacare, 45 Wakefield Street, Adelaide. Free parking is available in the Cathedral carpark. Contact jhi@adelaide.catholic.org.au 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

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



Project Compassion Sunday 1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

Sunday Readings

FIRST READING SIRACH 27:4-7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.

The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.

The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of
its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels.

Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 91:2-3, 13-16

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. **R.**

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R.**

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.

In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 15:54-58

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

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and
when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words
of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory.
Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now
the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law.
So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord
Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep
on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the
Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION PHILIPPIANS 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL LUKE 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Next Week: March 9, First Sunday of Lent, Year C,

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Psalm: 90:1-2, 10-15, Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13, Gospel: Luke 4:1-13.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, Alleluia & Gospel verses, & Lenten Gospel Acclamation from
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