



· **Father Paul Writes - 30th of March, 2025**

Today is Refreshment Sunday or Mothering Sunday, a break in our Lenten fast. We celebrate with Simnel Cake in memory of our Mother Church and our earthly mother. It is a time when we say thank you to our mothers, but in reality, the word "mothering" refers to the "mother church". It is a tradition from the 16th century onwards in England when those who were baptised or attended a church during their childhood returned to their 'mother church'. It was also an occasion for those who undertook domestic work or were working in factories to visit home and to see their families and care for their mothers. The distribution of Simnel Cake on Mothering Sunday is regarded as a bit of an indulgence at this halfway point in the season of Lent. So, thank you to those who have made the Simnel Cake and supplied the posies this year.

The Gospel reading today is also family related with Jesus' parable about a father and his two sons. It is a parable concerning the experience of being loved and forgiven. It is about a father who shares his love equally with his two sons. even though one of the sons leaves home and squanders his inheritance. Both sons, failed to appreciate and respond to their father's steadfast love and generosity. The younger son, when he had nothing left to lose, returned home, only to realise his father's great love and mercy. The older son, momentarily blinded by envy and jealousy, failed to recognise his father's unfailing love for him throughout his life and to share the father's joy in the younger son's return. We too are greatly loved by God, and we have the freedom to make our own decisions. Coming home to God, whatever the mistakes or poor decisions we have made along the way, is really a journey of love. It takes courage and humility, as the younger son showed.

The children's music program called "Soundwaves" will be held at 4 pm this afternoon in the meeting room of the church. The community choir is free for school-aged children of all abilities and backgrounds. It is being held on a fortnightly basis and supervised by Cate Hepburn and daughter Zoe. It has been advertised at schools and on the Burnside Council Facebook page. If you know of children who would like to be involved, please come along between 4 pm and 5.30 pm or contact Cate on soundwavesatstsaviours@yhoo.com

Our monthly Friendship Lunch will be held on Tuesday from midday. This is a great opportunity to come together and invite others to a two-course meal with liquid refreshments. Please place your name on the sheet at the back of the church if you are able to come along with any others. Otherwise ring Sue Lewis on 0431 151 552.

Our bible studies continue on Wednesday at 10.45 am and at 7 pm. This week we are studying hope from Jesus' Words from the Gospels. There are daily readings and reflections and discussion points. It's never too late to join the study. If you haven't a book, let me know!

Holy Week and Easter is not far off! Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday the 13th of April. There will be the services as normal at 8 am and 10 am with the Blessing of the Palms but then at 5 pm, we will gather with St Michael's Mitcham and St Chad's Fullarton at St Saviour's with a service of reflection and contemplation on the Passion of Christ. It is an opportune time for all of us to come together as we start Holy Week. Palm Sunday is when we celebrate the triumphant arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem, in the days leading up to His crucifixion on Good Friday and three days later His resurrection on Easter Sunday. Please take note of the services during the week of Holy Week in the pew sheet, particularly on Maundy Thursday at 7 pm, Good Friday at 10 am and Easter Sunday at 9 am. The Choral Eucharist on Easter Sunday will begin with the lighting of the Easter fire, the lighting of the Paschal Candle and the renewal of baptismal vows. The Choral Eucharist will be followed by a barbecue breakfast. Please start thinking of who you may like to invite to these services in this, the greatest week of the Church Year.

Speaking of which, there are flyers at the back of the church promoting the services during Holy Week and Easter and with a map of the area surrounding the parish where you may distribute them. Please fill in an area or write on the sheet where you may like to do a letter box drop of the flyers.

In Christ, Paul