



Father Paul writes 5th of July 2026

I welcome you as come together on the first Sunday in July, at the beginning of a new financial year and at the start of school holidays for the state school system in SA. Our bible readings today speak of joy, compassion and finding rest for our souls. The prophet Zechariah in our Old Testament reading calls us to 'rejoice greatly'. What is the reason for this joy? God is gracious and compassionate, loving every one of us as the psalm says. We are also able to find solitude in Jesus Christ when we are overburdened. Jesus is gentle and humble in heart, and we will find rest for our souls. Therefore, we can always trust in Jesus' promise that in him we will find rest for our souls and joy in our hearts.

This was very much the focus of our first introductory meditation session on Wednesday night at St Saviour's Church. It was a time to practice meditation and to hear from Fr Laurence Freeman, the Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation. It is the first time the introductory course is being offered in Australia, and it is continuing for the next three Wednesday nights. If you missed the first session, don't worry, just register through Dianne Schaeffer at dianneschaeffer@yahoo.com.au and you will receive the resources for the first session. It starts at 7 pm in St Stephen's Chapel and finishes around 8.15 pm. Around 20 people have registered so far.

Thank you to those who assisted at the Bunnings BBQ at Mile End on Thursday in association with St Michael's Mitcham. The funds raised will be distributed amongst our missions which includes the ABM and the Burnside Inter Church Council which supports the pastoral care workers in our schools. Thank you to those who assisted as a fundraiser at our BBQ at Mitre 10 Unley last weekend. Our next BBQ will be at Mitre 10 at Unley on Saturday the 25th of July.

On Sunday the 19th of July, the Rev'd Deb Jeanes will be our guest preacher at the 8 am and 10 am services. As well, the Families, Youth and Children's Ministry Facilitator for the Diocese, Kat Elliott will speak about her role and the efforts being made to support parishes in this ministry. The invitation follows the attendance by the Rev'd Deb Jeanes and I at a children's ministry workshop a few weeks ago at St Martin's Campbelltown. I hope you can attend the 10 am service and hear of what is happening in the diocese with children's ministry and what possibilities there may be for us as a Parish to explore and build on in that area.

Your friend and priest, Paul