



## **Father Paul Writes - 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 2025**

### **2nd Sunday of Easter**

What a wonderful celebration last Sunday. We are now in the season of Easter between now and Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. We today give special intention in our prayers to Pope Francis who died on Easter Monday and whose funeral was held last night. We will also remember those who have given their lives to past conflicts, with Anzac Day on Friday. We will also celebrate Sue Lewis' 80th birthday today following the 10 am service!

Certainly, if you are a visitor today, please make yourself known to me or one of the welcomers and stay for morning tea. Please also fill out one of the slips in the pews so that we can include you in our weekly mail out and to make contact.

We hear today of another resurrection appearance by Jesus, the Sunday after His resurrection, this time to a disciple who was not present with the other disciples on Easter Day. The disciple, Thomas refuses to believe the other disciples who witnessed Jesus' appearance on the night of the resurrection until he sees him for himself. It is 'doubting Thomas' who is slow to believe, and yet someone who remains open-minded and continues to search for the truth. Once the resurrected Christ appears to him, his response is immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). We, like Thomas, can be caught up with doubts and questions. As Thomas' own experience teaches, doubt is not the opposite of faith, but its pre-condition, leads us to search for the 'hidden God' who is close to us than we are to ourselves. I hope the experience of the Easter faith, in Christ Risen enables you to become closer to God.

Next Sunday in this Season of Easter and as part of Hope25, St Saviour's offers the first of two opportunities over the coming weeks to learn more about Jesus: his life, his death and his resurrection. The series is based on Luke's Gospel. This course is open to everyone, whether you are an enquirer or whether you would like to know more about the life of Jesus and the hope this brings to all of us. The first session next Sunday will begin at midday with a light lunch and the second on Friday night the 9th of May from 6 pm. There is a sheet at the

back of the church if you would like to register or be in touch with me to speak further about the course. There are invitations to the course along with copies of Luke's Gospel for anyone who you would like to invite.

Also, as part of Hope25, Burnside's Mayor Anne Monceaux will be the guest speaker at the next friendship lunch on Tuesday the 6th of May from midday in the meeting room next to the church. Mayor Anne will speak about her faith journey and in the context of being the Mayor of Burnside. The lunch is open to all parishioners and especially if you are new to the parish or wish to bring someone else along, a neighbour or a friend. The cost is just ten dollars which includes a two-course meal along with wine. The best luncheon deal in town! Please mark your name and the number coming at the sheet at the back of the church, otherwise ring Sue Lewis on 0431 151 552 to book.

Next Saturday as you are no doubt aware is a federal election. One of the polling booths will be at St Saviour's from 8 am to 6 pm. There will be a BBQ and a trading table. If you can assist with plants, cakes or any other produce for the trading table, please bring them along on the Friday afternoon to the church or on Saturday morning. Any assistance with manning the BBQ and the trading table would be much appreciated. The other thing is, don't forget to vote!

Next Sunday at 4 pm at St David's Burnside is the commissioning service for the chaplains at the local schools. The chaplains otherwise known as pastoral care workers offer support to students and staff. The chaplains are in part funded by the Federal Government with supplementary funds through the Burnside Interchurch Council. Please come along and support the chaplains as they are commissioned for the year. They certainly need our encouragement. Also, mark the date in your diary the Burnside Interchurch Council quiz night at the Burnside City Uniting Church, Friday the 27th of June. Tickets will be available soon.

The Easter edition of the Glen Osmond Anglican is available today. Please take a copy if you haven't already received one. Take another to a friend whom you may wish to connection with the parish or to invite to the "Hope Explored" course or the Friendship Lunch.

Your friend and priest,

Paul