



## **Father Paul Writes - 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 2025**

We extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting St Saviour's today. We hope you will be able to join us for Morning Tea at the conclusion of both our Services.

At the heart of today's readings is the theme of trust in God. The First Reading from Jeremiah contrasts the fate of those who trust in human beings with the fate of those who trust in God. Those in trust in human beings are like a barren desert shrub; whereas those who trust in God are like a fruitful tree planted beside a flowing river. To trust in God is to rely on God as to the one source of life. Those who trust in God are the poor, whom Jesus declares blessed in the Beatitudes, part of which are found in today's Gospel. We also continue to hear from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, which focusses this week on the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the reality of this for all of us as baptized Christians.

The finale of the Festival of Hope in Theology and the Arts concludes tonight with a Festival of Hope at St Michael's Mitcham. Over the past week, St Barnabas College has coordinated a series of events of which Helen and I along with others from the Parish have attended. It's almost part of the Fringe Festival, which began on Friday night! The festival aims to set the scene for the Anglican Church's Hope25 season of sharing our hope in Jesus between Easter and Pentecost and has included visual arts and photography, poetry and stories, and theological responses to hope. The final event tonight at St Michael's at 5pm will involve our choir singing hymns focused on hope. Also, the winner of the Hope25 Hymn competition will be announced and sung publicly for the first time. All are welcome.

The Lenten Study for this year has been written for the National Church as we celebrate Hope25. This study is designed to inspire contemplation of the hope we have in Jesus as we journey through the Lenten season towards the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Study groups are planned for Wednesday mornings at 10.45am after the 10am Eucharist and at 7pm on Wednesday nights, starting March the 12th. There are copies of the Lenten Study to look at if you wish. It includes daily reflections written by the Archbishops and Bishops around Australia, testimonials and questions for the discussion groups. Please indicate which study you would like to take part in

and how many books you will need. Maybe you would like to give one of the books to a friend and invite them to the study as well. Cost of the book is \$15.00.

A commissioning service for pastoral care workers, that is the chaplains in our local schools has been postponed. It was to be held at St David's Burnside tonight at 6.30 pm, but due to other commitments by at least one other school chaplain, it has been put off to another date, probably in Term Two. In our parish, Jacquie Maynard at the Glenunga International School and a new chaplain, Yvonne (Vonnie) Gooding at Linden Park Primary School will be commissioned. The service is being coordinated by the Burnside Interchurch Council.

A new initiative is starting at St Saviour's next month with a children's choir. It will be co-ordinated by Catherine Sangster and daughter Zoe and will run on Sunday afternoons between 4pm and 5.30pm on a fortnightly basis. It is hoped to begin on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, with the aim of children participating in our service on Easter Sunday. This will be widely advertised through the local schools. If you know of any school aged children who may be interested in becoming part of this choir, please speak to Catherine or email her and Zoe at [soundwavesatstsaviours@yahoo.com](mailto:soundwavesatstsaviours@yahoo.com)

For the diary, on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, we will hold our Harvest Festival at both the 8 am and 10 am services. Then on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, there will be a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper starting at 6 pm. This will be preceded by Evening Prayer at 5.30 pm. The season of Lent will begin the next day (Ash Wednesday) with services at 10 am and 6 pm. On Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, it will be the World Day of Prayer Service at the Gartrell Church at Rose Park at 10 am. This year it will focus on the Cook Islands. Our Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2025 after the 10 am Sung Eucharist. Then on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, there will be a Deanery picnic at Carrick Hill at 12.30 pm. A busy month coming up!

Your friend and priest,

Paul