



Father Paul Writes - 23rd of February, 2025

I welcome you to St Saviour's as we continue to reflect on the words of Jesus given to his disciples and a great crowd of people in what is termed the "Sermon on the Plain".

The reading today focuses on Jesus instructing us to love our enemies and do good to those who hate you. Easier said than done, yet it's fundamental to Christian life. The world would certainly be a lot better one, if this was the case. This is what Jesus encourages us to do as he stresses the duty of loving one's enemy, in forgiving one's enemy as God forgives us too! Our psalm also encourages us to refrain from anger and to let go of resentment. Instead, trust and hope in God, to help and direct us and at the same time to grow in love, truth, honour, justice, faith and peace.

Next Sunday it is our Harvest Festival celebration, where we give thanks for the bounty of God's creation through food, and in particular the harvest of fruit and vegetables from our church, our properties and across the wider world. Before the services, please place in a basket before the altar any produce you would like to donate for the Mary Magdalene Centre. Next Sunday, we will also bless a new picture which has been donated by the Church of the Holy Name in honour of Rosemary Scrutton. The picture is called "Light of the World". Sr Carol from the Community of the Holy Name based in Melbourne will be present.

On Tuesday the 4th of March at 6 pm, on the eve of the start of the season of Lent, there will be a Shrove Tuesday pancake night. This evening is a tradition where we engage in the last round of merriment before the more sombre season of Lent. You are welcome to bring along either a savoury or sweet filling to share with others along with the pancakes. Evening Prayer will be beforehand at 5.30 pm in the St Stephen's Chapel in the Church. Please register your name at the back of the church for catering purposes or just roll up! All are welcome!

The next day on Ash Wednesday, we officially start the season of Lent. There will be two services on that day, at 10 am and 6 pm. The season of Lent is a time to draw closer to God through the study of scriptures and in prayer. One way of doing this is to join our Hope25 Lenten Bible Study. The study contains

daily reflections by almost all the Australian Bishops along with weekly testimonials and discussion points for the study groups. I hope these studies will encourage us in our faith as we prepare for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

The studies will be held on Wednesdays at 10.45 am in the meeting room next to the church and at 7 pm in the St Stephen's Chapel in the church. The Lenten booklets are available at the back of the church and cost \$15.00. Could you also place your name on a sheet if you are able to attend and which study in which you wish to take part. Also, how many study books you require. Otherwise, please let Bobbie know at the office or leave a message on 8379 4114. As part of our preparation for Lent, would you return your palm crosses next Sunday so that they can be burned and the ashes used on Ash Wednesday.

The proceeds from last year's trading table held on the 4th Sunday of the month amounted to \$1,200.00. The proceeds have been distributed three ways to the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM), Bush Church Aid (BCA) and the Burnside Interchurch Council. My thanks to Sue Lewis for making the pasties and the sausage rolls, Lesley Fenton for the cakes and to everyone else who contributed to the trading table during the year. The Parish Council has also decided to donate half the proceeds of the Parish Market held on Saturday November the 16th. Nearly \$470.00 will be donated to the Christmas Bowl Appeal and the same amount to the Burnside InterChurch Council, which supports the pastoral care workers in our schools. The remaining 939.80 will go to the Parish.

Our annual vestry meeting will be held on Sunday the 23rd of March after the 10 am Sung Eucharist. The meeting is like our annual general meeting when various reports are presented, the budget adopted, and elections held. It is hoped the Vestry Reports will be available next Sunday for distribution. I encourage you to attend.

The parish trailer which was parked by the main shed has been stolen. If you have any photos of the trailer, please let me know as they are required for insurance purposes. A police report has been made.

Your friend and priest,

Paul