



· **Father Paul Writes - 13th of October, 2024**

We welcome you today as we continue in the Season of Pentecost, a season where there is an intentional time of growth in our faith with God and His Son Jesus Christ. Today, in our Gospel reading we have a case of good young man who refuses to follow Christ because he was unwilling to part with his wealth. The encounter between this man and Jesus is a discipleship story. The Jews believed that the prosperity of the rich was a sign of God's blessing. But Jesus presents wealth as a stumbling block to the kingdom. Love of material possessions and comforts are one of the chief obstacles in the way of discipleship. Those who trust in themselves and their possessions can never be saved. Salvation is always God's achievement. When Jesus says, 'sell what you have', it doesn't mean that a disciple must be destitute. The life of the poor, with its hardship and suffering is not set out in Mark's Gospel as an ideal for Christians. But neither is the desire for possessions nor the accumulation of wealth.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Blessing of the Animals Service last week. It was wonderful to give thanks for our pets as they were blessed and as we celebrated St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology. Photos of the day can be found on our Facebook Page. If you are not a follower of the parish Facebook page, just type in Anglican Parish of Glen Osmond and you will find it there! You can also like the page and become a follower!

The Diocese of Adelaide will hold its annual Synod next weekend. It will commence with a Synod Eucharist at 7 pm on Friday the 18th of October at St Peter's Cathedral. This service is open to anyone, and I would encourage you to attend if you are able to. The Synod will then be held at Trinity College at Gawler on Saturday starting at 9 am and finishing at 6 pm. It will then resume at 1 pm on Sunday, again until 6 pm. The structure of Synod will be different this year with the theme 'a new way of being together as disciples of Christ'. Instead of being largely based on the business of the Diocese, the Saturday will focus on four topics of discussion, three of them following motions passed at last year's Synod, related to children's and youth ministry, the Wellbeing and Culture of the Diocese and developments in the Worldwide Anglican

Communion. The fourth will be on the Archbishop's Presidential Address. The business side of Synod will be dealt with on Sunday. Please pray for our Synod representatives, Katy Phillips, Sue Bishop and me.

In the meantime, I will be on Retreat this week at the Sevenhill Retreat Centre near Clare. The Assistant Bishop of Newcastle, Sonia Roulston will lead the retreat. The retreat's theme this year is "Bread for the World: Shaping our Lives for Ministry". All priests in the Diocese are encouraged to attend one of the two retreats held each year. I find a retreat each year is essential as part of my ministry. As a result, there will be Morning Prayer on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in place of the Holy Eucharists at 10 am and 7.30 am respectively. There will also be no Morning Prayer on Tuesday at 8.30 am and Friday at 9 am. Please don't hesitate to call me though if the matter is urgent. Otherwise, I will be back by Friday lunchtime.

The Archbishop has asked us to promote an emergency appeal through the ABM for the Church of the Province of Myanmar (CPM) as they respond to the devastation caused by flooding following Typhoon Yago, which hit a month ago. The Diocese of Taungoo is the most affected along with the Diocese of Mandalay. At least 320,000 people have been displaced by flooding and the death toll is over 100 and rising. Livestock, crops and homes were swept away as local communities battled to move to higher ground. Many Anglicans are displaced or missing. The ABM has launched an emergency appeal to support the church's efforts to meet the needs of people most affected. You can visit the ABM website www.abmission.org for more information and donate.

The annual working bee for the Glen Osmond Cemetery is being held on Saturday the 26th of October. The working bee is an opportunity to properly maintain the cemetery and keep the grounds tidy. Meanwhile, the maintenance group has been continuing the tidying of the garden and the grounds for our rental property at 2A Pridmore Road. A contract has also been approved for nearly \$5,000 to repair the roof, replacing about 100 tiles and resealing it. It is hoped the property will be ready for rental soon. The work will be done over three days from Monday the 21st of October.

Your friend and priest,

Paul