



## **Rev David Jackson's 2025 Christmas Message**

This Christmas, we will once again reflect on the narrative of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus's flight into Egypt as detailed in the Gospel of Matthew.

The Holy Family's journey was undertaken to escape King Herod's deadly decree. An angel warned Joseph in a dream, prompting their secret departure by night. This story is interpreted as a symbol of divine protection and humility.

As Moderator, I have selected the flight of the Holy Family from Palestine to Egypt seeking refuge as this year's Christmas theme. My Christmas card features the quote: "In God alone is our place of refuge" and a passage by Christine Sine from *Godspace*: "...build bridges rather than walls, be willing to listen and learn and not be afraid of where God might lead us in the journey towards reconciliation and healing."

The ongoing displacement of individuals due to war, oppression, ethnic cleansing, or family violence is a matter of deep concern. Current global crises, highlight the urgent need for compassion and justice.

Our thoughts are also with those experiencing homelessness in our local communities and with our Jewish community reeling from yet another violent attack on their religious gatherings.

Just as the Holy Family sought refuge from Herod's tyranny, we too are called to seek and offer refuge to others.

We pray for an end to all forms of violence and commit ourselves to choosing peace over war, joy over sorrow, hope over despair, and love over hate.

It has been heartening to witness the generosity of students at Uniting Church schools, who have actively participated in projects aimed at alleviating disadvantage and poverty. Their efforts in raising funds and goods for organisations such as Good Sammys and Uniting WA exemplify meaningful contributions toward addressing social challenges.

As we contemplate the significance of the Holy Family's flight and its impact on Christian tradition in Egypt, let us value every effort made in the pursuit of justice.

Recalling the words of the Australian National Anthem: "We've boundless plains to share ; with courage let us combine to Advance Australia Fair," may you discover within yourselves the capacity for generosity and the commitment to peace and justice for all this Christmas season.

**Rev David Jackson,  
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