

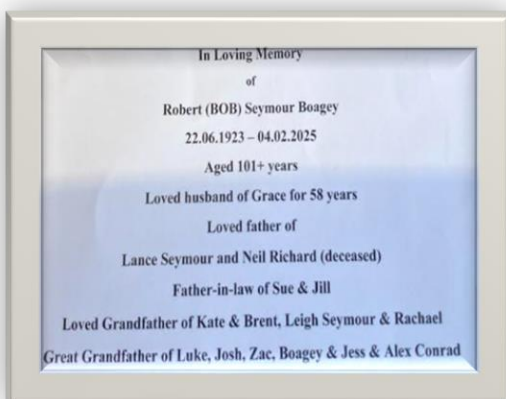
Hello everyone! Welcome to the March issue! What a hot and dry month it's been. Up to March 16th the city of Adelaide had a total of 6mm of rain for the entire year!

Lent began on Wednesday March 5th but Shrove Tuesday was fabbit fab fun for all in attendance. We had a short fun service led by Cathy that featured prayers, singing and a short dose of pancake tossing. Here is Siya doing a wonderful job of tossing a pancake suitably attired being supported (and photobombed) by Barbara Wood.



(picture taken and submitted by Greg Trenowden)

In more sombre news, long serving Parishioner Bob Boagey passed away on February 4, 2025 at the amazing age of 101. His funeral service was conducted by Cathy and there was a big turnout of his friends from the Parish in attendance. Terry Edwards submitted these images.



The St Catherine's Purple Bench Project

Back in October 2024 Greg Trenowden (in his role as Synod Representative for the Parish) picked up a flyer from the 2024 Synod promoting a project entitled "The Anglican Province of South Australia Purple Bench Project 2024/25" in which we learnt that the Domestic & Family Violence Working Group (D&FVWG) supported the installation of purple benches in public spaces to honour all victims of domestic and family violence (DFV). The project seeks to publicly reflect the commitment of the Diocese in the Province to the Anglican Church of Australia's Ten Commitments for the prevention of and response to domestic and family violence.

The project also seeks to honour and remember the victims and provide a support resource for those who may be currently experiencing or perpetrating violence in a relationship. The latest data reports that one woman a week is killed by a current or former partner, one in three (30.5%) Australian women has experienced physical violence since the age of fifteen and one in four Australian women (23.0%) has experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner.

Purple benches are located in public parks across the world and in Australia to honour the memory of women murdered by their partner and to provide HELP numbers for people experiencing DFV. Purple is associated with the global Domestic Violence Awareness Movement.

Below is a picture of the Purple Bench being blessed by Cathy, in attendance Stuart Mcpherson, the Mayor of Playford Glenn Doherty and Lay Assistant the day Greg Trenowden. (Photo taken and submitted by Adam Abraham.)



Below is an image of the inscription on the bench as funded by the Diocesan Project (photo taken and submitted by Greg Trenowden)



And below is a front view of the bench in its finished glory.



(photo taken and submitted by Greg Trenowden)

Here are some fun facts about Lent!

(source: <https://www.thefactsite.com/lent-facts>)

- Lent is the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by the Roman Catholic, Eastern, and some Protestant churches as a period of penitence and fasting. Sundays aren't included in the 40-day count.
- Since Sundays aren't included, Lent technically lasts 46 days.
- When Lent started, it was only 36 days. Later, it was changed to 40 days.
- Why is Lent 40 days? The number 40 is a significant number for Christians. Jesus spent 40 days in a desert. Noah had to wait 40 days for his ark to float. And Moses, along with his followers, traveled through the wilderness for 40 years

before reaching the Promised Land.

- Lent comes from the Middle English word "lente," which means springtime.
- Lent starts on what's known as Ash Wednesday. This is when followers spread ashes on their forehead to signal their repentance to God. The ashes come from burning last year's palms that were distributed on Palm Sunday.
- One of Lent's central components is fasting. The practice has died in recent years, but that didn't stop New Orleans from throwing a huge party called Mardi Gras. On the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, aka "Fat Tuesday," people party in the streets and get fat since they should be fasting for the next 40 days.
- Because we know the date for every Easter from now until the end of time, we also know the date Lent starts. Just count 46 days (include Sundays) or 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Easter, and you know when Ash Wednesday is.
- In a study done in 2014, 72% of adults knew what Lent was, and 88% of those participating in Lent were giving up some item of food for 40 days. Chocolate was the number one food most people were willing to give up during Lent.



Parish Council

For updates on activities please speak to one of your friendly Councilors.

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