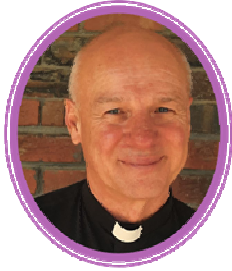


Father Paul writes – 8th of June 2025

Day of Pentecost



I extend a warm welcome to all on this Pentecost Sunday where we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, which Jesus promised to send to all his disciples on the day of His Resurrection and again before He ascended into heaven.

This advocate or counsellor came 50 days after Jesus' resurrection and ten days after his Ascension into heaven. In the Book of Acts, it recounts the events of this first Pentecost Day when the Holy Spirit descended on the assembled disciples in a rush of mighty wind and tongues of fire. They were all filled with the "Holy Spirit" and began to speak in various languages. The disciples then take up the mission – a mission to the whole world – which Jesus gives to the disciples to preach the good news of Jesus, crucified and now risen.

As followers of Jesus, we never stand-alone either. We have the Spirit given to us at our baptism and it is something that dwells within and among us throughout our lives. Jesus' spoke of everyone having to be born again through water and the spirit. Therefore, we all share the same life, the same saving mission, and the same love. Our strength is the gift of the Spirit who binds us in love and unity as the one Body of Christ.

Today is one of the great feasts in the Church calendar, it is the birthday of the Church where I wear red vestments to remind us of the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit. As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, let us give thanks for the gift of faith that is given to us, the hope that is in us, and the love that comes from having the Holy Spirit.

Today also represents officially the end of the Anglican Church's ecumenical program called Hope25. It has been an opportunity to step out in faith, prayerfully and creatively inviting people to encounter the hope of Jesus. St Saviour's did this by hosting the program "Hope Explored", which attracted up to 20 people at both sessions on Sunday at midday and Fridays at 6 pm. Thank you for taking part and to all who assisted in making it possible. Over the past 11 days, we have been encouraged to focus on the Lord's Prayer in the prayer journal and the Bible Studies offered through the worldwide ecumenical program, "Thy

Kingdom Come". We have also had an opportunity to pray for five people, for them to know the love of God in Jesus Christ for themselves. My hope is that we have been able to experience more of God's love and for those we have prayed for through Hope25 and in the resources of "Thy Kingdom Come".

The Parish Council earlier this week met and reviewed the Mission Action Plan adopted from the Annual Vestry Meeting in 2023. The Parish Council also looked at some of the presentations at the Annual Clergy Conference that I attended at Murray Bridge last month. They included presentations on what makes flourishing churches thrive, in creating communities of belonging and in missional discipleship. Various ideas were shared at the meeting as part of updating the mission action plan and the diocesan vision plan for parishes. It was decided to hold an open forum for all parishioners over a light lunch following the 10 am service on Sunday the 6th of July. This is not being treated as a formal meeting but an opportunity to have your say in our future direction as a parish. All are welcome.

A new roster is being collated this week which starts on the 29th of June until the end of the year. Please let us know if you will be away or unable to be on the roster for any time between July and December. If you would like to consider being on the roster perhaps a welcomer, an intercessor, a reader, a lay assistant, in helping with the morning tea, in being a counter or assisting with setting up the church for the Sunday services, please let me know or the wardens in the next week or so. I do encourage you to arrange a swap with someone else on the roster if you are unable to be present on the day you are rostered.

The Burnside Interchurch Council is holding its annual quiz night on Friday night the 27th of June, in support of the pastoral care workers, the chaplains at our local schools. It will be held at the Burnside City Uniting Church. Tickets are available by scanning the QR code in the pew sheet. However, I will take bookings and book a table of 10 to start off with. It's always a fun night and for a good cause! Tickets have gone on sale this week and seven tables have already been booked.

Your friend and priest,

Paul