

Good afternoon my name is Rev Daws and I'm one of the churchwardens here at St Paul's. We are privileged to have the Most Reverend Dr Jeffrey Driver and his charming wife Lindy with us today & thank the Archbishop for his participation in the Mass. We welcome the Hon Jay Weatherill, Member for Cheltenham and accompanying him today is his mother Joy who is an old St Paul's girl and like many of you is busily catching up with old friends. We have the Mayor of City of Port Adelaide Enfield Gary Johanson representing the local area. We have a number of clergy present, four of which were licensed to St Paul's, Graham Cooling, Peter Wheatley, Jeffrey Oake & of course John Stephenson plus family of the late Bill Johnson, friends and parishioners of both St George's, Alberton & St Paul's and I welcome all of you to this 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of continuous Anglican worship at this site.

It's hard to get your head around 170 years isn't it? In 1841 Queen Victoria had ruled for only 4 years of her 64 year reign, New Zealand officially became a British colony, Hong Kong was proclaimed a sovereign territory of Britain & Edgar Allen Poe's "Murders in the Rue Morgue" was published.

We've certainly come a long way from the early years when the place was known as Port Misery & when the first colonial chaplain Revd Charles Howard walked from Adelaide every Sunday to officiate at the service at St Paul's and then walk back again before a horse was purchased for his use. To improve the image of being known as Port Misery the name changed to the Newport, ironically the same name chosen by the new developers today, Newport Quays, so named to disassociate the new development with the historic working class suburbs of Ethelton, Glanville & Birkenhead.

But from its humble beginnings with a little wooden church, its first pile driven into the mud by Capt Charles Sturt to a second church of stone built on reclaimed land and the expansion of mission churches to Alberton- St George's, to Birkenhead- St Andrew's, to Rosewater-St Barnabas and to Ethelton, St Nicholas and Canon Green's unofficial church at Glanville, this parish evangelised to the surrounding districts its core purpose, the message of the Gospel. And it brought people together, for decades churches were well attended, Sunday schools overflowed with children, communities socialised around the church, it was the centre for sustenance & spirituality for many

people. The monthly church magazine in 1915 was distributed to no less than 500 households.

However changes to the way ships unloaded their cargoes, a shift to deeper waters at Outer Harbour saw Port Adelaide decline in its importance as a working port & consequently employment dried up, people moved away and the suburb stagnated. Of course this impacted on the parish but there have been some wonderful parish priests that did not let hard times deter their plans and determination to administer to their flock and work hard at what they did best.

In more recent years St Paul's has gone through some difficult times, struggling like many parishes to maintain attendances in a fast growing secular society and having to compete with Sundays now filled with retail therapy and major sporting events. It's fair to say that the amalgamation with the parish of Semaphore & West Lakes North from 1994 to 2006 was not a happy marriage, one which lawyers would describe as having irreconcilable differences. So on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 a thanksgiving service to re-establish The Parish of Port Adelaide was held at St Paul's officiated by the Archdeacon of the Port none other than The Venerable John Stephenson. From this day the parish though with many financial problems started to rebuild and grow in strength. Archbishop Jeffrey appointed as its locum tenens, Bishop Stephen Pickard who for nearly 3 years gave direction, inspiration & leadership to a parish desperately in need of a rudder.

The appointment of Fr John Stephenson late in 2009 saw the parish continue to change for the better, former parishioners returned, new people walked through the doors and stayed on, a Sunday School was established to cater for the influx of children and a return to an Anglo-catholic based worship started to see this parish grow and feel positive about itself again.

Outreach is vital for a parish and a test for its success. I recall what Archbishop Jeffrey said in an address he made last year at St Margaret's: he said "A church without a mission is not a church; it might be a fine club, but it is not a church". Since we became a parish again in our own right we have opened an Op-shop which serves the less fortunate in our community with quality goods at cheap

prices and in February this year we opened Paul's Place a community outreach to those who live close to the fringes of our society and who tend to eat unhealthily & so we provide them a wholesome lunch for free & importantly it provides a safe & friendly environment to socialise. Attendances have doubled since it was first opened and its success is predominantly attributed to Fr John Thompson who is a real people person and who is not afraid to get his hands dirty. A loyal band of volunteers from St Paul's and lately Paula from St George's work alongside Fr John, and it's a happy bunch that have lots of fun in helping out.

Before I close I have a favour to ask & also some messages from well wishers. If you have any old photos or documents that would add to our history collection please see me or my wife Dawn, so we can arrange to have them scanned off and return them to you. We received emails from Bishop Stephen Pickard who & I quote "the Port was very special to us & we send our love & congratulations to you all on your 170<sup>th</sup>", and from Fr Tony Noble "my greetings & blessings & to say this is from All Saints Rector Emeritus currently in Cornwall" and from Fr Graham Ross, former rector at St Paul's "Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Port Adelaide, Marguerite and I regret being unable to be present with you on Sunday for your celebration. Be assured of our prayers and that we will be rejoicing with you in the Spirit. It only seems like yesterday that we "decked the hall" for the 150th! We look forward to hearing and seeing all about Sunday's celebration. Yours in Christ, Graham and Marguerite Ross." There were others that would have liked to have been here today but prior engagements & church commitments made it impossible. I wish to thank the many parishioners who have contributed to making this day special, in particular our Musical Director Alicen Miller, Diane Bunworth our treasurer & for the flowers, my wife Dawn who has supported me in the planning of this event and to David Dornan who without his hands -on help & advice I would have finished up a screaming mess. To the parishioners who were tour guides of the church during the 'About Time' History week I thank you for putting St Paul's out there to the general population interested in the history of the church & the state.

We have come a long way and there is still much work to do in the future but with the determination of our parishioners and by the Grace of God we will

become an exemplary parish that genuinely cares for our neighbours and our local community. Ladies and Gentlemen thank you for your presence here today & for sharing our 170<sup>th</sup> with us and I do trust you will enjoy the remainder of your day. God bless.