



Advent 2017

Waiting for a baby
to be born

Introduction

Seasons Greetings from the Armagh Diocesan Prayer and Spirituality Group.

The Prayer and Spirituality Group organise prayer experiences and times of reflection for parish ministry groups as well as resourcing parishes with prayer and spirituality ideas and happenings. We organise Christian meditation groups and spiritual retreats. If you go to www.prayerandspirituality.com you will find a more detailed description of our work and tasks to date.

The Advent booklet is for the younger members of the Diocese (pre Holy Communion) and contains items based on the Advent Gospels and Readings, Christmas Day, the Holy Family and The Epiphany of the Lord (Cycle B).

The general theme is based on the idea of Waiting.

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We have tried to write these in a basic language and have included opportunities for Colouring-in, Word Search, Crossword Puzzles and a little prayer. If the children question or need help we hope it will be an ideal opportunity for parents, grandparents, brothers or sisters to help out (Advent Wreath, Crossword - some answers in the Sunday Readings!)

The idea is to let children participate in the Christmas Season and begin to link their ideas of Christmas with those of the Church (Advent Wreath, Giving, Love etc).

Colouring pencils would be better to use than markers or crayons as they will not go through to the next page!

The Advent Wreath



The word Advent means "Coming" and the season of Advent is a time when we WAIT for the COMING of a special baby - JESUS !

To help count up the weeks to Christmas, people light a candle each Sunday in Advent and place it in a circle of evergreen branches. Each candle lit is a sign of HOPE and a reminder of good things to come.

The branches are evergreen showing us that God loves us always and it is in the shape of a circle to remind us that his love has no end.

There are three purple candles lit; the first on week one, the next on week two and the third on week four. Purple was an expensive dye in old times and a sign of Royalty; these show us that someone very important is coming - "Christ The King".

Advent in the past was like Lent; people would have eaten less and prayed more to prepare for Christmas. The pink candle is lit on the third week (*Gaudete Sunday*) as a sign of Joy. People could break their fast for the day (like St Patrick's Day). On this day the priest would wear rose or pink coloured clothes and everyone would be a little happier.

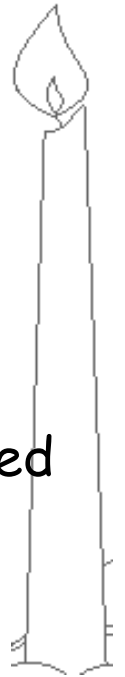
At the Christmas Eve Mass the pink and all the purple candles are lit as we arrive in Mass and only then is the final central white candle lit. This candle shows us that Jesus is with us.

As a sign of our waiting we will colour the candles in our booklet the same as the Advent Wreath in Church.

1st Sunday Waiting

(Light the first advent candle by Colouring in the flame yellow and the candle purple - watch the priest do the same at mass. Why does he do this?

Ask someone about the Advent Wreath!)



It is cold out side now. You are in your nice warm bed when you hear your mum or dad shout -

Wake up sleepy bones! Wake up!

Jesus says this in today's Gospel.

"Wake up and Stay awake for I am coming!"

Write down 3 things to do to make sure you will be ready when Jesus comes -

Examples could be - help put up the Christmas Tree and thank God for all you have.

1.....

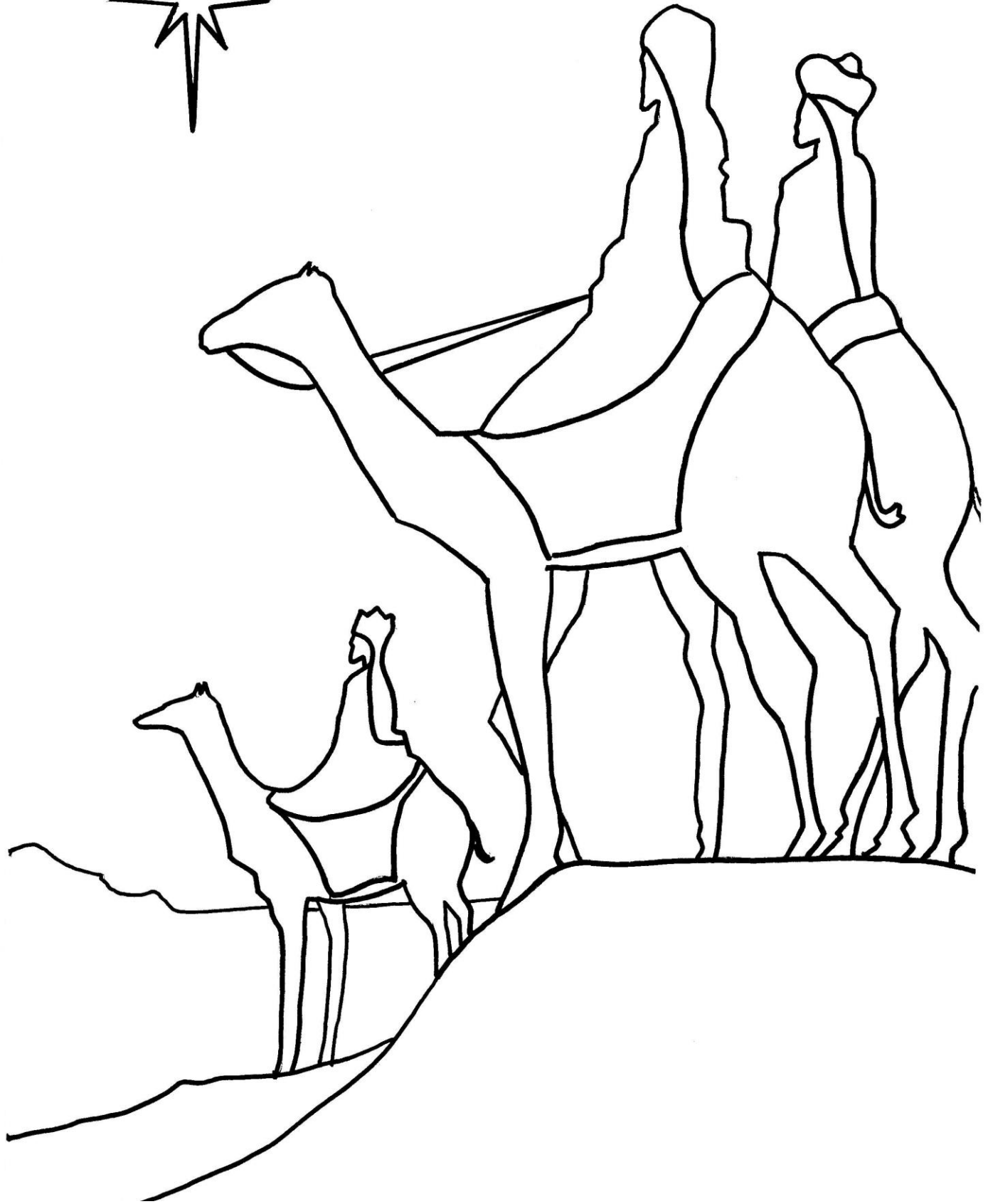
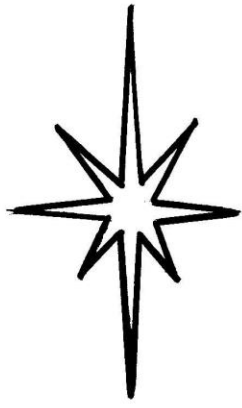
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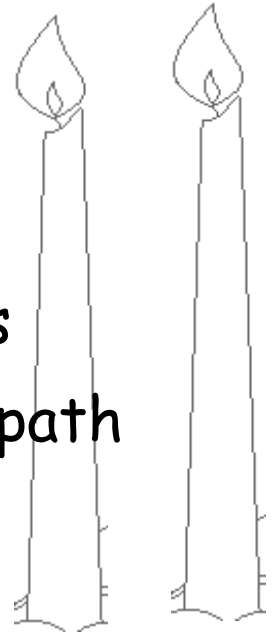
3.....

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2nd Sunday Waiting

(Light the first and second advent candles by colouring in the flames yellow and the candles purple)



In today's Gospel John the Baptist says

"Prepare a way for the Lord, make his path straight."

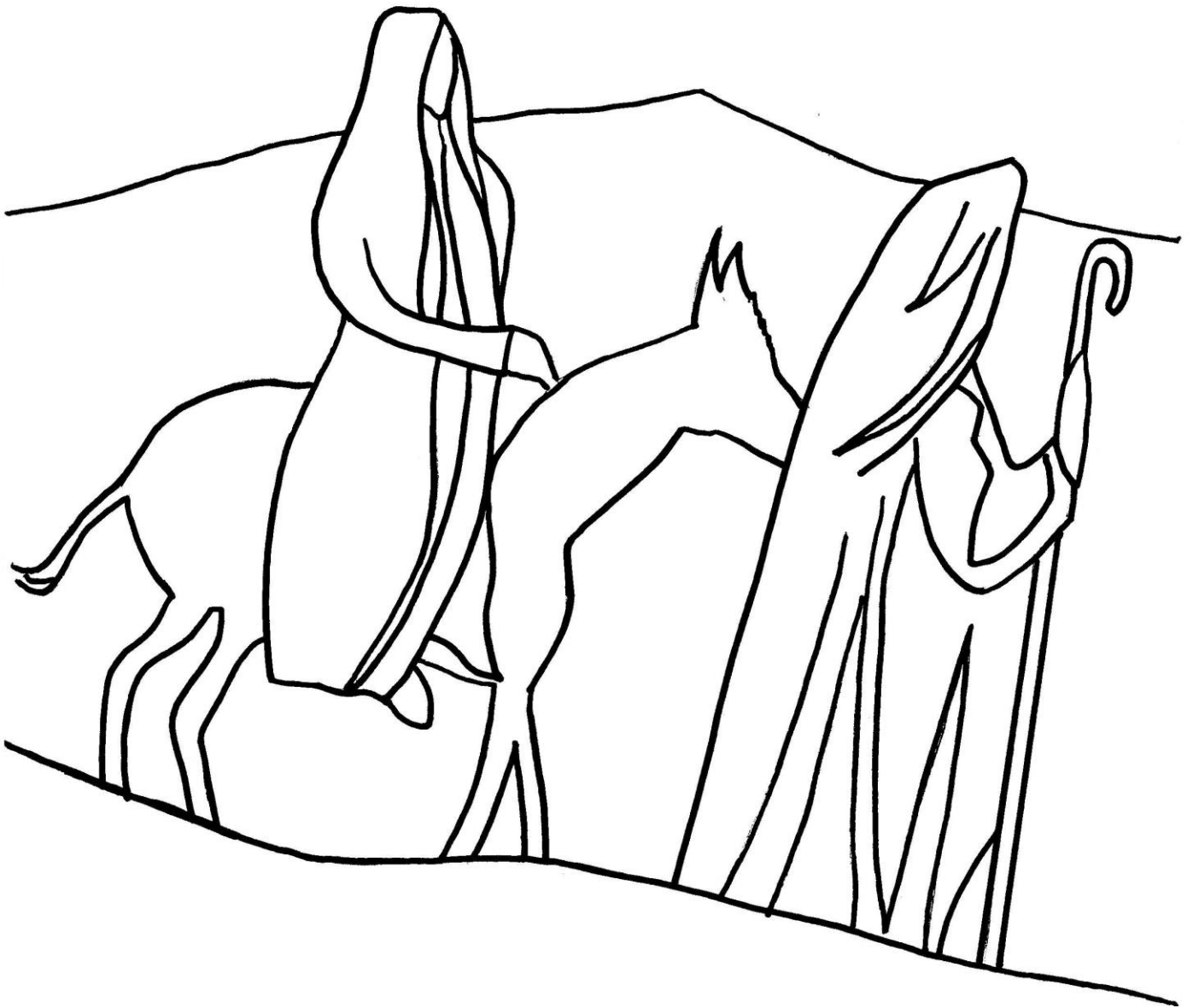
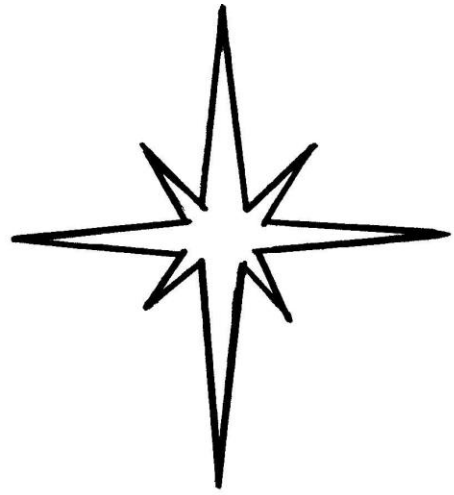
How can you make Jesus' way easier?

John says by "Repenting". This means being sorry for the wrong you have done and wanting to make things better. By making things better, you are also making yourself better!

Find the following words hidden below

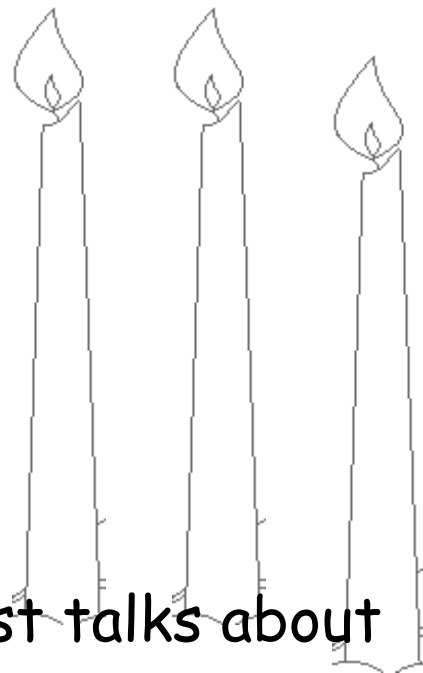
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V	N	C	O	M	H	S	O	D	E	N	N
G	S	R	I	P	O	D	P	W	S	I	R

SANDALS, CAMELSKIN, REPENT, SORRY, STRAIGHT, LOCUSTS, HONEY, FORGIVE, WILDERNESS, MESSENGER



3rd Sunday Waiting

(Light the first and second advent candles by colouring-in the flames yellow and the candles purple. Colour the third advent candle a happy colour - pink and colour the flame yellow)



In today's Gospel John the Baptist talks about light.

Write 4 things that give out light

.....

What does light do?

.....

People say Jesus is like light because he makes things clear and shows you the way. If you follow Jesus things will be much clearer.

Maybe this week you can be like light and make someone's life a little brighter.

Give a gift to St Vincent De Paul!



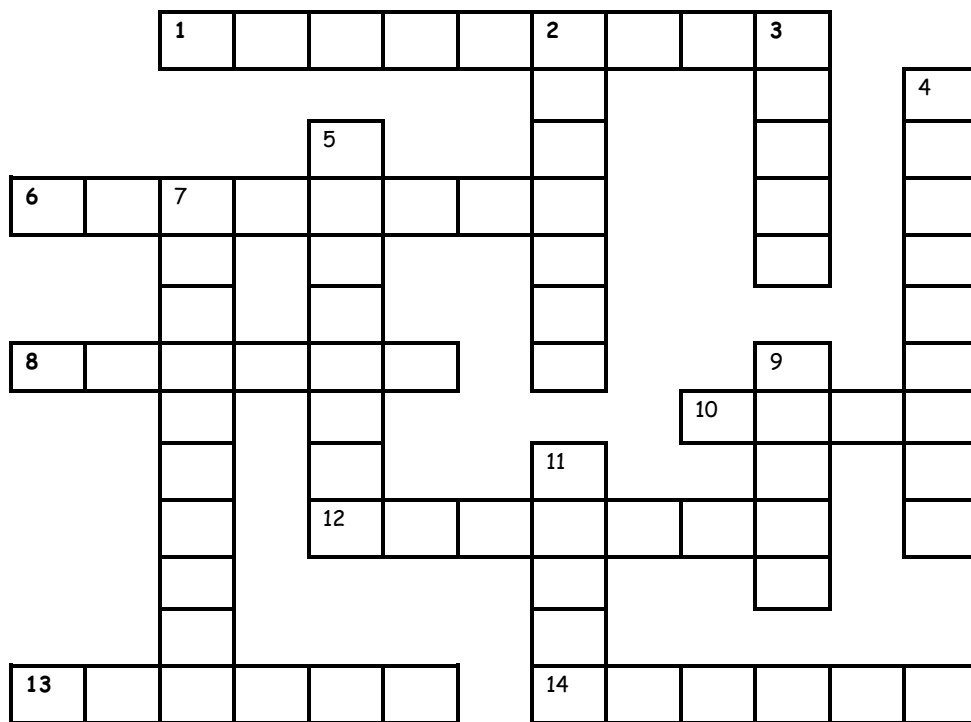
4th Sunday Waiting

(Light all of the advent candles by colouring-in all four flames yellow and three candles purple and one candle pink-you are so close to Christmas !)



The Gospel today is about Mary being told something very special. "You are to have a Son and call him Jesus" Mary was excited and said YES to God! Christmas is coming and you too are excited. This week is a good time to say YES to God. You say YES to God when you say NO to sin!

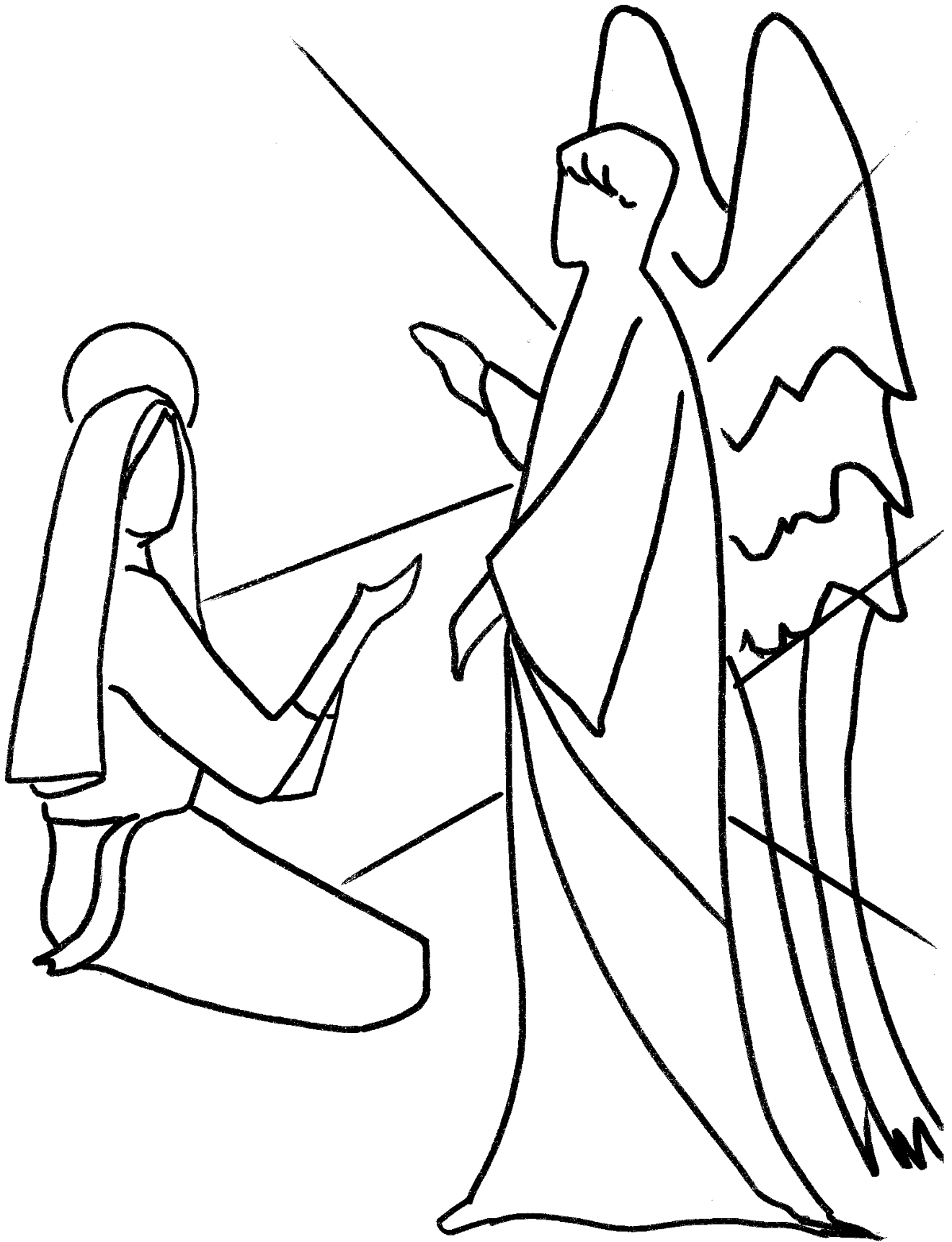
Christmas Crossword (Use the 4 Advent Gospels)



Across

Down

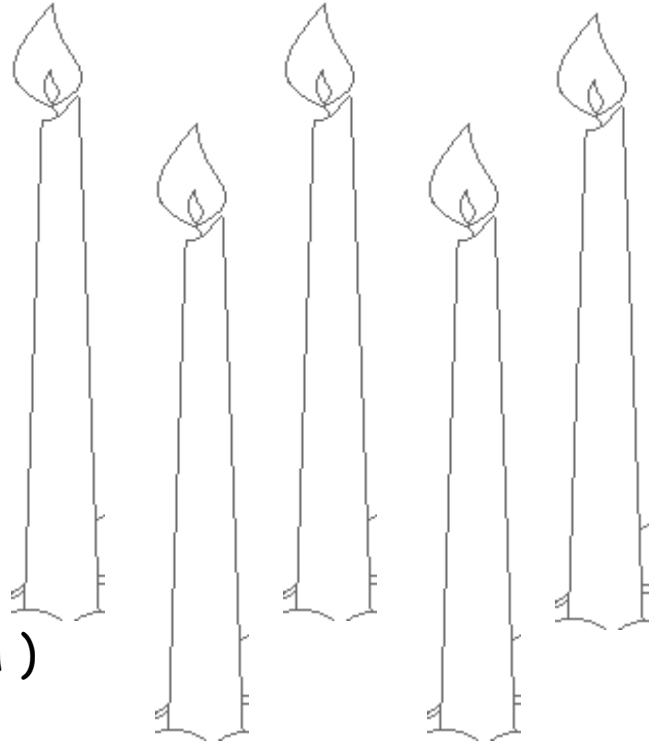
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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mary's Cousin (9) | 2. John the ----- |
| 6. Opposite of Midday (8) | 3. The ----- and the Ivy (5) |
| 8. Food left for Rudolph (6) | 4. Animal in a Pear Tree (9) |
| 10. A Wiseman's present (4) | 5. Santa's real name (8) |
| 12. Someone who didn't like Christmas (7) | 7. Someone who guards the way in (10) |
| 13. A river in Israel (6) | 9. Bees make this (5) |
| 14. Prophet from 3rd Sunday Gospel (6) | 11. Building where you live (5) |



Mary showed her love for God by always saying "yes" to him. You too can show your love for God by keeping his Commandments. When I keep the Commandments I am saying "yes" to God.

Christmas Day

(At last - Happy Christmas !
Colour in the 4 outside candles
like last week and leave the
middle candle white with a
yellow flame. Your candles
are the same as those in church)



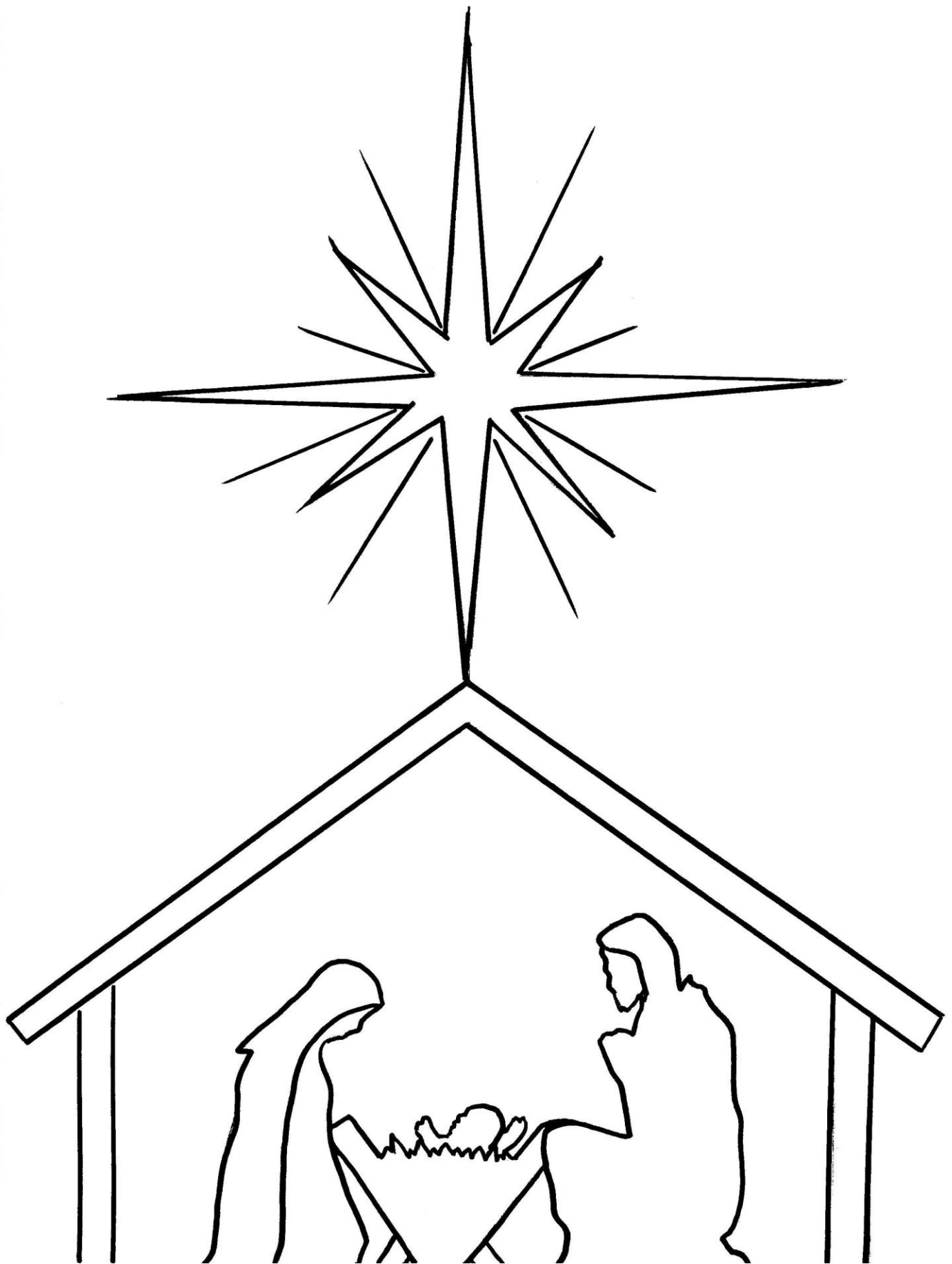
The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus lying in the manger.

Happy Birthday Jesus! You were born today!

Prayer for Jesus' Birthday

Our
HOPE
today is for everyone to have
PEACE
and
JOY
and
LOVE!

Amen.



Finish off Jesus' Birthday Card

Happy Birthday

To Jesus

From

Holy Family

The Holy Family included Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Complete the family tree below including the names of all the people you call family.



Remember ---- God is our Father and is in ALL our family trees!

He loves and looks after us... ALWAYS

The Epiphany of The Lord

Epiphany is a big adult word that simply means "to let know". In today's gospel God is letting people know that the baby Jesus is his Son.

We all have Epiphanies - when we pray or bless ourselves, when we go to Mass. We let it be known that we are followers of Jesus.

This week try to remember the number of times you let people know that you are a follower of Jesus and write down the number.

TIMES THIS WEEK

Colour in the letters with bright happy colours

I Am a Follower of Jesus

