



Father Paul writes – 17th of May 2025

I welcome you all to St Saviour's. Please make yourself known to myself or one of the welcomers if you are new or visiting. We today welcome Judy Bowyer as our preacher as part of Chaplaincy Month in the Diocese of Adelaide. Judy will speak about her chaplaincy role at the Lyell McEwen and Modbury Hospitals.

We also come today after celebrating the ascension of Jesus into heaven on Thursday, 40 days after he rose on Easter Day. The apostles who witnessed the ascension went back to Jerusalem and joined in continuous prayer as they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus had promised. The first reading from Acts depicts the disciples gathered in the Upper Room, waiting in prayer for the Holy Spirit. Our Gospel reading for today goes back to that Upper Room where they gathered with Jesus at the Last supper, before His crucifixion. There Jesus gave a long solemn prayer where he prayed for himself and the disciples. Jesus prayed for those he left behind to carry on his work.

Next Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It is a gift that is given to all of us at our baptism and reaffirmed in us at confirmation. Please wear something red at each of our services next Sunday as part of the celebration of Pentecost. It is a time where we recall the Holy Spirit coming like a rush of wind to all people gathered in a room, 10-days after Jesus had ascended into heaven. Jesus informed his apostles before his crucifixion that he would send another Advocate, another helper to help us spiritually and of course, it came true, with the breathing of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles on the night of his resurrection and then 10 days later to others.

As part of our preparation for Pentecost, I encourage you to continue using the resources offered through the ecumenical worldwide prayer movement, "Thy Kingdom Come". It is where we pray during these 10 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost for a renewal of the church and for five people whom you know that you would like to bring along to our service next Sunday to help celebrate Pentecost. To help us, there is a bible study based on the Holy Spirit written by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally. There is also a daily prayer journal and if you are able, download the app Thy Kingdom Come on your phone and watch the daily videos.

Your friend and priest, Paul