

A Christmas lament

By Rev Dr John Maloma.

The world is approaching the 2nd Christmas under the rubble in both Gaza and the occupied West Bank. To date over 45 000 people have died in Gaza, and counting. 70% of them women and children. Over 13000



The Desolation of Gaza by Israeli government

children have died, 800 of whom were under the age of one. The Vatican News, citing an Australian Human Rights lawyer, Chris Sidoti, laments the fact that the number of children killed is the greatest number in this century, in addition to the many children “wounded and affected by the deaths of parents, Siblings, grandparents, loss of limbs, traumatizing experiences, multiple displacements from their homes, affecting a large number of children than any modern warfare has experienced.”

Perhaps, the church, unlike the Magi from the East, who had an opportunity to express their worship of baby Jesus, should be drawn more to what the prophet Jeremiah prophesied centuries before and appropriately captured by Matthew as follows:

““When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” Matthew 2:16-18 NIV

We lament the unending genocide in Gaza, and like Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, we call for all Christians to pray for an immediate ceasefire and the rebuilding of Gaza and the freedom of all Palestinians and their right to return to their land and homes.