



## · **Father Paul Writes - 5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023**

I welcome you on this day where we celebrate the countless multitude of people including many whom we have known, who are now in heaven. They are not the canonized saints but all the good and holy people that have lived. We remember them and continue to be inspired by the qualities they revealed in their lives in humility, a concern for justice, gentleness, purity of heart, mercy and courage. We take comfort in knowing that from their home in heaven, they intercede for us still. Today's celebration of All Saints also reminds us of our deep calling to become better people than we currently are and to practice what Jesus Christ preached and to live with what we believe.

This afternoon, we commemorate the faithful departed with a memorial service at 4.30 pm in the church. It is where we express our unity with them by praying for the eternal repose of their souls and lighting a candle in memory of them. It will be a simple liturgy, some reflective music and prayers. The service will be followed by an afternoon tea in the hall adjacent to the church.

On Tuesday, we meet for our friendship lunch and to join in with some fun, being the day when the nation stops to watch the race, The Melbourne Cup. It is always a lot of fun and this year, we will be able to watch the race with a large screen television which has been donated. The lunch starting at 12.30 pm is just \$7.00. There will be sweeps available and a prize for the fanciest female outfit for the day and for the best male attire. Please place your name and anyone else you have invited on the sheet at the back of the church today, or call Sue Lewis on 0431 151 552.

The television to be used in watching the Melbourne Cup will be one that will enhance our technology for the parish in the future. It will potentially be used for the church and the meeting room for presentations, seminars, promoting events, showing videos etc. It will also be connected to the internet with the purchase of a router and a 12-month mobile internet plan. The Parish Council approved the purchase of the television last month which has been purchased by Katy Phillips, with funds donated. The TV has been fitted to a trolley enabling it to be moved between the church and the meeting room. However, it will always need two people to do so.

The Synod of the Diocese of Adelaide was held last weekend. I encourage you to take away a copy of the Archbishop's address or to download it by following the link: <https://adelaideanglicans.com/news-events/synod-gatherings/synod-2023/> It focuses very much on the future mission of the Diocese of Adelaide, the collaboration between parishes, the well-being of clergy, unity and reconciliation. Subsequently, the Diocese passed a motion encouraging clergy to take two consecutive days off a week for rest, recreation and the nurturing of family and friendships that contribute to a community life beyond the parish. In doing so, it reflected the demanding challenges of ministry, the well-being of clergy and in preventing burnout. I have tried to take one day off a week on Mondays, but this has been a challenge at times this year with completing my Graduate Certificate of Ministry through St Barnabas Theological College and with other demands. I do ask respectfully not to contact me on Mondays unless of course it is an emergency. The subjects this year concentrated on mission and evangelism and in developing theological reflection practices within contemporary ministry.

Plans are underway for Christmas! One initiative is to combine with the Indian Christian community who meet in our meeting room and to jointly hold a carol service on Saturday night the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. Rather than having two separate carol services, it has been agreed to hold this joint carol service, with a combination of music from their culture and ours. The combined choir practiced for the first time on Thursday night. The carol service will be at 7 pm.

Your friend and priest,

Paul