



· **Father Paul Writes - 23rd of March, 2025**

I welcome you as we continue our journey through the season of Lent to the great celebration of the church year, with Holy Week and Easter. If you are a visitor, please make yourself known to me after the service. If you would like to be contacted and or placed on our email list, please fill out the form provided in the pews or at the church entrance.

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus gives us two examples of people who had suffered. Jesus tells them this is not a result of God's punishment on the people for not following God's law. Jesus tells us, this does not diminish our need to turn away from evil, repent of our sins and bring us into harmony with God's plan for all of us. Jesus presents an image of God as compassionate and merciful. It is a God of mercy and love on whom we are called to reflect in our lives and to whom we seek to grow closer to this Lenten season.

Our annual vestry meeting will be held at 11.30 am after the 10 am service this morning. There are copies of the annual vestry reports along with the financial statements for 2024 and the budget for 2025 available at the church entrance. Nominations for the various positions will close shortly before the vestry meeting. This is an opportunity to be involved in the management and mission of the parish for the coming 12 months. It will also be an opportunity to adopt the various reports, elect people to the various positions and adopt the budget for 2025. I encourage you to attend.

Next Sunday is Mothering Sunday. It is also called Refreshment Sunday, in the middle of the more sombre season of Lent. Simnel Cake will be blessed and distributed. All Mothers are invited! As well, there is a picnic with other parishes in the Southeast Deanery at Heywood Park at Hyde Park from 12.30 pm. The park is on the corner of Northgate and Grove Street on the Unley Park end of King William Road. We are encouraged to bring along everything you need including a chair, a picnic, cool drinks, a hat and sunscreen.

Our Lenten Bible Studies continue this week on Wednesdays at 10.45 am after the 10 am Eucharist in the meeting room and at 7 pm in the St Stephen's Chapel. This week the Hope25 bible studies is focussing on Hope from the Book of Isaiah. Each week is quite separate with its content and so if you have missed the first two sessions, don't hesitate to come along for the third!

Looking further ahead, St Michael's Mitcham, St Chad's Fullarton and St Saviour's will come together at St Saviour's for a Palm Sunday Liturgy at 5 pm on the 13th of April. Our Sunday services will be as normal at 8 am and 10 am on that day but at 10 am, we will begin the service outside the church, bless the palms and re-enact the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. A great way to start Holy Week. Then at 5 pm, there will be a service of reflection and contemplation on the Passion of Christ at St Saviour's. So please mark this in your diary and come along. During Holy week, there will be a weekday service on Wednesday at 10 am, the service on Maundy Thursday at 7 pm, Good Friday at 10 am and on Easter Sunday at 9 am. The service will be followed by a barbecue breakfast.

The funeral for Ellenor Heijkoop will be held at 2 pm on Monday the 7th of April at St Saviours. Ellenor was a long-term parishioner at St Saviour's and more recently was in residential care at Anglicare at Westbourne Park. She died on the 3rd of March. The funeral is open to all members of the parish.

There are a number of appeals at the moment through the ABM. There is the Lenten Easter Appeal helping free women overcome gender-based violence poverty and inequality through education, livelihoods and community programs in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Kenya and the Philippines. There are also appeals for those who are suffering as a result of the earthquake in Vanuatu in December, an emergency appeal for Myanmar and the Gaza and West Bank Emergency Appeal. You can access all these appeals through www.abmission.org/appeals There are also Lenten flyers and appeal donation envelopes with a QR code at the back of the church. These appeals are tax deductible.

With every blessing for the coming week,

Fr Paul