

I hope you had a wonderful celebration of Christmas as we welcome again the Christ child in our midst, and as we are reminded that God truly is with us.

I also pray that as you prepare for the New Year you will feel refreshed by God's spirit as we move on in our journey together.

Firstly can I express a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone for all your help in making Advent and Christmas celebrations such a success. For everyone who arranged and cleaned, delivered leaflets, cooked, served food and drink, help in services, welcomed our guests and those who encouraged us. It really was team effort and we should be very proud of what we achieved. Thank you!

I do hope that at least some of us have taken time to be on sabbatical and to consider those things which drain us, and those things which inspire us. Towards the end of January we will be asking each member of the congregation to consider one thing on our mission action plan you could commit to in 2014. There will be things relating to our worship life, leadership roles, community activities and prayer to consider.

A few things to note in the coming weeks.

Holiday Service Times

With all the public holidays there will be no weekday services between the 29th December and the 5th January. Though for those of you who are around we hope to see you at our regular 9.30am Mass on Sunday 29th, and then 5th January when we will celebrate Epiphany.

All weekday services will resume on the 6th January. (Though there will be no Wednesday evening Mass on the 7th January).

Sunday School is in recess until the 5th January.

St Paul's Cathedral Events

On Saturday 25th January St Paul's Cathedral will celebrate its Patronal festival with 2 events. From 2-4pm they are running workshops for children in the cathedral, and then from 4.30pm- 6pm there is the main Eucharist of the festival. If you are interested in participating in either of these events can you please let Mo C know as soon as possible so we can book some spaces.

Gardening Group

Our first gardening session for the year will be Saturday 1st February from 10am till 12noon (weather permitting). Please do come along at 10am to help if you can—all are welcome!

Teenager time with Mo C

On the first weekend of half term—teenagers are invited to come for tea with Mo C from 4pm—6pm on Saturday 15th February. Please put this date in your diary now.

Finally I will be on leave until the 12th January. If there are any pastoral issues during this time, please speak to Fr Laurence.

I wish you every blessing for the New Year.

Mother Christine.