



Father Paul Writes - 15th of October, 2023

I welcome you all as we come together to worship God and His Son Jesus Christ. I welcome Steve Parker today who as a layreader at St Saviour's will preach for us today at our 8 am and 10 am services.

We have I am sure been shocked over the past week by the conflict between Hamas and Israel and the human cost in terms of dead and wounded on both sides. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Israel and Palestine and also with the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Ahli Arab Hospital based in Gaza, which the diocese supports and with the assistance of the ABM. The partnership between the diocese and the hospital goes back many decades and there has been a request for further support in recent days. Bishop Keith Rayner informed me during the week that he has visited this hospital twice. We pray for an immediate ceasefire and for a resolution of the longer-term conflict that has caused so much suffering in Palestine over many decades. Archbishop Hosam of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East writes:

“We call upon the authorities on both sides to agree to an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza conflict in order to the end the rain of death and destruction that has had tragic consequences for thousands of individuals and families”.

“In the meantime, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is continuing its Christian mission of bringing healing to the wounded, relief to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods, and comfort to those who mourn the loss of loved ones”.

He urged everyone to give generously to the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza which has been on the frontlines of these relief efforts and a beacon of hope to those trying to remain alive under such dire circumstances. You can donate through the ABM website www.abmission.org

Thank you to all those who donated to two retiring collections to help those affected by the earthquake in Morocco and the flooding in northern Libya late last month. Nearly \$800 was raised. The money for the earthquake appeal has gone to the Catholic Church's mission agency, Caritas while the donation to Northern Libya has been sent to the Anglican Relief and Development Fund.

Our Alpha Course continues this afternoon at 5 pm. The session today is titled "Does God Heal Today?", a topical subject at this time. It centres on what the Bible says on healing, how God works through healing and how do we heal. It will begin with welcome refreshments, a light meal, a video and discussion. If you have not been to an Alpha session before, you are most welcome to join us this afternoon. Speaking of healing, Fr Graeme Kaines will be available next Sunday to pray for anyone who may wish this sacrament, a grace from God. It will be offered at the 10 am Sung Eucharist. It is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to be prayed for and anointed for healing. It is also open to anyone who you may know to invite them along as well. The sacrament is offered during Holy Communion and after the service in the chapel. Fr Graeme is also available on Wednesday and Friday mornings at the church between 9 am and midday for anyone who wishes to speak to a priest, for pastoral care and for prayer.

Next Sunday, it will also be Anglicare Sunday. It will be an opportunity to hear about the work of Anglicare in Adelaide. The Rev'd Ben Falcon, the Acting Manager, Mission & Anglican Community Development will be our guest preacher at both the 8 am and 10 am services. St Saviour's is a great supporter of the Magdalene Centre in providing food and with the Christmas hampers.

We are holding our annual memorial service on Sunday the 5th of November at 4.30 pm for those who would like the opportunity to remember a loved one. This may be someone who has died in the past 12 months or in memory of a loved one in years gone by. The service involves a simple liturgy, quiet music, the lighting of candles and prayers. Please let anyone else know of the service, someone who may have lost a loved one whom they wish to remember at this beautiful quiet time. The service will be followed by afternoon tea.

With every blessing,

Fr Paul