



# John Henry Cardinal Newman

11.02.1801 – 11.08.1890

John Henry Newman was born in London in 1801. He was the eldest of six children: three boys and three girls. He was born into the faith of the Church of England. He read the Bible regularly and grew in his knowledge of God.

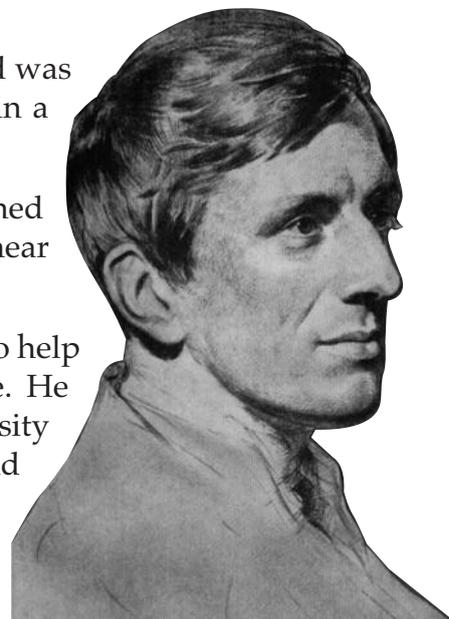
He was ordained a priest in the Church of England in 1824 and was appointed to a parish in Oxford. He was appointed to work in a college, St Mary the Virgin in Oxford, in 1827.

Newman converted to the Catholic faith in 1845 and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1847 in Rome. He lived in Maryvale, near Birmingham, after his ordination as a Catholic priest.

In 1854, the Irish bishops invited Newman to come to Ireland to help set up a university which would be separate from the state. He worked in the Catholic University of Ireland (now University College of Dublin, U.C.D.) In recognition of his work and dedication, Pope Leo XII named John Henry Newman as cardinal.

Cardinal Newman was a poet and writer. He wrote many books, poems and prayers. Two of his most popular hymns are *Lead Kindly Light* and *Praise to the Holiest in the Heights*.

At his death in 1890, he was praised for his humility and prayerfulness. Cardinal Newman was beatified on Sunday 19 September 2010, during a Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in Birmingham.



## A Daily Prayer

May He support us all the day long,  
'til the shades lengthen  
and the evening comes  
and the busy world is hushed  
and the fever of life is over  
and our work is done.  
Then in His mercy  
may He give us a safe lodging  
and a holy rest and peace at the last.

*(John Henry Newman)*

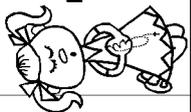
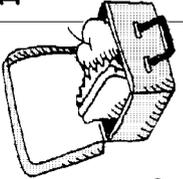
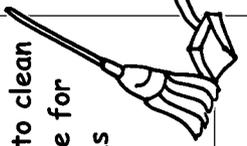
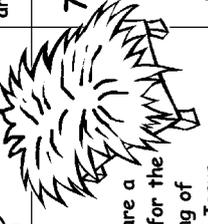
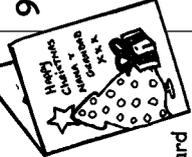
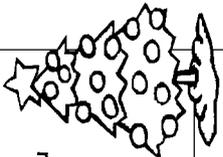
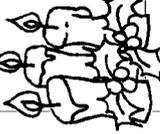
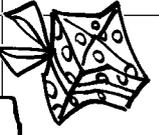
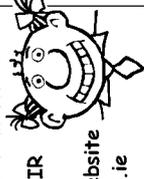
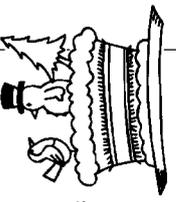
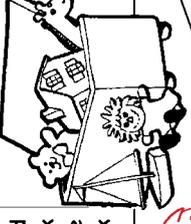
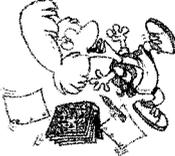
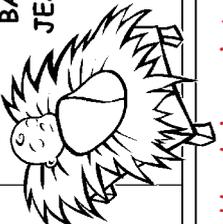
## Wordsearch

B	H	B	Z	G	W	E	D	P	E	T	W	J	E	R
S	E	T	K	L	W	D	R	G	R	N	A	N	Q	C
U	S	A	U	M	K	U	O	Z	Q	I	I	H	H	C
H	U	I	T	R	D	C	F	L	N	L	E	A	S	O
N	Q	I	C	I	T	A	X	U	B	J	L	S	N	F
Q	A	W	Z	H	F	T	O	U	M	L	U	G	T	T
Y	Z	M	G	C	W	I	D	Z	E	D	X	Y	D	O
E	Q	L	W	P	A	O	C	N	V	V	W	A	F	N
J	J	B	M	E	L	N	G	A	V	Z	S	R	B	D
Z	S	E	C	C	N	E	X	A	T	A	K	P	O	W
H	U	M	B	L	E	R	X	P	I	I	D	G	Q	X
L	A	N	I	D	R	A	C	N	E	W	O	H	Q	E
N	P	G	X	S	X	H	T	I	A	F	V	N	Z	I
A	Z	M	N	R	M	O	I	D	S	H	G	C	P	N
J	W	K	D	J	O	Q	U	A	B	U	K	B	R	C

Find the words in the wordsearch opposite

BEATIFICATION	TRUTH
CARDINAL	OXFORD
FAITH	PRAY
CHALLENGE	PRIEST
COFTON	SAINT
GOD	
DUBLIN	
EDUCATION	
HUMBLE	
NEWMAN	

# Children Helping Children ADVENT CALENDAR 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>28 Mt: 2:13-15 Light the first purple candle</p> 	<p>29 Pray that all children in the world have a happy &amp; peaceful Christmas</p> 	<p>30 Before you eat lunch today say a prayer for children who are hungry</p> 	<p>1 Guí ar son misinéirí go léir</p> 	<p>2 Pray for children who are ill, especially those who don't get proper medical care</p> 	<p>3 Make your own Christmas cards this year</p> 	<p>4 Help to clean the house for Christmas</p> 
<p>5 Mt: 24:37-44 Light two purple candles this week</p> 	<p>6 Prepare a crib for the coming of baby Jesus</p> 	<p>7 Make a dove of peace for your Christmas tree</p> 	<p>8 Say a prayer for every person who sends your family a Christmas card</p> 	<p>9 Ring an elderly relative for a chat</p> 	<p>10 Ask teacher if you can hang Christmas decorations in the classroom</p> 	<p>11 Ask if you can help to decorate the Christmas tree</p> 
<p>12 Mt: 11:2-11 Light two purple and one pink candle this week</p> 	<p>13 Everyone is welcome in God's house...pop in to say hello when you pass</p> 	<p>14 Ask teacher if you can sing a Christmas carol</p> 	<p>15 Don't forget to share your treats today</p> 	<p>16 Make your own gift for loved ones this year... it will be extra-special</p> 	<p>17 Children Helping Children MAD HAIR DAY see our website www.wmi.ie</p> 	<p>18 Help with any Christmas baking</p> 
<p>19 Mt: 1: 18-24 Light three purple and one pink candle this week</p> 	<p>20 Give away any old toys that are not broken to charity</p> 	<p>21 When you go to see Santa just ask for a surprise instead of lots of presents</p> 	<p>22 Pray for all babies born in December</p> 	<p>23 Last day in school! Enjoy your Christmas break</p> 	<p>24 Read the story of the first Christmas Luke 2: 1-14</p> 	<p>25 WELCOME BABY JESUS</p> 



*Missionary Children* is the Church's official charity for children's missions overseas. It helps more than 4 million children worldwide each year. Its unique motto is

*Children Helping Children*

God calls us to work together to look after our world and share what we have so that everyone has what they need. Building a better world is not just about having more money, it's about respecting yourself and others, it's about becoming the best person you can be.

# Advent Candles

The advent wreath is lit one candle at a time on the four Sundays before Christmas. An Advent wreath has 3 purple candles and one pink candle. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday.



## Junior Classes

Here are four candles. Light one each Sunday before Christmas.

- Draw over the dots with a pencil to make patterns on the candles. Start on the large dot each time.
- Colour the patterns and decorations.
- Dip one of your fingertips in yellow paint.
- Now “light” your candles by making your fingerprint on each flame.

## Senior Classes

Look up the Gospel Readings for each Sunday in Advent:

- 1st Sunday: Matthew 24:37-44
- 2nd Sunday: Matthew 3:1-12
- 3rd Sunday: Matthew 11:2-11
- 4th Sunday: Matthew 1:18-25

# Guided Meditation for Advent

Prepare to listen:

Light a candle...

Play some soft reflective music...(*Alive-O 7&8*)

**Teacher:**

Gently close your eyes.

Be comfortable...relaxed. Take a deep, silent breath and settle yourself...

With your eyes closed...

**Teacher:**

During Advent we meditate on the events that bring us to the fulfilment of the Promise, the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.

**Reader:**

In the town of Nazareth something very important happened. A young woman named Mary heard some astounding news from a stranger. Mary found out that the stranger was an angel sent by God. At first she was frightened, but when Mary heard the message was from God, she listened carefully. God wanted her to do something very special. The angel said to Mary: "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make Him a king, as his ancestor David was, and He will be king of the descendants of Jacob for ever; His kingdom will never end!"

**Teacher:**

Let us listen to God's message to us.  
(Quiet Reflection)

**Reader:**

Mary was surprised and confused by this news. How was she to conceive and bear a child? The angel answered: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God."

**Teacher:**

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us. How can each of us accept the power of the Holy Spirit?  
(Quiet Reflection)

**Reader:**

Mary was willing to do God's will. She didn't know what saying "Yes" to God would mean. She didn't know how her decision would affect her future. All she knew was that God wanted her to be the mother of Jesus and she said "Yes."

**Teacher:**

Let us think about the times when it was hard to say "Yes" to God's will for us.  
(Quiet Reflection)

**Reader:**

That day Mary heard some important news about her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah were childless. They prayed for a child. The angel told Mary: "Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing God cannot do."

**Teacher:**

Think about the situations in our lives that seemed impossible without God. Place the future in God's hands.  
(Quiet Reflection)

**Reader:**

When Mary heard about her cousin Elizabeth, she left quickly for a town in the hill country of Judah where Elizabeth and Zechariah lived. As

soon as Mary saw Elizabeth she hugged her joyfully. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She cried out loudly and said: "You are most blessed of all women and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me?"

**Teacher:**

We are graced with the presence of Jesus and Mary in our lives. Think about the many ways in which God has visited us.  
(Quiet Reflection)

**Teacher:**

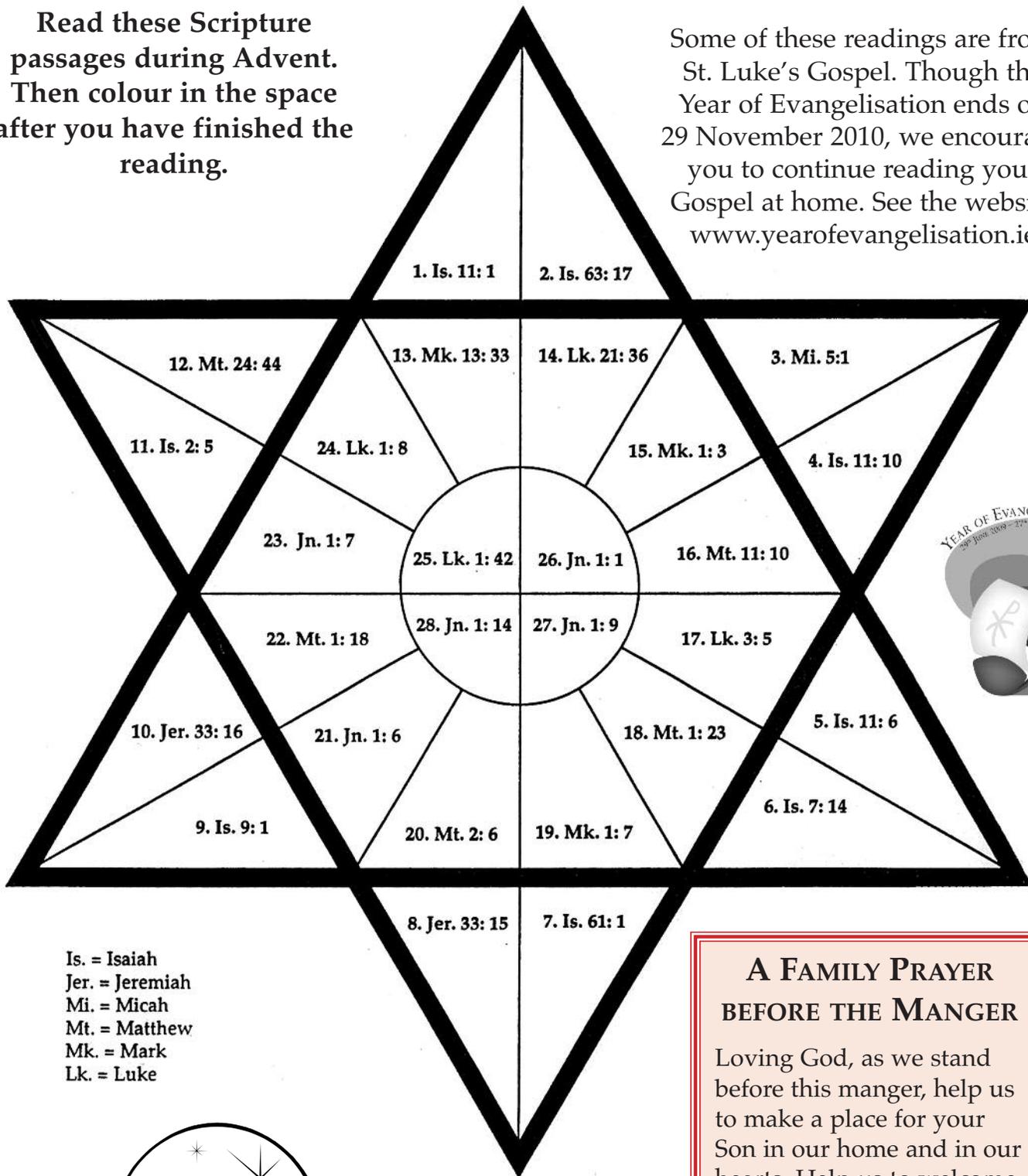
Let us pray.  
Jesus, guide us on our journey to Christmas. Make us ever aware of your presence among us. May God's will be done in our lives. We place our trust in God, who has given us Jesus, the fulfilment of the Promise. Amen.



# Star of David

Read these Scripture passages during Advent. Then colour in the space after you have finished the reading.

Some of these readings are from St. Luke's Gospel. Though the Year of Evangelisation ends on 29 November 2010, we encourage you to continue reading your Gospel at home. See the website [www.yearofevangelisation.ie](http://www.yearofevangelisation.ie)



Is. = Isaiah  
 Jer. = Jeremiah  
 Mi. = Micah  
 Mt. = Matthew  
 Mk. = Mark  
 Lk. = Luke



**A FAMILY PRAYER  
 BEFORE THE MANGER**

Loving God, as we stand before this manger, help us to make a place for your Son in our home and in our hearts. Help us to welcome Him by being kind to one another and reaching out to those who need us. We thank you for the great gift of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

AMEN

# St Andrew, 30 November

For many centuries the last day in November has been observed as the feast day of St Andrew. But who was St Andrew? Why is he the patron saint of Scotland? How did St Andrew's Cross (or Saltire) become the symbol used in the Scottish flag?



## St Andrew the Apostle

The Bible tells us that Andrew was a fisherman from Bethsaida in Galilee. St Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist but instantly recognised Jesus as the Messiah and hastened to introduce his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. After the Crucifixion, as tradition relates, St Andrew travelled to the countries bordering the Black Sea and preached the Gospel. His missionary work is still remembered in many parts of the world: St Andrew is patron saint of Greece, Russia, Romania, the Ukraine and the Italian city of Amalfi. He suffered martyrdom in the city of Patrus, in Greece. Tradition relates that St. Andrew felt unworthy to meet his death on a cross of the same shape as his Lord's, so he was crucified on a diagonal cross (known as the Saltire Cross).

From the Legends about St Rule and his historical records, we learn that relics of St. Andrew were taken from Constantinople for safe keeping and some finally found their way to Scotland.

## Things to Do

**Sing:** *The Apostles' Song (Alive-O4)*

**Bible Searches:** Mk 1:16-20  
Matt 10:1-4  
Jn 6:1-13  
Acts 1:12-14



Read the above passages.

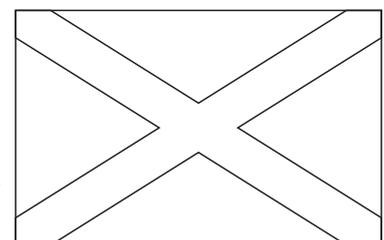
- What type of person was the Apostle Andrew?
- How can we live like the Apostles?

**Research:** Do you know of any other Saints who became martyrs and whose feast days we remember at this time of year?

## St Andrew's Cross, the Scottish National Flag

According to one Scottish legend, Angus Mac Fergus, the High King of Alba and his army came under attack during a raid in Northumbria. Defeat seemed certain. Angus and his men prayed for deliverance and there appeared in the blue sky above them a white cloud in the shape of a saltire (or St Andrew's Cross). Angus declared this to be a sign their prayers were heard. Upon victory that day, Angus vowed that St. Andrew would forever after be their patron saint and his cross would be the Scottish flag.

- Colour in the Scottish flag using the correct colours.
- Can you find any more national flags that contain the symbol of a cross within them?
- Is there a story or legend about another saint attached to the crosses found in these other national flags?



# The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

8 December

Mary was conceived without sin. God filled her with grace and chose her to be the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God. This day is a Holy Day of obligation: a day on which we are obliged to go to Mass.

## *I am the Immaculate Conception*



### **Do you know?**

This image of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, is found on the Miraculous Medal, the feast of which is on 27 November. There are rays of light shining from Mary's hands representing the intentions for which people have asked. There are spaces between the rays which represent the intentions and needs for which no one has asked. Mary invites us to come in prayer to Jesus through her.

**Prayer: O Mary conceived without sin  
pray for us who have recourse to you.**



# SOME SAINTS OF THE SEASON!

We will be learning about some Irish saints who have their feast days around this time:

- St Flannan                      18 December                      (Diocese of Killaloe)
- St Fachanan                    20 December                      (Diocese of Kilfenora)
- St Charles                      5 January                          (Diocese of Dublin)

**Here is a map of all the dioceses in Ireland:**

St Fachanan is associated with a 6th Century monastic foundation in Kilfenora, Co Clare. Kilfenora, *Cill Fhionnurach* in Irish, means "Church of the fair white brow". Later, Kilfenora became a diocese. Its cathedral was dedicated to St Fachanan and built about 1189. (That's over 800 years ago!)



- Colour in the dioceses of St Fachanan and St Flannan !
- Now colour in your diocese !
- Try counting all the dioceses.

## St Flannan, 18 December

St Flannan was the son of Turlough who was King of Thomond. He lived in the 7th century. Flannan entered Molua's monastery at Killaloe. Legend tells us that he worked diligently here. One day, after he had been baking continuously for thirty-six hours, a heavenly light shone through the fingers of his left hand. It lit up the darkness to enable him to continue with his task. The Abbot, on learning of this, was so impressed that he decided to retire from his position and he appointed Flannan as Abbot in his place.

The people of Thomond agreed that Flannan should become bishop. Flannan made a trip to Rome where he was ordained by Pope John. When he returned to Killaloe the priests, bishops, nobility and people came to listen to him speak. He had a great reputation as a preacher.

St Flannan of Killaloe is said to have performed many remarkable miracles. When he knew he was soon to die, he gathered some people together. He told them of the importance of observing natural and human justice and asked them to encourage peace among the people of the provinces. After his death, stories of this holy man spread throughout the country and crowds came to visit his tomb.

He is patron of the parish of Killaloe. The Cathedral in Ennis is named in his honour.

Look up the website [www.clarelibrary.ie](http://www.clarelibrary.ie)

## St Charles of Mount Argus, 5 January

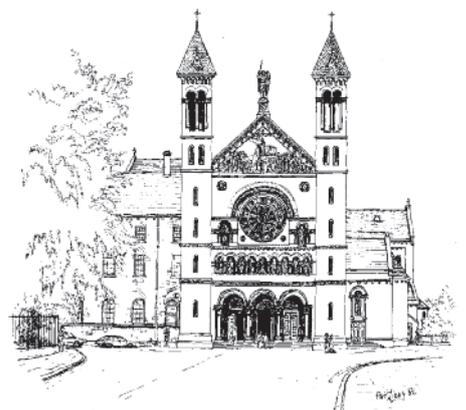


St Charles of Mount Argus was born on the 11 December 1821 in the Netherlands. We celebrate his feast day on the 5 January each year, the day on which he died. He joined the Passionist Priests in 1845 in Belgium and was ordained a priest in 1850. He was sent to Mt Argus in 1857 and he spent most of his life in this monastery. St Charles preached the message of the Good News not only by the way he spoke but more by the way he lived. His life was one of service to those in need. St Charles was always ready to respond to the sick and the suffering, the lonely, the poor and the broken hearted. He spent much time in prayer each day but he was always prompt to answer the call of those in need. The logo is the heart and the cross. The writing is in Greek, Hebrew and Latin and means the Passion of Christ. St Charles shared in the mission of Jesus to heal the broken hearted.



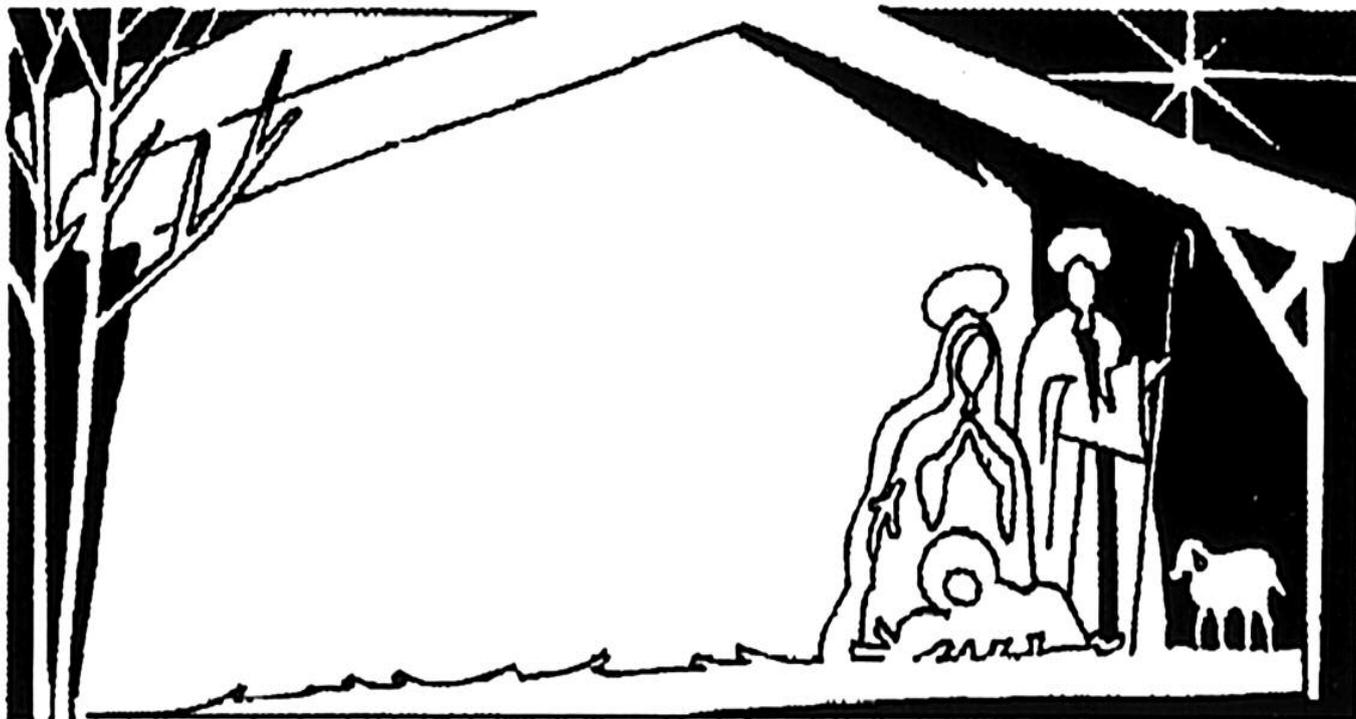
The Parish Church in Mt Argus is called "St Paul of the Cross", located in Harold's Cross, Dublin 6. The Passionist priests minister in the parish. You may get an opportunity to visit the tomb of St Charles there.

- Take time to pray today for those who are sick and those who care for them.
- Thank God for the gift of health.



# O Come Let us Adore Him

Draw yourself bringing your gift of love and prayer to Jesus.  
You may write a letter to Him as well



Dear Jesus:

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Love, \_\_\_\_\_

# Oíche Nollag

Tarraing an pictiúr seo i do chóipleabhar!



- Léigh an scéal faoi Oíche Nollag (Lúcás 2:1-20)
- Guí an triú deichniúr den Choróin Mhuire
- Can an amhrán “Sa stábla” ó Beo go Deo

# BIBLE WORK

## THE NEW COVENANT

Can you unscramble these books of the Bible?

TAHMETW \_\_\_\_\_

SAEJM \_\_\_\_\_

AKMR \_\_\_\_\_

MEHOPLIN \_\_\_\_\_

UITST \_\_\_\_\_

OJHN \_\_\_\_\_

IPSENHAES \_\_\_\_\_

TIOHMY \_\_\_\_\_

EPTRE \_\_\_\_\_

LKUE \_\_\_\_\_

CATS \_\_\_\_\_

TRNOACIHISN \_\_\_\_\_

ALGTANIAS \_\_\_\_\_

ERLVEAITON \_\_\_\_\_

UEJD \_\_\_\_\_

NMROAS \_\_\_\_\_

EWHESBR \_\_\_\_\_

SSLEHTOANANIS \_\_\_\_\_

SOOCALSINS \_\_\_\_\_

PIHIPAILPNS \_\_\_\_\_

Put the circled letters here: \_\_\_\_\_

Now unscramble the circled letters to find another name for "covenant": \_\_\_\_\_



## O HOLY NIGHT

Unscramble these words from the Christmas story (Matthew 1:23; 2:1-12; and Luke 2:1-20). Then unscramble the circled letters to find something you might say to the Lord on Christmas Day.

TRAS \_\_\_\_\_

SHEOJP \_\_\_\_\_

NIN \_\_\_\_\_

SEW EMN \_\_\_\_\_

RAYM \_\_\_\_\_

DGWSLAND HLSTOC \_\_\_\_\_

VLEAYNEH SHOT \_\_\_\_\_

LHETBMHEE \_\_\_\_\_

NRMAGE \_\_\_\_\_

HDSPERSHE \_\_\_\_\_

KEFNACNSERNI \_\_\_\_\_

LOGD \_\_\_\_\_

RYHRM \_\_\_\_\_

The phrase: \_\_\_\_\_

# Justice Education



When all people live peacefully in the world, we bring about God's kingdom. We pray for this when we say the "Our Father."

What qualities do you think are important for justice in our world? Number these qualities in order of importance

- Forgiveness
- Kindness
- Respect
- Wisdom
- Listening
- Fairness
- Courage
- Trust
- Honesty
- Understanding
- Patience
- Sharing



The **United Nations** is made up of 189 countries from around the world. It is often called the **U.N.** It was set up in 1945, after the Second World War, as a way of bringing people together and to avoid further wars. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the year commencing 12 August 2010 as the **International Year of Youth**. The resolution calls upon governments, civil society, individuals and communities worldwide to support activities at local and international levels to mark the event.

The U.N. has a section called **UNICEF** that tries to help children. It has a convention on children's rights. They would like it to be followed by all countries, as a set of rules about the treatment of children.

You can learn more by visiting these websites:

[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

[www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

[www.childrenhelpingchildren.ie](http://www.childrenhelpingchildren.ie)



**TROCAIRE**  
Working for a Just World



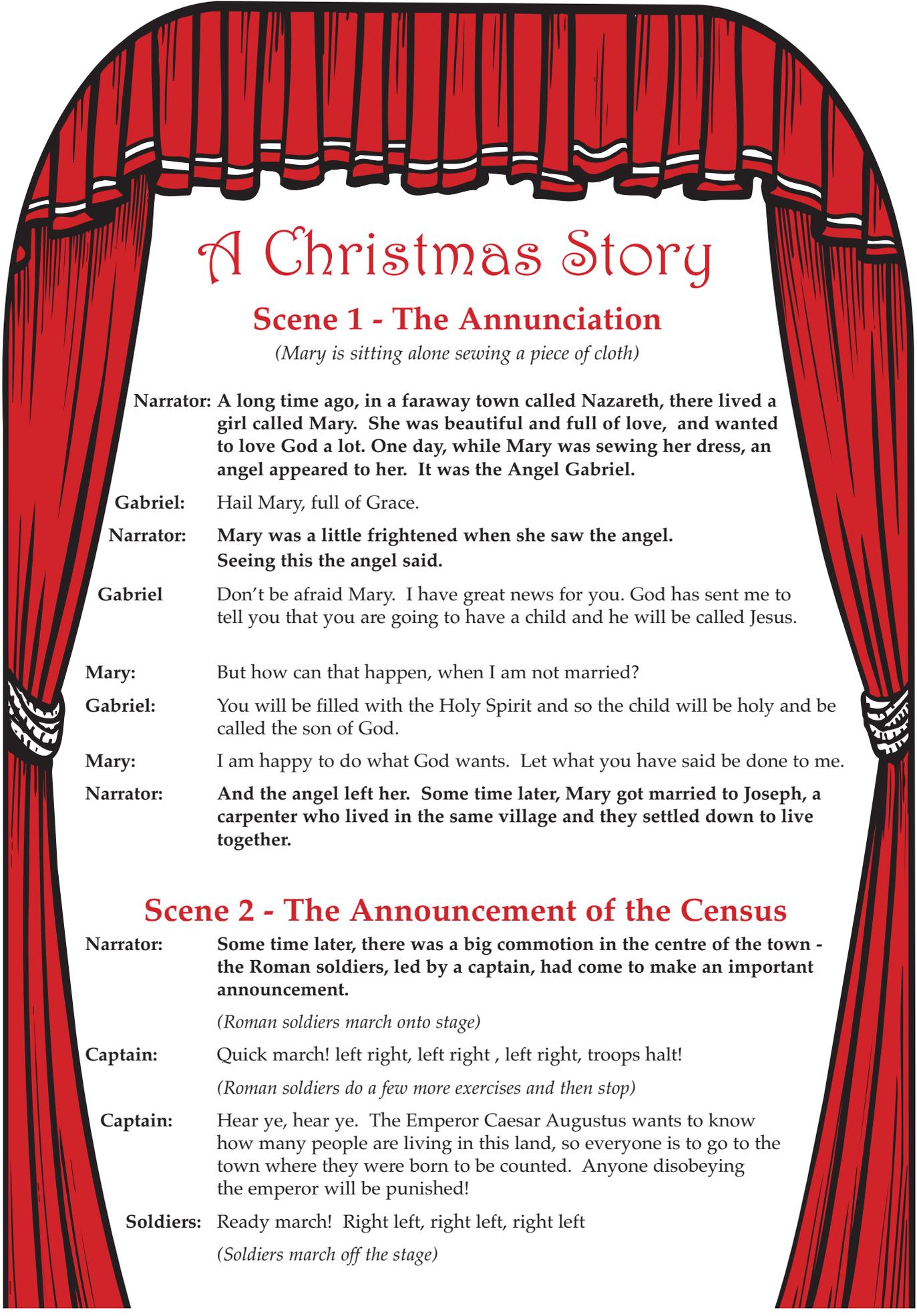
# Fáilte Romhat a íosa, 25 Nollag Nollaig Shona Duit

**Críochnaigh an pictiúr (an réalt, na caoraigh...)  
Dathaigh an pictiúr.**



**Guí le chéile.**

**A íosa, ár gcara,  
Guí orainn inniu, amárach agus do deo.  
Áiméan**



# A Christmas Story

## Scene 1 - The Annunciation

*(Mary is sitting alone sewing a piece of cloth)*

**Narrator:** A long time ago, in a faraway town called Nazareth, there lived a girl called Mary. She was beautiful and full of love, and wanted to love God a lot. One day, while Mary was sewing her dress, an angel appeared to her. It was the Angel Gabriel.

**Gabriel:** Hail Mary, full of Grace.

**Narrator:** Mary was a little frightened when she saw the angel. Seeing this the angel said.

**Gabriel** Don't be afraid Mary. I have great news for you. God has sent me to tell you that you are going to have a child and he will be called Jesus.

**Mary:** But how can that happen, when I am not married?

**Gabriel:** You will be filled with the Holy Spirit and so the child will be holy and be called the son of God.

**Mary:** I am happy to do what God wants. Let what you have said be done to me.

**Narrator:** And the angel left her. Some time later, Mary got married to Joseph, a carpenter who lived in the same village and they settled down to live together.

## Scene 2 - The Announcement of the Census

**Narrator:** Some time later, there was a big commotion in the centre of the town - the Roman soldiers, led by a captain, had come to make an important announcement.

*(Roman soldiers march onto stage)*

**Captain:** Quick march! left right, left right, left right, troops halt!

*(Roman soldiers do a few more exercises and then stop)*

**Captain:** Hear ye, hear ye. The Emperor Caesar Augustus wants to know how many people are living in this land, so everyone is to go to the town where they were born to be counted. Anyone disobeying the emperor will be punished!

**Soldiers:** Ready march! Right left, right left, right left

*(Soldiers march off the stage)*

## Scene 3 - The Journey to Bethlehem

*(Mary, Joseph and Donkey walk to centre of stage)*

**Narrator:** Now Joseph was from a town, which was miles away from Nazareth, so that meant that he and Mary had to set off on a long journey to Bethlehem. It was wintertime and it was very cold. Even the little donkey that carried Mary was feeling cold.

**Joseph:** Oh Mary, I wish we didn't have to go to Bethlehem at this time of the year, especially now that you are expecting a baby. I'm so worried about you. I hope you don't catch cold.

**Mary:** Don't worry Joseph. Wait till you see, everything will work out fine. God will look after us.

**Song:** *Little Donkey*

Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road,  
Got to keep on plodding onwards  
With your precious load Been a long time, little donkey  
Thro' the winter's night  
Don't give up now, little donkey Bethlehem's in sight

*Chorus*

**Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem  
Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem**

Little donkey, little donkey, journey's end is near  
There are wise men, waiting for a sign to bring them near  
Do not falter, little donkey, there's a star ahead  
It will guide you, little donkey, to a cattle shed

*Chorus*

Little donkey, little donkey had a heavy day,  
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.  
*(Mary, Joseph and donkey walk off stage)*



## Scene 4 - The Innkeepers' Convention

**Narrator:** But when Mary and Joseph arrived at Bethlehem, things didn't look too good at all. There were so many other people there to be counted that all of the hotels and inns seemed to be full up. There was no room anywhere. *(Innkeepers walk onto stage)*

**First Innkeeper:** Gosh its busy these days, we're completely booked up.

**2nd Innkeeper:** So are we. I'm glad Caesar wanted to find out how many people were living here - it has been great for business.  
*(the other innkeepers nod in agreement - then there's a knock at the door and Joseph comes on stage. He's shivering with the cold. )*

**Joseph:** Excuse me - I was wondering would you have a room where my wife and I can stay for the night.

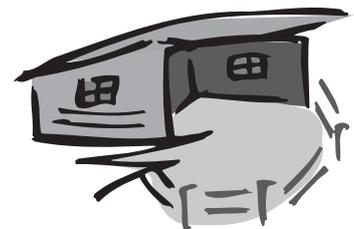
**2nd Innkeeper:** Sorry, we're all booked up, there's no room. You'll have go somewhere else.

**Joseph:** But we have tried every inn in Bethlehem - you are our last hope. Please help us. My wife is going to have a baby very soon. She can't stay out in the cold.

**2nd Innkeeper:** Sorry, that's your problem - you'll have to go now.  
*(Joseph looks very upset, and turns to leave )*

**1st Innkeeper:** No wait - I think I can help you. There's a stable at the back of our house. It's not much I know, but at least you'll be out of the cold. Here's the address. You can go there immediately.

**Joseph:** Oh thank you. May God reward you for your kindness!



## Scene 5 - The Shepherds and Angels

**Narrator:** Now around Bethlehem, there were lots of little hills, where sheep used to graze. The shepherds who looked after them, had to sleep out in the open at night, taking it in turns to stay awake, because that was when the sheep were in most danger, from foxes and wolves. *(a group of shepherds and their sheep walk onto the stage. All but 2 settle down to sleep.)*

**David:** Doesn't the sky look really lovely tonight?

**Adam:** Yes, I've never seen so many stars and they're so bright.

**David:** I'm glad it's my turn to stay awake. I wouldn't want to miss this for anything.

**Narrator:** **As they are admiring the stars, suddenly an angel appears in the sky, and the whole sky seems to be lit up with the light that comes from her. David and Adam, jump up with the fright. This wakes up the other shepherds, who look up at the angel with great fear.**

**Angel:** Do not be afraid. I have great news for you. Today Jesus has been born. He is the saviour of the world. You will find him lying in manger in a stable in Bethlehem. Just follow the star, and it will take you there. And don't worry about your sheep because God will look after them. *(Other angels join the first angel and they chant together)*

**Angels:** Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to his people on earth. *(repeat it 3 times) (Angels fly off to side of the stage).*

**David:** Come on, let's go quickly to find Jesus.

**Adam:** Look, I'll bring him this little baby lamb as a gift.

**Song:** *Angels we have heard*  
 Angels we have heard on high. Sweetly singing o'er the plain,  
 And the mountains in reply. Echo still their joyous strain

*Chorus*  
**Gloria, in excelsis Deo (X2)**

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your rapturous strain prolong?  
 Say what may your tidings be. Which inspire your heavenly song? **(Chorus)**

Come to Bethlehem and see. Him whose birth the angels sing  
 Come adore on bended knee. Christ our Lord, the new-born king. **(Chorus)**  
*(The shepherds, and sheep hurry off the stage)*



## Scene 6 - The Three Wise Kings

**Narrator:** **Meanwhile, some way off, three kings, and their servants were making their way through the night. They had been travelling for months, walking, or riding their camels, thousands of miles. They came from different parts of the world, and had met by chance as they travelled along following a bright star which had appeared in the sky. Because they were wise men, they realised that the star was a sign that the King of the world had been born.**

**King Melchior:** I'm so tired. How much longer do we have to travel before we find him?

**King Caspar:** Let us not give up hope. It can't be too much further now.

**King Balthasar:** I think the star, is getting lower in the sky - maybe we are getting closer. Come on - let's hurry up.

**Song:** *We Three Kings*  
 We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
 Field and fountain, moon and mountain. Following yonder star

*Chorus*  
**Oh, oh, star of wonder, star of night - Star of royal beauty bright,**  
**Westward leading, still proceeding - Guide us to thy perfect light**

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain. Gold I bring, to crown him again  
 King for ever, ceasing never. Over us all to reign **(Chorus)**

Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh:  
 Prayer and praising, all men raising. Worship Him, God most high **(Chorus)**

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume. Breathes a life of gathering gloom,  
 Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb **(Chorus)**

Glorious now, behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice  
 Heaven sings alleluya, Alleluya the earth replies. **(Chorus)**



## Scene 7 - The Stable at Bethlehem

**Narrator:** Just as the angels had said, baby Jesus had been born in the stable at Bethlehem. Mary, his mother, wrapped him up in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. And then both she and Joseph, gazed at him with love. They could hardly believe their eyes. Jesus, the saviour of the world, had been born, and was going to be living with them.

*(Joseph and Mary are kneeling on their hunkers, with baby Jesus in the middle. After a few moments, the shepherds arrive.)*

**David:** Oh this must be it, look there's the baby

**Adam:** Imagine, this is the saviour of the world!

*(The shepherds fall on their knees before the baby)*

**Mary:** But how did you know we were here?

**Adam:** While we were watching our sheep, the whole sky was lit up with angels and one of them told us you were here.

**Sam:** The angels were singing in the sky saying "Glory to God in the highest" I've never seen anything so beautiful.

**David:** We were terrified, but they told us not to be afraid, that Jesus the saviour of the world had been born.

**Isaac:** We are so happy to be here with you and Jesus.

**Mary:** We are happy you are here too to share our joy, this is a day that we will always remember

**Song:** *Away in a Manger*

*(As the song finishes, the three wise kings arrive and they too kneel before baby Jesus)*

**King Melchior:** At last we have found you. Our search was not in vain - here is my gift for the saviour - a casket of gold.

**King Caspar:** I bring you a gift from my native land - Frankincense. I give it to you Jesus with all my heart.

**King Balthasar:** And here is my gift - myrrh, a precious spice from the orient. We are so lucky to be here with you, and so we want to give you these gifts on behalf of all of the people of the world to say that you are the only king.

**Adam:** And we brought you a gift too - a little lamb, on behalf of all the children of the world - to say that you are welcome to our land.

**Mary:** I am sure that baby Jesus is very happy with all of your gifts, but most of all because you have given him your hearts as well.

**Narrator:** Baby Jesus brings the light of love into the world, a love that touches each one of us. So now we light a candle to symbolise the birth of his love within us. We help each other on this journey and so we take the light from one another, and let us bring this light out into the world to each person we meet.

*(Candles may be lit and while the players remain as they are around Jesus in the crib, all sing "Silent Night". Blow out candles at the end.)*

## THE END



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# Mary, Mother of God, 1 January

## World Day of Peace

Today we honour Mary, Mother of God. We remember the story of the Annunciation which tells how the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and asked her to be the Mother of God. Mary said Yes and in doing so she brought life to the world. We pray to Jesus through Mary to bring peace to our world. Peace is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We pray for peace in our hearts, in our families and in the world today and always.



- Can you name the fruits and the gifts of the Holy Spirit? (See *Alive-O* 7 and 8)
- Using your Rosary beads say the first Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, the Annunciation.
- Read the story of the Annunciation in your Bible (Lk:1: 26-32).
- Draw a picture of the Annunciation.
- Pray the Angelus at 12 noon and 6 o' clock this evening.



F	G	C	B	X	F	B	U	P	L	L	K	W	S	Q
N	A	O	C	G	X	G	A	J	O	P	I	V	S	B
J	O	F	O	G	Y	T	U	R	A	O	N	C	E	E
L	W	E	P	D	I	P	T	O	Q	L	D	D	N	Y
N	U	J	V	E	N	N	W	M	D	U	N	I	L	X
R	Y	U	N	O	O	E	B	Z	F	V	E	S	U	U
H	D	C	I	C	L	I	S	S	X	A	S	N	F	T
F	E	B	F	S	K	V	S	S	O	U	S	G	H	A
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G	E	N	T	L	E	N	E	S	S	O	S	T	I	Q
S	J	N	X	I	V	R	F	S	J	J	M	T	A	H
C	E	H	A	Y	M	Y	Q	T	P	K	B	I	F	L
I	K	H	Z	Y	Z	L	C	A	Q	D	L	Y	G	I
R	B	U	F	V	L	D	V	E	T	N	I	B	F	C
A	D	F	V	W	T	W	K	N	U	Y	U	B	P	V

### WORDSEARCH

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| FAITHFULNESS | GENTLENESS |
| GOODNESS     | JOY        |
| KINDNESS     | LOVE       |
| PATIENCE     | PEACE      |
| SELF CONTROL |            |

# The Epiphany, 6 January

This feast day we remember that the wise men travelled a long way to visit Jesus and to bring Him gifts.

Can you follow their example?

Answering these questions may help.

- How can you visit Jesus?
- How can you visit Him in the stable like the wise men?
- Can you visit Jesus at Church? Can you visit Jesus at Home?
- Can you visit Jesus in School, in the people you meet every day?

## Bible Search

Matt 2:1-12



Complete this picture by drawing what you wish to bring to the crib to thank God for the gift of Jesus. Colour.

# Flight into Egypt



## Read Matthew 2: to help you answer these questions

- Why was King Herod angry?
- What did King Herod want to do?
- How did Joseph know to take his family and leave?
- Are there people today who have to leave their home and their countries for their own safety?
- Where did Jesus grow up?

### PRAYER TO THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

O angel of God, my guardian dear,  
To whom God's love commits me  
here,  
Ever this day be at my side,  
To light and guard,  
To rule and guide,  
Amen.



# My Book of Christmas Events

The Flight into Egypt

The Visitation

Mary and Joseph find accommodation in Bethlehem, outside Jerusalem

The Visit of the Wise Men/The Epiphany

Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem

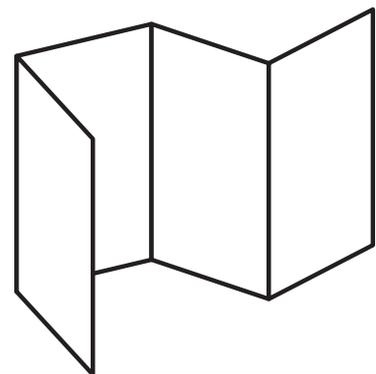
The Visit of the Shepherds

The Birth of Jesus/ The Nativity

The Annunciation



- Cut out these Christmas Event Labels
  - Place in the correct sequence (Tip: refer to Matt. 1,2 and Lk. 1,2 or consult *Alive-O* 3, 4 and 7)
  - Fold card to make a simple zig-zag book
  - Design and decorate the front cover of the zig-zag book
  - Label each page with each of the sequenced labels
  - Draw a picture to match each labelled page
- (correct sequence on back page)



# Glossary

**Advent** is a time of waiting and preparing. We wait and get ready for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God.

**Diocese:** A diocese is an area of the Church led by a bishop

**Martyr:** A person who is put to death because of their religious beliefs

**Relic:** A part of the body of a saint or martyr or some object associated with them that is preserved as an object of reverence

**Saints:** Are members of the Church who have died and are happy with God forever in heaven

# Answers

**Page 6:** There are 26 Dioceses

**Page 13 - Bible Work:**

**The New Covenant:** Matthew, James, Mark, Philemon, Titus, John, Ephesians, Timothy, Peter, Luke, Acts, Corinthians, Galatians, Revelation, Jude, Romans, Hebrews, Thessalonians, Colossians, Philippians. **Testament**

**O Holy Night**

Star, Joseph, inn, wise men, Mary, swaddling clothes, heavenly host, Bethlehem, manger, shepherds, frankincense, gold, myrrh.

**Page 21: My Book of Christmas Events**

**Correct sequence:** The Annunciation, The Visitation, Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem; Mary and Joseph find accommodation in Bethlehem, outside Jerusalem; The Birth of Jesus/The Nativity; The visit of the shepherds; The visit of the Wise Men/The Epiphany; The Flight into Egypt

## Teachers Reflection

Christmas Poor  
 You are the caller  
 You are the poor  
 You are the stranger at my door.

You are the wanderer  
 The unfed  
 You are the homeless  
 With no bed.

You are the man  
 Driven insane  
 You are the child  
 Crying in pain.

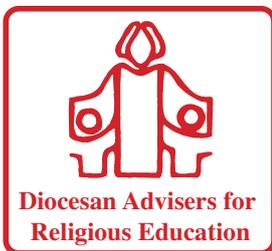
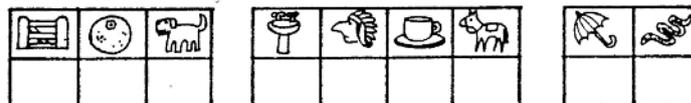
You are the other who comes to me  
 If I open to another  
 you're born in me.

*(David Adam)*



God loves us so much, that he came to live with us as a person called Jesus.

One of Jesus' names is IMMANUEL which means



## Beannachtaí na Féile

### The Diocesan Advisers for Religious Education in Primary Schools

Education Secretariat, Archbishop's House, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.  
 Email: [primary@dubcated.org](mailto:primary@dubcated.org) Telephone: 8379253 Fax: 8368393