



## **Father Paul writes – 24 August 2025**

### **Bartholomew, Apostle & Martyr**

We today welcome the Principal of St Barnabas Theological College, the Rev'd Dr. Joan Riley as our guest preacher at both the 8 am and 10 am services. Joan came to St Saviour's almost three years ago to the day when she preached at our "Feast of Title" service. We welcome her again as St Barnabas College and the Diocese dedicate the month of August to raise awareness of vocations to lay and ordained ministry in our churches and Anglican communities.

The services today also celebrate St Bartholomew who was called by Jesus to be one of his disciples. St Bartholomew named Nathaniel in John's Gospel was prompted by his brother's invitation to meet Jesus, which he did at first with some scepticism. His attitude quickly changed when he met Jesus and recognised Jesus as the Messiah. Nathaniel followed Jesus to the end of his life as an apostle and his name is inscribed on one of the foundation stones of the heavenly Jerusalem mentioned in the vision in the Book of Revelation.

### **Martyrs Day**

The lectionary on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September each year honours the memories of the Martyrs of Papua New Guinea. This includes Lila Lashmar, a parishioner at St Cuthbert's Prospect, before she became a missionary teacher in PNG and who was subsequently martyred in 1942. A Eucharist will be held at St Cuthbert's on the day at 6 pm. The ABM Education Missioner, the Rev'd Canon Steve Daughtry will preach and I as the Chair of the ABM Provincial Council will preside. Students from Lashmar House at St Columba's College at Andrews Farm in Adelaide's north will offer the prayers. The service will be followed by a supper. There will also be an opportunity to offer support through the Martyrs Gift. The appeal offers practical support

through a couple of programs in strengthening the work of the Anglican Church of PNG. All are welcome.

### **Anglican Creation Care Network**

The Anglican Creation Care Network will meet next Saturday at St Matthew's Kensington, to view the sacred garden that has been developed in the church grounds. The provincial network, which is promoted in the three dioceses aims to encourage churches in SA to take measures to be more environmentally sustainable. The gathering next Saturday starts at 9.30 am with a report on the visit to the Investigator College's Currency Creek Eco-Centre. Bp Tim Harris will then speak about the sacred garden at St Matthew's and where it will be then launched. All are welcome.

### **Season of Creation**

St Saviour's will mark the Season of Creation during September and into October. The Season of Creation is a time for Christians to come together in prayer and action for Creation, in dedicating the time to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. The theme for the Season of Creation 2025 is "Peace with Creation". It will be an opportunity to work and pray for peace and justice in a troubled and divided world, including peace with Creation. This year, we are focussing on the readings from Jeremiah which offers powerful environmental themes through vivid imagery and prophetic warnings. Sunday the 7th of September will be celebrated as Creationtide Sunday; Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September will be Stewardship Sunday, focussing on our own stewardship for God's creation and to St Saviour's; and on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, the Blessing of the Animals.

### **Grace, Awe and Hope**

This is the title of a lunch on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 with prominent Christian author, journalist and columnist Julia Baird.

Julia will share her thoughts on grace, awe, and hope, followed by a Q&A session with Bishop Sophie Relf-Christopher at the Memorial Hall at St Peter's College. It will begin with coffee and tea at 11:30 am. The talk will begin at 12 noon, followed by a light luncheon. The event is free but please register for catering purposes. There are flyers at the back of the church and also further details in the pew sheet.

## **Parish Vision**

The Parish Council has agreed in principle to an updated mission action plan which is summarised as part of the diocesan vision plan. This plan follows a parish forum, which reflected on the current mission action plan and a presentation on what makes flourishing churches thrive. The plan also follows a workshop by a Parish Council committee, which presented the plan to Parish Council last week. We would like parish input into the plan before it is adopted. This updated plan will encompass more detail under each of the headings, giving us more specifics on what we would like to achieve. This will be a living document, and so I encourage you to reflect on it and provide any feedback or further suggestions. Copies of the updated mission action plan are available in the narthex.

Your friend and priest,

Paul