



Father Paul writes – July 14

Welcome to St Saviour's. We are delighted to have you worship with us today. If you are a visitor, please make yourself known to me or one of the welcomers. Please stay for morning tea following both services.

Today's Gospel reading follows on from last week where Jesus sent out his disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God by curing the sick, raising the dead and driving out evil spirits. Jesus gives them a share of his own power and authority to carry out these powerful works. He calls for personal commitment and trust and freedom from earthly comforts. Jesus also warns them of the possibility of rejection, that this is not an occasion of discouragement but a challenge to move on. King Herod hears of this success and believes that John the Baptist has risen from the dead. We then hear of what had happened to John the Baptist, in being arrested and beheaded on the insistence of Herodias' daughter. The story of John's death is a reality check for every Christian. It is inevitable that there will be times when we will meet opposition, and our commitment and loyalty is tested as Christians. There may be times when we fail and let evil win the day. We should not be paralysed by failure. God's love never leaves us, and He is always calling out to us. We pray for the ability to receive God's love so that we can pour that love to others.

Today on this Sea Sunday, we give thanks for the work of the largest mission in the Anglican Communion, the Missions to Seafarers. It was founded in Bristol in the UK in 1856. There are 27 centres around the country, largely staffed by volunteers. Over the past year or so, nearly 80-thousand seafarers attended these centres. There are several in South Australia, including Port Pirie, Port Lincoln and Thevenard.

Next Sunday, Charlotte and Emily Miller will be baptised during the 10 am Eucharist. We will welcome them into God's family and make them an inheritor of God's kingdom. The baptisms will coincide with the celebration of Mary Magdalene. Mary was one of the women who ministered to Jesus in Galilee. She was the first to recognise Jesus after his resurrection. From midday until 1.30 pm, there will be a lunch offered in the church's meeting room for some of the longer term residents at the Tollgate and the Jackson's Motor Inn. This is an initiative of the Parish Council in helping those in need. It is being trialled once a month for the next three months.

Our final mission shaped introduction course is on Tuesday night at 7 pm. This session is called Rediscovering Missional Listening. It aims to understand the nature of listening and discernment, in listening to God in our context and how this may help us shape our parish vision. The Flourishing Communities Coordinator for the Diocese, the Rev'd Helen Phillips will lead this session. Come along earlier for welcome refreshments at 6.45 pm before we start at 7 pm. This final session will go for up to two hours. If you have only been to one of these sessions over the past five weeks, I encourage you to come on Tuesday night for this final session.

The annual meeting of the St Saviour's Cemetery will be held at 10.45 am on Wednesday the 24th of July in the church. The meeting will hear a report about what has been happening with the oversight of the cemetery, particularly with a new database. This is open to everyone, particularly for those who wish to take an interest in the heritage listed cemetery. The meeting will go for no longer than half an hour. If possible, join us for the service at 10 am and stay for the meeting afterwards.

The Parish Council has approved a \$7,000 quote to undertake the repainting of 2A Pridmore Road, Glen Osmond. The house has recently been vacated and needs to be repainted and updated before it is leased out again. The repainting work is expected to start on the 5th of August. My thanks to Ray Correll and Ross Bray who have cleared up the garden area and mown the lawns. The renting of the house supplements our parish income.

I would like to remind you of our credit card facilities which are available at the back of the church near the entrance. There are numerous ways to give, through the bank direct debit system, envelopes and by the general plate. However, with so many people not carrying cash or limited amounts of cash, please consider using the eftpos facility. For assistance, please ask a welcomer. You are welcome to use this facility before the service or at the conclusion of the service.

With every blessing

Your friend and priest

Fr Paul