



Dear Friends,

We are into the summer season when flooding monsoon rain, extreme heat and the danger of bushfires has people on alert all around the country. Those affected by the floods in Armidale Diocese and the terrible fires in Bunbury Diocese are very much in our prayers as they pick up life again.

Since my July newsletter, Godfrey and I have journeyed overseas to US, UK and Jerusalem. In Jerusalem we attended the 2 week course at St George's College "The Palestine of Jesus". I have written of this in my article for the Summer *Mia Mia*. Suffice it to say that getting some sense of the context of the gospels and also the context of the living Christian church in the "Land of the Holy One" now, left me with many questions as well as many insights.

Leaflets : The Advent leaflet had a Christmas theme this year around the figures of the Nativity. The number of CD format leaflets that I am sending to dioceses has been increasing just a little. I am very happy to send these where needed – just let me know. Early in the New Year I will contact you all again for numbers of CD's and contact details for emailings.

ADF Chaplaincy prayers : Bishop Len is in the process of preparing the new Prayer Diary for 2012 and has indicated that he would appreciate any feedback from MU prayer partners. This is any thought, comment or reflection you have. Please send it to my email address. Thank you for the many emails you have already sent affirming this prayer partnership.

Annual reports : Thank you for the Annual Reports I have received. Now that AGM's are over for the year **could** you send your Annual Report to me as soon as possible, please.

Advent : I commend to you the excellent resources for Advent on the MU UK webpage. There is an [Advent Calendar](#) of reflections every day. I have made it my default home page so that when I switch on my computer each day it is the first thing I see.

Some reading: We have just begun the year of Mark, when the Sunday readings are from Mark's gospel. I recommend a couple of the following books to help you in your reading of Mark. These are all available at very good prices through fishpond.com.au which offers free postage anywhere in Australia, or through your local Christian bookstore.

The People's Bible Commentary : Mark by Dick France

Four Gospels, One Jesus? by Richard A Burridge

Fully Human, Fully Divine by Michael Casey

As we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace please pray for Christians in parts of the world where the Church is suffering – in Egypt, in Iraq, in Pakistan, in Israel and Palestine.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Grace and peace this Advent and Christmas,

Bronwyn