



## · **Father Paul Writes - 2nd of February, 2025**

Welcome, especially to children starting the school year. It is an opportunity to bless them as they begin school for another year or for the first time. It is also a time where we start the year in earnest with the return of the choir and our normal activities for the year. Please join us after the 10 am service for a Parish Family BBQ lunch.

It is also 40 days since we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. It is where we today remember Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the Temple. At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Anna and Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple. Simeon was the first to proclaim and understand that this baby boy was the Saviour of the World. Anna, a prophetess also came forward and gave thanks to God for Jesus. Both of them never gave up hope that they would see the Messiah. This feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple brings back some of the Christmas themes in the Season of Epiphany, when we celebrate Jesus revealing himself to the world.

There have been many tributes to Bp Keith Rayner over the past three weeks since his death, for his long and distinguished vocation as a priest, and ultimately as the Archbishop of Adelaide and Melbourne, as Primate and as a Parishioner at St Saviour's for the past 25 years. What a privilege it has been for Bp Keith to have been part of our faith community at St Saviour's over that time. His funeral will be held at St Peter's Cathedral tomorrow at 10 am. You are all welcome to come along! If you are not able to, a link was sent by email last Monday to watch through the internet. If you have not received it and would like to watch it, please let either Rose Miller or myself know and we will send you the link.

St Saviour's is presenting some training workshops over the next three months as part of our preparation for Hope25. Hope25 aims to empower Australian Anglican parishes and communities during an intentional season of sharing the hope of Jesus from Easter to Pentecost in 2025. The first of the training workshops will be held tomorrow night at 7 pm for an hour in the meeting room at the church. The workshop tomorrow night is titled "Going Deep in Conversation" and is being presented by Karen Morris. Karen has trained

people in evangelism for many years and is a parishioner at St Thomas's, Burwood.

On Tuesday, we resume our Friendship Lunches for 2025. This is a great way to invite a neighbour or a friend to our church and to share fellowship with a meal along with some liquid refreshments. Burnside's Mayor, Anne Monceaux will be the guest speaker at the lunch. She will speak about her Christian faith and how that has been reflected in her role in local government. A unanimous decision made at the December lunch agreed on raising the cost of the lunch from \$7 to \$10.00 this year. If you are able to come along, place your name on the sheet in the Narthex or contact Sue Lewis on 0431 151 552.

The Diocese of Adelaide in association with St Barnabas College is co-ordinating a series of events associated with a Festival of Hope in Theology and the Arts between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> of February. Details of the week's events are in the pew sheet with further details on the back table near the church's entrance. It will finish with a Hymn Fest of Hope at St Michael's, Mitcham at 5 pm on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of February. As part of the service, the winner of a national competition to compose a selected hymn for Hope25 will be announced by the Archbishop Geoff Smith. Some 27 entries were received.

Two faculties applied to the Diocese of Adelaide have been approved. The first is a new sign at the base of the SE Freeway promoting the Anglican Church, the second is a picture donated by the Church of the Holy Name in honour of Rosemary Scrutton. The sign will now be constructed and the picture has been hung in the choir room.

My thanks to the Rev'd Peter Brown for presiding at the Sunday services while I was on annual leave. My thanks also to Fr Peter Thomson for taking the mid-week Eucharists and to Judy Bowyer for taking Morning Prayer on Thursdays.

Thank you also to everyone who has assisted in watering the church grounds over the past couple of months. It has been much appreciated given the extended dry weather we have experienced. If you are able to assist in the coming month, there is a roster in the narthex.

Your friend and priest,

Paul