



## **Father Paul Writes**

### **28<sup>th</sup> of December, 2025**

I welcome you on this Sunday after the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day. I hope you all had a joyous and blessed Christmas. Of course, for Christians, Christmas is more than a festive season, or the occasion for an exchange of gifts. It is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the moment when God humbled himself to be born as a human being, to share our humanity so that we might share his divinity.

We continue the season of Christmas for the next seven days with the celebration next Sunday of the Wise Men or the Magi appearing before Jesus, presenting him with gifts, all of which had special significance. But today, we remember the events following the visit of the Wise Men, that is the death of around two thousand boys under the age of two, ordered by King Herod after Jesus' birth.

Weekday services will continue this coming week with a 10 am Eucharist on Wednesday and 10 am on Thursday, New Years Day. This is instead of the usual time of 7.30 am on Thursdays. I invite you to start the New Year by coming to the service at 10 am on Thursday and by joining us for morning tea afterwards.

Thank you also to all those who took part in our Advent Bible Study over four Wednesdays. Up to eight people participated weekly, which was wonderful, either in person or via Zoom. The Advent Bible Study gave an Australian impression on the accounts leading up to Jesus' birth, the birth itself, the shepherds visiting the baby Jesus and with the events afterwards with two prophets Simeon and Anna recognising Jesus in the Temple as the Messiah, the Promised One. Details of our Lenten Studies will be released in the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who were involved in our preparations for Christmas and in participating in our celebrations. Despite the darkness and evil in the world, may we continue to live as a light in the world, in fellowship with each other and as Jesus says, loving our neighbour as ourselves.

With every blessing in Christ,

Fr Paul