

Mt Barker & Strathalbyn Catholic Parish

We are a community learning to be disciples of Jesus

Thank you for joining us – we are so glad you're here



Masses

Sat	6:00pm	OLOM Mt Barker
Sun	9:00am	OLOM Mt Barker
Sun	11:00am	GS Strathalbyn
Tue	9:30am	OLOM Mt Barker
Wed	12 noon	OLOM Mt Barker
Thu	8:00am	SFdS College
Fri	9.30am	OLOM Mt Barker

Exposition of the Bl Sacrament:
Tuesday after Mass.
Reconciliation:
Tuesday after Mass, Saturday 5pm-5:30pm at Our Lady of Mercy, and by appointment.

Churches

Our Lady of Mercy (OLOM)
5 Mann Street, Mount Barker

The Good Shepherd (GS)
2 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn

St James the Less
Closed for repairs

Priests

Fr Philip Marshall
philipfxmarshall@gmail.com
Fr Ian Wilson, assisting

Catholic College

St Francis de Sales College
8 Dutton Road, Mt Barker
Ph 8393 1000

Social Media

www.barkerstrathcatholic.com
www.youtube.com/
@OurLadyofMercyMtBarker

Administration

Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary
7 Mann St, Mt Barker 5251
Ph 8391 1053
mtbarkerparish@gmail.com
Strath Ministry Coordinator
Sue Eckert Ph 0408 362 258

Safeguarding Contact Persons

Michelle Muller Ph 8391 1053
Teena Cobiac Ph 0499 172 740
Joanna Falkland Ph 0400 266 486
Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78

Vinnies

For assistance call 1300 729 202
Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm

▪ November 29th 2026 ▪
First Sunday of Advent



Reflection

"Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down," prays Isaiah.

And God does.

Not just at Christmas. At every moment God reduces the infinite distance between us to nothing.

We live at every breath within the beautiful abyss of God. If we had eyes to see it, it would be glorious.

Which is exactly what Jesus invites us to.

Don't live life always on the surface, alien to the depths of each moment, prey to the unkind tricks of our mind.

Awaken to the glorious presence of God at every heartbeat.

Choose 'yes' at every instant.

God does not come to catch us out.

God comes to catch us up.

- Fr Philip

Questions to ponder

'Keep awake – for you do not know when the owners of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn – lest coming suddenly they find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake'. (Mark 13: 35 – 37)

Adults: At this time, how faithful do you feel you are being to God's plan for you?

Young People: When I look at the people in my daily life, who are the ones Christ is sending to help me, and who are the ones Christ is showing me I could help?

Children: What good things might God be asking you to do right now?

Held in our prayers

Sick

Harry Alkom, Cleta Armitage, John Burton, Jack and Dawn Ballinger, Maxine Brook, Henk Daams, Alida van Dijk, Ian Feltus, John Feltus, Gerald Feltus, Brian Fiora, Frances Greenslade, Andrew Harms, Ashlee Lloyd, Helen Malin, Froilan Milan, David Neville, Barb Paech, Michael Persse, Ailbe Sheehy, Cecelia Smeath, Anna Stolarski, Gertrude Stolarski, Alwyne Williams, Mary Patricia Williams.

Recently deceased

Stan Srpek.

Anniversary of death

Hilda Bavington, Francis Michael Byrth, Ben Connerton, John Cooke, Bob Graham, Rose Grave, Gwen Green, Merv Green, Eric Hawthorn, Cyril Hird, Wally & Rosina Stokolosa, Simon Tucker, Gloria Wajwoda, John Joseph Walsh.
Anniversaries from Saturday 28th November to Friday 4th December.

Our parish at work

Parish Pastoral Council

Supporting us on our journey of faith.

Chair Neil McGoran with Fr Philip Marshall, Fr Ian Wilson, Andrew Baker, Jen Delima, Stewart Chilcott, Joanna Falkland, Yesamma Hendry, Lijo Kurian, Sandra Lloyd, Leo Sexton, Jan Sobotta.
Email: neil.mcgoran@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Liturgy Coordination Group

Facilitating our liturgical worship

Chair Jen Delima with Fr Philip Marshall, Anne Bagshaw, Cecily Barton, Marg Daly, Sandra Lloyd.

Parish Finance Council

Parish property, maintenance and finance.

Chair Peter Schaefer with Fr Philip Marshall, Mike Galea, John Cook, Navin De Silva.

Collections last week

1st (for our priests)	$	1,142.35
2nd (for the parish)	$	2,622.00

Thank you for supporting our parish and our priests.

To join our planned giving program, scan the **QR code**, **log on** to adelaide.goodgiving.com.au/qr/parish/mbs or arrange a **direct debit** to BSB 066782 account 100000485 (with 5 zeros), account name CCES Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Parish.



Parish Consultation St James the Less Church

Sunday 13 December, 12 noon | Strathalbyn Hall

Parishioners are warmly invited to a consultation regarding a proposal for the sale of St James the Less Church, Macclesfield. The proposal has been recommended by the Parish Finance Council and endorsed by the Parish Pastoral Council and a group of Macclesfield parishioners.
We recognise the special place St James the Less holds in the hearts and memories of many, and welcome the opportunity to listen and discern together before any further steps are taken. All are very welcome.

Focus on safeguarding

Let me help you!

Please contact Michelle via email or visit the parish office if you need help with the Working with Children Check (WWCC) application process. Perhaps we can submit the form and then see you in person at the office to photograph your ID (and yourself) and complete the online process with you.

Essential training

Please email Michelle at the parish office if you would like to do the **online** safeguarding essentials training – you will be sent an individual link. Or why not attend a **face-to-face** session at Cathedral Hall, 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, Wednesday 2 December 2026 or Tuesday 23 February 2027, 10am to 12pm.

Your contact details

Help us to keep in touch when you need us the most - pick up a 'My Contact Details' form today and return it over the next few weeks.

Important! Scam alert

The Archbishop's Office has received notification about a message received from Archbishop O'Regan through WhatsApp. Please note that Archbishop does not have a WhatsApp account, a person is simply impersonating him. We encourage you to be vigilant for the key warning signs of scams which include:

- Unexpected requests for money, gift cards, bank details, wire transfers or charitable partnerships.
- Urgent or pressured language such as "immediate action required".
- Messages that appear to come from a known person but use a slightly altered email address.
- Requests to change payment details or banking information.
- Unexpected links or attachments such as invoices or login requests.
- Poor grammar, unusual wording, or a tone that differs from the sender's normal style.
- Requests to bypass normal approval processes or maintain secrecy.

Feasts & memorials

Mon 30	St Andrew	Feast
Thu 3/12	St Francis Xavier	Memorial

Parish diary

Mon 30	9:45am	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Thu 03	10:00am	Funeral – Stan Srpek	Good Shepherd, Strathalbyn
Thu 03	10:30am	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Sat 05	9:30am	Organ choir practice	OLOM Church
Sun 06	10:30am	Legion of Mary	Parish House
Sun 06	10:15am	Sunday Readings	Strathalbyn Hall

The season of Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the Church year and calls us to prepare, to listen to the call of the prophets, the cries of the poor and ultimately to the Word become flesh.

Advent 2026 reflection booklet

Prepare the way of the Lord: make straight His path. Advent is a time of waiting, hope and preparation. This year's advent resource offers an opportunity to pause in the joy of the gospel. Copies are now available at each church: please take one home for personal or small group reflection or download it from the Archdiocesan website.

Second Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday 9 December, 7pm | Our Lady of Mercy
Prepare your heart for the coming of Christ this Christmas by celebrating the Sacrament of mercy. The evening will begin with a brief communal liturgy of the Word and an examination of conscience, followed by individual confession and absolution. All are warmly welcome to attend and experience God's healing grace.

40th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit to Australia

This weekend, we remember and celebrate Pope John Paul II's call to us... to receive the wisdom, spirituality, and culture of First Nation Australians as essential to the Church's identity and life, so we may be the Church Jesus calls us to be.
" You are part of Australia...The Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others".

Twilight Retreat: Entering the Peace of Christ

Friday, 4 December 2026 |6-8pm | St Theodore's Church Hall, Toorak Gardens | Free entry (donations welcome)
Prepare your heart for Advent with a peaceful evening of community prayer and spiritual rest, hosted by the World Christian Community for Meditation Australia (SA). Welcoming both beginners and seasoned prayers, this gentle twilight retreat offers a quiet space to step away from the pre-Christmas rush and center yourself in God's love. The evening will include quiet time in St Theodore's community spiritual garden - please bring a jacket or shawl. Book via QR code or search Humanitix website for "Advent Twilight Retreat Toorak Gardens".

Caritas Australia Global Gifts

Purchase a Caritas Australia Global Gift this Christmas: a meaningful card that helps create lasting change for vulnerable communities around the world. Your gift can change lives by putting food on a family's table or helping a young girl stay in school. Browse the full range of Global Gifts: www.caritas.org.au/global-gifts
Thank you for your generous support of Caritas Australia.

Christmas

Concert at the Cathedral

Friday 4 December 7pm | St Francis Xavier Cathedral
Sunday 6 December 12pm | Holy Cross Church, Goodwood Rd, Millswood. Free entry, donations are welcome.

Carols at St Raphael's

Sunday 6th December, 4pm | 11 Young Street, Parkside
Carols, Adoration & Benediction, followed by supper in the Brereton Room. All welcome!

Feast in the park

20 December, 3-5pm | the Rotunda, Strathalbyn
Gold coin per person, credit card facilities available.
Join us for a feast of food, festivities, face-painting and Christmas music. Strictly no alcohol. Everyone welcome.

Christmas Masses

Welcoming everyone to this wonderful celebration

Thursday 24th December 6pm (carols from 5.40pm)
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Mount Barker
Children are invited to come in nativity costume.
Join afterwards for Birthday cake and juice.

Thursday 24th December 8pm
The Good Shepherd Church, Strathalbyn

Thursday 24th December 10pm (carols from 9.40pm)
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Mount Barker
Join afterwards for Christmas cake and coffee / tea

Friday 25th December 09am
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Mount Barker
Join afterwards for cake and coffee / tea

Calling all parishioners

If you are struggling with cost of living this Christmas, the St Vincent de Paul Society can supply you with a Christmas hamper and gifts for children. Just ring 1300 729 202 and have your name added to the list.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Vinnies provides practical assistance to struggling families and individuals such as food, furniture, clothing, bedding, and in some cases financial support to assist in paying bills. Donation envelopes are available from your church to make a cash or credit card donation - you can return your envelope in the collection plate on any Sunday. Your support for the work of Vinnies is greatly appreciated. Vinnies **raffle tickets** are also for sale: $2 each or 3 for $5.

Christ the King BBQ

A big thank you to Pat and his team for Sunday's excellent sausages. A great way to celebrate the feast of Christ the King. The initiative, food and fellowship was appreciated and enjoyed by all the diners.



First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
- at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

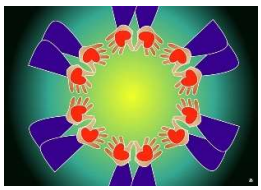
Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.
Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see,
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.
Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.



The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next week: December 6, second Sunday of Advent, Year B,
Make straight the paths of the Lord.
First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, Psalm: 84:9-14,
Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14, Gospel: Mark 1:1-8.

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