



Father Paul writes – 29th of June 2025

I extend a warm welcome to all of you at St Saviour's where we today celebrate two great apostles, St Peter and St Paul. They deserve to be celebrated on separate days', but they are recorded as dying as martyrs on the 29th of June. They are remembered for their faith, their courage, and their leadership during the difficult days of the birth of the Church. They set the scene for two thousand years of Christianity. While their lives had different beginnings, they had the same determined vocation....to love and serve Jesus.

Next Sunday, I invite you to a parish forum which includes lunch following the 10 am service. The forum will look at updating our Mission Action Plan for the Parish and the Diocesan Vision Plan for parishes. The Parish Council met nearly three weeks ago to look at some of the presentations from the Annual Clergy Conference at Murray Bridge last month. They included presentations on making flourishing churches thrive, in creating communities of belonging and in missional discipleship. Various ideas were subsequently shared. It was decided to hold an open forum for all parishioners over a light lunch, and so I hope you can attend. 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.

This afternoon at 5 pm at St Michael's Mitcham, the Diocese's Flourishing Communities Coordinator will be the guest preacher at the Sacred Space Sunday Service. She will speak on how we as a community can grow in depth and breadth of faith and live it out in the world. The theme of the service is titled "The Times, they are A-Changing". You may recall the Rev'd Phillips took part in our Mission Shaped Introduction Course at St Saviour's last year.

On Sunday August the 10th, Bishop Sophie Relf-Christopher, an Assistant Bishop of the Diocese will be with us for one service at 10 am. This will be Bishop Sophie's first visit to St Saviour's. The service will celebrate the Feast of Title of the church, otherwise known as our Patronal Festival. This will also be a confirmation service. If anyone wishes to be confirmed by Bp Sophie, please let me know or speak to me further. Confirmation is for anyone who has already been baptized as an infant and wishes to reaffirm their baptismal promises for themselves. Also, confirmation is available to anyone as a teenager or as an adult who would like to be baptized and confirmed at the same time. It is where you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, enabling God and His Son Jesus Christ to dwell within you, and to become an inheritor of the Kingdom of God. There will be an initial meeting for anyone interested in being confirmed following the 10 am service this morning.

St Saviour's is taking part with cathedrals and churches across the Australian church in the first trial of new translations of ten psalms by the Rev'd Associate Professor Matthew Anstey. For seven Sundays between now and the end of July, we are saying or signing these psalms at our Sunday Eucharists. The psalms have been adapted to new music and in contemporary language. We are encouraged to provide feedback so please let me know what you think.

A treasured former parishioner at St Saviour's, Bp Keith Rayner has left a bequest for the parish, where he attended for 25 years following his retirement as the Archbishop of Melbourne. The bequest has been received in the past week or so. We are extremely grateful to Bp Keith for his generosity to the parish with this bequest and over the years for his faithful service to the parish in so many ways. We sadly miss him. Bp Keith attended Sunday by Sunday and at the weekday Eucharists and certainly was a great support to me in my ministry.

St Saviour's will this year again be part of the National Grandparents Conference. The conference focuses on equipping and encouraging grandparents who have a desire to leave a living faith legacy for their grandchildren. The conference will be simulcast from St. Paul's Castle Hill in Sydney on Saturday the 23rd of August from 8.30 am to 4 pm SA time. The conference in its eighth year will feature a range of speakers on the theme this year being "Live Differently for their Sake". I would like to book for 10 people for starters to attend in the first instance at a cost of 25 dollars each. This will include morning and afternoon tea. We were part of the simulcast online in 2022 and 2023 and I am keen to be part of it again. For those who attended in previous years, we all came away inspired by what was delivered on the day. There will be resources available soon to register.

Your friend and priest,

Paul