



Father Paul writes – 10th of May 20256

I welcome you on this fifth Sunday of Easter and on this Mother's Day, where we give thanks for our mothers past and present. Today's bible readings prepare us for Ascension Day on Thursday, as they instruct Christians on how to live in the world until Christ's return. Although Jesus' defeat of death has forever transformed what it means to be human, we live in this waiting period where salvation has already been won for us but not yet fulfilled.

Ascension Day represents 40 days after Jesus' resurrection. It is where Jesus ascended into heaven after having made various resurrection appearances to his apostles, disciples and to many others. The time between Ascension Day and Pentecost 10 days later is a time to prepare for the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to all nations and people. The coming of the Holy Spirit is Jesus' promise to all of us who have faith in him. The word that Jesus uses here for the Holy Spirit is *paraclete* in Greek, which means advocate, defender or consoler. Just as Peter tells his readers to be ready for whenever they are called to make a defence for themselves, Jesus promises a defender who will always be with them. And so, the Holy Spirit is an advocate and witness to our faith.

I encourage you to take part in the ecumenical worldwide prayer movement "Thy Kingdom Come" between Ascension and Pentecost. It is where we pray during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost for a renewal of the church, to commit ourselves to help proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to pray for family and friends to become followers of Christ and to ask God to help us witness God's grace and mercy to others. To help us along the way, there is a prayer journal and a bible study written by the Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally available today, to be used during the 10 days from May the 14th to May the 24th. There is also an app called Thy Kingdom Come which is now available, to be downloaded onto your phone and to use daily with reflections and videos. As we use the material, we are asked to pray for five people whom we would like to come to know the love of Jesus Christ in their lives.

Next Sunday, Judy Bowyer will be our guest preacher as part of Chaplaincy Month. Judy is the Chaplain for the Lyell McEwen and Modbury Hospitals and

will talk about her Chaplaincy role at both hospitals. The month of May has been set aside in the Diocese to celebrate and give thanks for our chaplains based in Anglican Schools, hospitals, Anglicare SA and across the community.

Your friend and priest, Paul