



## **Father Paul writes – 6th of July 2025**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

A warm welcome to you all and to those visiting us today on this fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Please stay for morning tea in the hall afterwards.

In our gospel reading today, Jesus sent out 70 followers to towns and villages he intended to visit. As the gospel emphasises, the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. We might say the same! For us, like it was for the 70 followers, we'll only be able to do this if we depend on Jesus and each other, for Jesus encourages us to walk together, to be sustained by one another. As we go, we are left in no doubt about the challenges that await us, the lack of welcome, the opposition. The 70 followers of Jesus in the Gospel who did return were full of joy in what they had achieved. Jesus reminded them of the authority he had given them, where there was a victory over Satan. For us, it is not a question of what we might be able to do, so much as what God is able to do through us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

A parish forum will be held this morning after the 10 am Sung Eucharist and following morning tea in the meeting room and over a light lunch. The forum will look at updating our mission action plan adopted more than two years ago. It will be an opportunity to share any ideas you may have in enabling our parish to flourish, in creating communities of belonging and in missional discipleship. This is not being treated as a formal meeting but an opportunity to have a say in our future as a parish. All are welcome.

Thank you to everyone who attended a Sri Lankan Friendship Lunch on Tuesday. Nearly 55 people attended and enjoyed the cuisine from Shanka Wijesundara and Sue Lewis. My sincere thanks to Shanka, Sue and all who assisted with the lunch and in clearing up

afterwards. Pictured are two of the helpers, Gill Nield, Gill McKay along with Sue Lewis and Shanka Wijesundara.

The lunches are great opportunities to build community and to invite others whom you may wish to connect with our parish community. Our next Friendship Lunch will be on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August. Registrations can be made from this weekend by placing your name on the sheet at the back of the church or by ringing Sue Lewis on 0431 151 552. The cost is just ten-dollars, payable on the day.

On Sunday August the 10<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Sophie Relf-Christopher, an Assistant Bishop of the Diocese will be with us for one service at 10 am. 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 ASAP. 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.

St Saviour's is taking part with cathedrals and churches across the Australian church in the first trail 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.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 is a sheet at the back of the church to register or contact me by phone or email.

Your friend and priest

Paul