



Father Paul Writes - 12th of May, 2024

A warm welcome to you all and especially a warm welcome to the Rev'd Sue Burgess who is our preacher today. This month is Chaplaincy Month, where we give thanks and hear about the role of chaplaincy in our schools, hospitals, and aged care facilities in our Diocese. Sue is the Anglicare SA Residential Aged Care Chaplain for northern Adelaide, a position she has taken up in recent months. Sue is familiar to many of us, being the twin sister to Judy Bowyer and having baptised Nikoletta Grace Beka in October last year.

Today is Mother's Day. It is a day where we gather with hearts of gratitude and love for our mothers, both living and departed. Mothers are indeed a wonderful embodiment of strength, wisdom and unwavering love. And so, it is only fitting we honour them, not just today, but every day. We will give thanks for them today during our 10 am service, so all Mum's, be present!

On Thursday, it was Ascension Day; 40 days after Jesus Christ rose again. Jesus appeared to his disciples and many others before He ascended into heaven. Before He did, He commissioned the disciples to go out to all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, a commission which stands for us today.

In our bible readings, we hear of another apostle being appointed to replace Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus and who subsequently took his life. Jesus had chosen 12 apostles to be the nucleus of the new Israel (the Church). Hence Matthias was appointed to maintain this equilibrium. Just as the Jews traced their roots back to the twelve sons of Jacob, so the new Israel is rooted in the twelve apostles. This is why it was so important to choose a substitute for Judas. In the Gospel, we have part of Jesus' solemn prayer at the Last Supper. Here he prays for his disciples whom he is leaving behind to carry on his work.

Speaking of prayer, we have the opportunity to pray for five people between now and next Sunday who do not know Jesus and invite them to come along

next Sunday to help celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit for the first Christians. It is called Pentecost Sunday, a day where we say Happy Birthday to the Church. The word "Pentecost" means in Greek 50. It will be 50 days after Easter, where the Holy Spirit came like a rush of a violent wind amongst the early Christians and where they started speaking in different languages. I do not expect this next Sunday, but I do encourage you to come along and wear something red and to invite someone else too. The church will be decorated with red balloons as well!

Over the next week, you should receive a daily email with videos through the ecumenical worldwide prayer movement called Thy Kingdom Come. The videos aim to encourage us in our spiritual journey and as you pray for those five people you have chosen. There is also a daily bible study based on Revelation.

The Archbishop of Adelaide, Geoff Smith will visit St Saviour's of Sunday the 9th of June. There will be just the one service on that day at 10 am. There will be a special morning tea following the Eucharist. Please mark this date in your diaries and come along as Archbishop Geoff presides and preaches on that day.

Thank you for everyone who has bought wine over the past few weeks for the ABM's Encounter Program. Only four dozen bottles are left from a pallet of 64 dozen. They have sold quickly through the support of St Saviour's, ABM supporters, other parishes and Archbishop Geoff Smith! The money raised will go towards bring a priest from Papua New Guinea coming to South Australia for up to three months, to gain experience from us and from him as well!

Your friend and priest,

Paul