



## · **Father Paul Writes - 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 2024**

I welcome you on this 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter. If you are a visitor, please make yourself known to me or one of the welcomers at the conclusion of the service.

This week's decision by the Federal Government to outlay \$900-million to help fight domestic violence against women is welcomed. Statistics show that one in six Australian women experience violence at home. It is a major cause of homelessness and is something each one of us cannot ignore. A family structure is one that builds a haven, a place of love, trust and respect. It starts with honouring women in our lives, listening to their voices, valuing their opinions and creating an environment where everyone feels safe.

Jesus speaks of this relationship of love, one where Jesus describes the nature of the relationship between the believer and himself as a relationship of love. This chain of love runs from the Father to the Son, and from the Son to the believer, but only if the believer keeps the commandments of Jesus. Jesus tells his disciples of the greatness of his love for them – he lays down his life for them, and they are now his friends. They are dear to him because he has chosen them to be his own and so he does with us. Alleluia!

In today's first reading, we hear of an experience of the Holy Spirit coming down on all the listeners, including those who did not believe. This reminds us of the generosity, breath, and inclusivity of God's outpouring of the Spirit of Love. Let our hearts be formed by love and let our relationships be formed by love.

Today as part of Kids @ Church, we welcome the pastoral care worker at Linden Park Primary School, Phillip Reyes at our 10 am service. He will speak about his role at the school. Philip supports students and teachers at the school with funding from the Federal Government and the Burnside Inter-Church Council. Speaking of which, the Burnside Inter-Church Council is holding a quiz night on Friday June the 14<sup>th</sup> in an effort to raise funds for the Pastoral Care Workers in the area. Tickets are \$20. It will be a great event. In the past, we have had two or three tables at the quiz night at the Burnside Uniting Church.

St Saviour's is this year again part of the worldwide ecumenical program called "Thy Kingdom Come". It starts on Ascension Day, this Thursday and finishes ten days later where we celebrate Pentecost. We are being asked to pray for five people you would like to come to know Jesus Christ. To help us along the way, there is a prayer journal and a Novena bible study available at the back of the church. It is where we also pray for a renewal of the Church and commit ourselves to help proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. We pray too for God to help us witness God's grace and mercy to others. From next Thursday until Pentecost, a daily email will be sent to your inboxes, with a video from world church leaders along with a prayer reflection. Another resource to encourage us in our spiritual journey and for others to participate as well. I encourage you also to celebrate Ascension Day at our 7.30 am Holy Eucharist on Thursday.

Next Saturday, the relaunched Anglican Creation Care Network will meet at St Theodore's Toorak Gardens at 9.30 am. The Network aims to encourage parishes around the Province of SA to become more environmentally sustainable and ultimately work towards the Dioceses in SA becoming zero carbon neutral by 2040. The network is being supported by Beth Walton and me from St Saviour's, and so we do encourage you to come along next Saturday.

This week, I will be on a clergy conference at Murray Bridge from tomorrow (Monday) until Wednesday lunchtime. The keynote speaker at the conference will be Professor Albert Haddad. He is the Dean of the University of Divinity and has more than 25 years of leadership experience in the university sector and in corporate Australia and not for profit organisations. Bp Keith Rayner will take Morning Prayer next Wednesday at 10 am. I am still available by phone during the conference if needs be and I will check emails at various times.

Finally, we are seeking expressions of interest for people to assist as a server or lay assistant at our 10 am service. This would be a once every six weeks commitment. There would be training given before starting. Please address enquiries to me.

Your friend and priest, Paul