



· **Father Paul Writes - 21st of July, 2024**

I welcome you all today as we come together to remember the witness of St Mary Magdalene and where we to- day baptise Charlotte and Emily Miller and welcome them into our church family.

Mary Magdalene was one of the women who remained faithful to Jesus through his passion, death and resurrection. It is she whom Jesus instructs to tell the other apostles that the Lord has risen. As such, she is known as the Apostle to the Apostles. She is a faithful witness at the tomb and then she is entrusted with the news of Jesus' resurrection. It is not difficult therefore to imagine the depth of the relationship between them. What might her example of faithfulness and trustworthiness then teach each one of us about our relationship with Jesus? How would I respond when Jesus calls my name, as He did to Mary Magdalene? And how is my heart ready to be entrusted with a special mission from Jesus? All good questions as we complete our Mission Shaped Introduction Course.

Thank you to all who assisted in making the Sri Lanka dinner a wonderful evening. My special thanks to parishioner, Shanka Wijesundara from the Ceylon Hut and to all volunteers who assisted in making it such a success. My special thanks also to Sue Lewis who coordinated the sale of the tickets and for her role in preparing for the night. Nearly 100 people attended. Half the proceeds for the night went to the ABM's Education and Livelihoods Support Program through the Diocese of Colombo in the Church of Ceylon.

Although the situation in Gaza remains extremely volatile, the Diocese of Jerusalem has reported that the Al Ahli Hospital has been reopened. A statement from the Diocese says: "owing to the dedication and courage of our staff, it was possible to re-open Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City. Despite intense military activity in the areas surrounding the hospital, some staff were able to return. Most patients and others in need of medical attention have not yet been able to make the same hazardous journey. An appeal through the ABM continues to raise money for the Anglican Communion Hospital. A breakdown of the costs involved for medical services for outpatients and for vulnerable inpatients is listed on the ABM website www.abmission.org/apbeals If you wish to donate to this appeal, please do so by visiting the ABM website.

I wish to acknowledge a bequest from the late John Moore. John was a parishioner at St Saviour's at the 8 am Eucharist for many years and took a great interest in the preservation of the St Saviours Cemetery. Through his will, he made a generous donation to St Saviour's with a similar amount for ongoing repairs to the St Saviour's Cemetery. We thank John for his bequest. If you are interested in giving a bequest, there are pamphlets at the back of the church which explain the process of making a bequest. You may also wish to speak to me and/or the Parish Secretary, Bobbie Luks.

The St Saviour's Cemetery Committee will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday at 10.45 am at St Saviour's. The meeting will hear a report about the oversight of the cemetery, particularly with a new database. This is open to everyone, particularly 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.

I will be away next weekend for the ABM Diocesan Representatives Conference in Brisbane. I will be there representing the Diocese of Adelaide. The conference is an opportunity for a representative from each diocese in Australia to come together to learn about the latest developments with the ABM and also time to prepare for its 175th anniversary celebrations next year. I will be then taking two weeks annual leave. Hence, the services for the next three weeks will be shared out by visiting clergy. The Rev'd Stuart Langshaw will preside at the Sunday services on the 28th of July and the 11th of August, the Rev'd Peter Brown at the Sunday services on the 4th of August and the Rev'd Paula Bullock at the Thursday morning services. Bp Keith Rayner will take Morning Prayer on Wednesdays. Please make them welcome.

On Sunday the 18th of August, we will celebrate the Feast of Title, otherwise known as our Patronal Festival. It is where we celebrate St Saviour, that is Jesus as our patron. The Rev'd Cameron Burr will be our guest preacher. Cameron is a Chaplain at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and is a member of NATSIAC, ie. the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council. He is serving as an assistant priest at St Mary Magdalene's in the city this year.

With every blessing, Your friend and priest

Fr Paul