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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

The season of Advent is upon us and the songs of Christmas are beginning once again, on our radios and televisions and in the shopping centres and street corners. How many Christmas songs do you know? There are many:- from the traditional carols to Frosty the Snowman, Jingle Bells and Rudolf the Red nosed Reindeer and many more.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we are reminded once again of the song in Scripture that Mary sang and that we take up as MU members – the Magnificat.

The angel Gabriel's visit to Mary announces that she has been specially chosen – hand picked by God to bear His Son Jesus. The power of the Holy Spirit would make this promise possible. Despite the fact that Mary would have been overwhelmed, troubled and confused, her response and her song is a song of love, faith and hope.

As we journey through this Advent season, once again God comes to us and He says "*Greetings Jane, Greetings Kaye, Greetings Susan and Beth and ???, you who are highly favoured, the Lord is with you*" and then He goes on to promise that the Holy Spirit will be upon us so that Jesus may live and grow within us.

May our response be as Mary's was, may we sing our songs of love, faith and hope in the Living Lord Jesus, loud and long, as we celebrate His birth once again in the communities in which we live and work.

Thank you to those Dioceses and members who sent messages of prayers, thanksgiving and sympathy on the death of Don's mother, she was a special lady and we miss her, however we give thanks to God for her love, her witness and the unique qualities she passed onto to her large family.

Mia Mia articles for 2010 the theme that Deane has chosen for next year for Australian Council is Journeying together. The Education Department page will take up this theme and link each article to one of the 5 objectives of MU – look for objective one in the New Year. I trust that this will assist with branch discussion and/or programs or workshops.

Reports for 2009 As the end of the year draws to a close, it is report time once again. Could each **Education Department co-ordinator or Diocesan President** send to me a report on what is happening in the area of Education in your particular Diocese, thank you in anticipation.

Marriage pack don't forget to order your promotional copies of this new pack for your Diocese from Elaine Longford Publication Department.

Elections at AC in 2010 Next Australian Council will be election year and the position of Education Department Co-ordinator will be vacant. Please pray about who you might nominate for this position.

Journeying together When we begin a journey, we cannot see just where that journey will take us; we cannot know or understand every detail of the journey. To be able to journey together, we must first be willing to trust trust our Lord Jesus Christ and each other.

All God's blessings, as we celebrate once again the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus, and I pray that you will have some time of relaxation with your family and friends this holiday season,

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