



· **Father Paul writes — January 5, 2025**

A happy new year to you all.

We continue our Christmas season with the celebration of the arrival of the Wise Men or the Magi who came to visit Jesus bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They travelled from a far-away country, probably Persia following the star to Bethlehem. It is the way that God reveals Jesus to the whole world, hence the word Epiphany, meaning manifestation or revelation. The wise men are traditionally given three names: Kasper, Melchior and Balthasar. Journeying from the east, they would have received hospitality along the way. May today's feast of the Epiphany strengthen in us our resolve for God to use us to make Christ known in our communities today.

As we start the new year, I encourage you to think about how you may like to spiritually grow in 2025 and become closer to God. This can be done in many ways, through worship, in gaining a devotional book and or learning more about God in a bible study. You may wish to read through the Gospel of Luke, our Gospel

Book for 2025. The Sunday readings will predominately come from this account of Jesus Christ from Luke's Gospel and will be complimented by readings from the Gospel of John. I encourage you also to obtain a copy of the Hope 25 Lenten Book, which are found in the narthex. They are available for \$15.00. They contain daily readings along with discussion points and a testimony each week. You may wish to begin reading this as we begin the Season of Lent on the 5th of March and start our Lenten Studies.

Next Sunday, we celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. It will be also an occasion for us to baptise Alexandra Kasprzak. We will welcome her as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.

The choir is taking a well-earned break during January. If you are interested in being a choir member, please speak to me or the Choir Director, Margaret Taylor. There are practices on Thursday at 5 pm for an hour and again briefly on Sunday morning before the 10 am Sung Eucharist. Thank you to all choir members who Sunday by Sunday enhance our worship.

A committee has been formed to co-ordinate our involvement in Hope25 at St Saviour's. Hope 25 is a program that has been developed by the Anglican Church in Australia and involves every diocese. Resources will be available to help people share their faith and assist parishes to run outreach events so that the hope we have in Jesus can be offered, especially to people who don't have that hope. It will be essentially run between Easter and Pentecost. It doesn't mean we wait till then to partake in it. We are all being encouraged to connect with someone with whom you wish to catch

up for coffee socially, and then invite them to one of our activities. It will include at St Saviour's three sessions on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, based on the Gospel of Luke. The sessions will provide an opportunity to discover how Jesus, the Son of God, fulfills three great longings we all experience: the longing for hope, peace and purpose.

Next month, St Barnabas College is co-ordinating a Festival of Hope in Theology and the Arts. It will be a week of hope-themed events and services held across Adelaide. The festival will set the scene for Hope25, in sharing hope in Jesus. The program includes music, visual arts and photography, poetry and stories. There is further publicity related to the program in the pew sheet, including a Hymn Fest of Hope at St Michael's Mitcham on Sunday the 16th of February at 5 pm. A competition is underway in an effort to come up with a hymn for Hope 25.

St Saviour's is again teaming up with St Michael's Mitcham to run three BBQs at Bunnings Mile End. The first will be on Thursday the 6th of February, Volunteers are required. If you could assist, please place your name on the sheet in the narthex.

The ABM is coordinating an appeal to help its partner, the Anglican Church of Melanesia for those affected by the earthquake in Vanuatu on 17th of December. News this week was that the Church's ship, the Southern Cross MV was able to reach the worst affected island, Efate to deliver food supplies. You can donate by going to the ABM website www.abmission.org.au/appeals Donations are tax deductible.

I wish you every blessing for 2025. Fr Paul