



· **Father Paul Writes - 10th of September, 2023**

I welcome you as we today celebrate the Season of Creation. This season is set over five or so weeks between September the 1st and October the 4th. However, we have set aside two Sundays in our church calendar, today, and on Sunday the 1st of October, where we celebrate St Francis of Assisi and the Blessing of the Animals. The Season of Creation is a liturgical season dedicated to prayer, reflection and a celebration of God as Creator. It also celebrates and reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation and the mission given us by God to care for creation and respond to its needs and crises today. The Bible readings for today reflect God's creation, in God creating the world and humankind, in being content with what we have and in Jesus having power over nature in calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee.

Our Christian Introductory Course Alpha continues this afternoon at 5 pm in the meeting room adjacent to the church. This afternoon's topic is called "Why and How Should I read the Bible". Another interesting topic where we watch a video and have discussion. It will start with welcome refreshments and a light meal. If you have not been to one of these sessions, you are most welcome. In two weeks' time on Saturday the 23rd of September starting at 9.30 am, we will hold a day session on "Who is the Holy Spirit", "what does the Holy Spirit Do" and "How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit". Once again, all are welcome to attend.

Next Saturday the 16th of September, we are simulcasting the National Grandparents Conference from Figtree Anglican Church in Wollongong. The conference aims to engage, equip, and encourage grandparents and ministry leaders to be intentional in leaving a faith legacy for others to follow, especially grandchildren. The conference will bring a diverse range of speakers. Anyone who attended the conference last year will affirm the encouragement we received and so I encourage you to register and also anyone else you may wish to invite. Registrations close on Wednesday at midday, so please notify me before then. The cost is just \$25.00 for the day, which includes lunch and morning and afternoon tea, along with a fun and stimulating day. The

conference will be simulcast from St Stephen's Chapel in the church and will start at 8.30 am

Next Sunday, it will be Stewardship Sunday. This Sunday is part of our focus this year, in giving our time, talents and next Sunday our treasure to God. It is a time where we commit to spiritual growth, in serving God according to our gifts and considering our treasure, that is our financial commitment to the parish for the next 12 months. This is certainly not a stewardship campaign, no commitment cards to fill out, just a time to prayerfully consider our financial giving for the parish, with the hope of balancing our budget this year and in the years to come. Following the service at 10 am you are welcome to join us for a barbecue lunch. Please bring along a salad or a sweet dish to share along with your own drinks.

Our community seminars continue Wednesday the 20th of September at 2 pm, the topic "Waste Management: Which Bin and the Circular Economy". Sarah McConaghy from Burnside Council will present the seminar on how to have best practice regarding waste management, reducing gas emissions and caring for our environment. The seminar is free and will be followed by afternoon tea. For further information, ring Beth on 8338 7839. There is no need to book, just come along.

Just a reminder about our Quiz Night on Friday night the 29th of September at 7 pm. Tickets are available from Rose Miller and Bobbie Luks at the Parish Office. Otherwise, just roll up on the night. The night aims to be a fun night. Bring along some nibbles and drinks together with gold coins for games.

The final figures are in for the Sri Lankan Dinner held on Friday the 21st of July. After expenses, \$2,870.00 was made. This amount will be equally divided between the parish as a fundraiser and for the ABM's appeal for Sri Lanka. Thank you once again to Shanka Wijesundara for all his co-ordination with others who assisted and in his cooking skills in making it such a great night.

Your friend and priest,

Fr Paul