



· **Father Paul Writes - 7th of July, 2024**

I welcome you on this Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and stay for morning tea afterwards. We welcome families and children on the first Sunday of the month to our Kids @ Church Service. We also today recognize and celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with the start of NAIDOC Week. It is also a time to learn about the cultures of First Nations' peoples.

Our bible readings this week focus on three main characters who suffer rejection and humiliation. In some ways, we can relate to them, where being a witness to people can be difficult, when they do not respect our faith in Jesus Christ. The Old Testament prophet, Ezekiel states, the task of the faithful disciple is to keep witnessing to our faith, whether they listen or not. In the New Testament reading, St Paul explains how he perseveres when he's confronted by rejection and humiliation. Paul's second letter to the Church in Corinth was motivated by a vicious attack on his ministry and reputation. Struggles like these can get in the way of trying to live out our faith. However, Paul uses his weakness and failures to constantly remind himself of his dependence on God's power. Jesus suffers rejection too when he returns to his hometown of Nazareth. He is rejected by those close to him by their lack of faith. It eliminated the opportunity for them to encounter God's love and mercy and for spiritual change towards selfless love that God most desires. His rejection was another step towards the cross, where he would demonstrate to the world what God's love truly meant. Our weaknesses can invite us to deepen our loving relationship with God and to invited others to encounter Jesus, when they feel rejected and unloved.

Our focus on our ministry in the church and how we become more missional as a church community continues with another session in the course "Mission Shaped Introduction" on Tuesday night at 7 pm in the meeting room. This fifth session will consider our life of worship, missional spirituality, the ten marks of an apostolic person, group or community and what we need to sustain ourselves spiritually in a mission-shaped ministry. This course is open to everyone and so come along, even if you have not attended any of the sessions. There are welcome refreshments available at 6.45 pm before we start at 7 pm. The session goes for 90 minutes. For those on parish council,

we will then spend half an hour or so dealing with any urgent agenda items and considering the various monthly council reports.

I encourage you to make use of a monthly prayer diary available at the back of the church. The ABM Partners Praying Together uses the lectionary prayers for each day along with prayers for ABM Partners overseas. It also enables us to pray for the various observances through the United Nations. It is a great resource to assist us in our daily prayers. As well, in the pew sheet, there are the prayers for those whom we pray for daily in our Worldwide Anglican Communion. Additionally, readings for Morning Prayer each day are listed. You can join me for Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at 8.30 am and Fridays at 9 am. Otherwise, use your prayer book for the daily services (pp.383-424) or download the app 'epray'.

There are just a few tickets left for the Sri Lankan dinner on Friday night the 19th of July. Tickets are \$45.00 each and are available from Sue Lewis. Proceeds for the dinner will be equally divided between the Parish and the ABM's Sri Lanka appeal. More details about the appeal will be available on the night.

On Saturday morning the 20th of July at 10 am, there will be a Farewell Eucharist Service at St Peter's Cathedral for Bishop Denise Ferguson. Members of the Parish are invited to the farewell to give thanks to God for her ministry as the Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Adelaide over the past five years. There will be a light luncheon to follow. For catering purposes, please RSVP by Wednesday the 11th of July to Jennifer Ramos at bishopsoffice@adelaideanglicans.com Parishes or individuals are invited to make a donation toward a farewell gift for Bishop Denise. Please see bank details below, should you wish to contribute: Anglican Diocese of Adelaide, BSB: 705-077, Account: 00000172, Description: Bishop Denise

On Sunday the 21st of July at 10 am, we will baptise Charlotte and Emily Miller and welcome them into our church family. It is a day when we will also celebrate Mary Magdalene. Mary was among the women who assisted Jesus and the apostles as they travelled and preached the Good News. She was the first person to see the risen Christ.

Your friend and priest,

Paul.