



· **Father Paul Writes - 12th of January, 2025**

We today celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. In celebrating His baptism, we celebrate the baptism of Alexandra Kasprzak, whom we welcome into God's family, as an inheritor of the kingdom of God. In doing so, I welcome Alexandra's parents, godparents, other family members and friends as we gather to worship on this second Sunday after Epiphany. In celebrating Jesus' baptism and Alexandra's today, we celebrate our own baptism too and ask God to renew His grace within us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Please stay for the special morning tea after the service to celebrate Alexandra's baptism.

Next Sunday, we hear of Jesus performing the first of his miracles, turning water into wine at a wedding at Cana. And the Sunday after, Australia Day, we hear of Jesus announcing that He is the promised one of God, the one who has come as the long-awaited Saviour of the poor and the oppressed. We will also mark Australia Day, giving thanks for the country we live in.

On Sunday the 2nd of February, at the start of the new school year, we will have a Parish Family BBQ lunch after the 10 am service. It will be an opportunity to come together after to share a meal. I encourage families to be present at the 10 am service beforehand, so that their children along with teachers can be blessed. The meat for the BBQ will be supplied but if you could bring a salad or a sweet to share, that would be great. Could you place your name on the sheet in the narthex, if possible, along with what you intend to bring. Otherwise, please let the wardens know, Katy or Sue.

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 from February the 10th. The program includes music, visual arts and photography, poetry and stories. There is further publicity related to the program in the pew sheet and on the notice board including a Hymn Fest of Hope at St Michael's Mitcham on Sunday the 16th of February at 5 pm. A competition is underway to come up with a hymn for Hope 25.

Last week in the pew sheet, we advertised a number of Hope25 Training Workshops, to be held over the next three months. The workshops are online

training opportunities helping us to share the hope of Jesus Christ with others. The first workshop will be held on Monday the 3rd of February between 7.30 pm and 8.30 pm and is titled "Going Deep in Conversation". We will hold these workshops in the meeting room at St Saviour's. All are welcome.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to assist with St Saviour's in running a BBQ at St Michael's Mitcham on Thursday the 6th of February. There are still spaces available to assist. If you are able to, please place your name on the sheet in the narthex.

Archbishop Geoff Smith has granted Katy Phillips a lay readers licence. The application for the licence was initially approved by Parish Council and me. This will enable Katy, if required, to take Morning Prayer and to provide Holy Communion for those who are unable to attend church., Judy Bowyer was granted a lay reader's licence in the Parish about 18 months ago. Judy has also this week started working as a Chaplain part-time at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. Our congratulations to Judy, who is also back on her feet again!

I will be away on holiday for the next two weeks, starting tomorrow. The Rev'd Peter Brown will celebrate and preach at our services over the next two Sundays. Fr Peter Thomson will take the Wednesday Eucharists at 10 am and Judy Bowyer will offer Morning Prayer on Thursdays at 7.30 am. During that time, the wardens, Katy Phillips and Sue Lewis will be the first point of call for any urgent matters. Their phone numbers are located on the back of the pew sheet.

Parish Council has set the date for the Annual Vestry Meeting for the 23rd of March after the 10 am Sung Eucharist. Work is already underway in preparing the end of year financials so that they can be sent to the auditors in time for the AVM. There are various reports that need to be collated for the AVM, including the wardens, cemetery, choir, garden, maintenance, Mothers Union, Outreach, Pastoral Care and WHS reports. Could these be in to the Parish Secretary by Friday the 21st of February, so the reports can be collated and ready for distribution on Sunday the 2nd of March.

Your friend and priest,

Paul