



## · **Father Paul Writes - 15<sup>th</sup> of December, 2024**

A warm welcome to all at St Saviour's Glen Osmond today. I hope you are able to remain after the service and share a time of fellowship over morning tea in the adjoining hall and courtyard. If you are a visitor, please make yourself known to me, or one of the welcomers at the end of the service.

Today we arrive at the third Sunday of Advent which is given the name 'Gaudete Sunday' meaning "Rejoice". In the middle of the Advent season, we are reminded that we are rejoicing because the celebration of Christ's nativity is near, as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's coming in Bethlehem, when God took on human flesh and dwelt among us. Today, we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath. Rose is considered to be more of a joyful liturgical version of purple. It reminds us that we are joyful of the Lord's coming.

Christmas is not far off, with the celebration of Christ's birth at Bethlehem so please invite your family and friends to our Christmas liturgies. A service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be next Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December at 7 pm. Then on Christmas Eve, there will be a children's service at 5 pm with carols along with setting up the nativity, making a Christingle and a children's talk. The service is designed for anyone at any age but especially for younger people, who along with their parents and grandparents will hear the Christmas story. That night, there will be a Midnight Mass starting at 11 pm and then on Christmas Day at 9 am a Sung Eucharist. Last year, there were a few people who arrived at 10 am. Just note the one service at 9 am on Christmas Day but with the other option of Midnight Mass at 11 pm on Christmas Eve or the Children's Service at 5 pm.

Please take some Christmas flyers today and letter box drop them in your local area in the coming days. The Christmas flyers are in the narthex along with a map so that you can fill in where you are able to distribute them.

This Wednesday, there will be a Christmas Craft Day at St Saviour's Church. It will held between 9 am and 2 pm and is an opportunity to come and enjoy making Christmas crafts and decorations, along with other activities including hearing the Christmas story. This is a holiday activity with proper supervision.

Cost is \$10.00 which includes lunch. Registration is essential; by email to [saviours@adam.com.au](mailto:saviours@adam.com.au) or by phone 8379 4114.

St Saviour's is taking part in a national Anglican Church program called Hope25. It will be launched on Easter Sunday and will finish at Pentecost, although there are numerous activities leading up to it before and during the Season of Lent. Even though this may seem some way off, we are being encouraged to pray for its success and make connections with those whom we may invite along to one of our events. One way of doing this is to give them a copy of the Gospel of Luke, which is available today. There is also an opportunity to personalise the gift with saying whom it is from. Please feel free to take a copy today and one for yourself too. This is a great evangelistic tool to help make that connection with others.

A trailer which was parked by the large shed has disappeared. It was first noticed missing two weeks ago. It was padlocked. Members of the maintenance group have been asked if any of them have the trailer. None of them do. We wonder if anyone has borrowed it and has any information of its whereabouts. I have reported it lost to police. The trailer was bought in 2019 and was used to carry boats. It was bought by the Diocese in 2020, but the Parish has continued to house the trailer and pay its registration. Any information would be much appreciated including any photos of the trailer.

The Parish will need to pay its insurance for another 12 months by the end of this month. It amounts to nearly \$12,000. This is the second lot of insurance we have had to pay for this year, the first amount was delayed until final negotiations were complete on insurance costs for this year. We are now required to pay insurance for the period starting November 2024 until October 2025. The insurance bill will be slightly less this year, although it still represents an overall 13-14% increase over the past two years. Having to pay two insurance premiums in one year will no doubt influence our budget, which will be I'm sure a deficit. Any assistance to help pay the insurance bill will be much appreciated.

Your friend and priest,

Paul