



Anglican Diocese of  
**Grafton**

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### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ... and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. (Matthew 2:1,2,9).*

Indigenous elder from the NT, Bill Harney, said that following the star is more reliable than following the road. The road might be going to the waterhole, but also it could be leading away from it. But the star is the one that will really guide you straight to the waterhole.

Like the Magi, Bill and his people have been watching the stars, attentively, for a long time. He said that when he was young, he would lay on his back outside at night with his friends and talk about the stars.

The Magi were attentive to the stars too – they noticed when a new star arose and knew what it meant.

At this time of year I spend a lot of time at School Speech Nights and Awards Assemblies. At such times, the achievements of the students during the year are acknowledged and celebrated. It makes me think that we, each in our own way, follow the star, according to God's call and direction for us in our lives.

Life leads each of us on a journey. No two journeys are the same: we're each given different gifts, talents, interests, passions and abilities. We each come from different cultural backgrounds, maybe from different parts of the world like the Magi who each came from different far away countries - we each have our own unique contribution to make. This diversity is immensely valuable to our common life.

By being aware of what God has given you, and working with God, may you use the gifts and abilities that you have, to best serve those around you – and to be the person that God has called you to be. That's really what the Magi did – they listened, they were observant, they could see what God was doing, and followed.

May you have a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

+ Murray

Dr Murray Harvey  
Bishop of Grafton

