



# Advent 2019

## Waiting for a baby to be born

Armagh Diocesan Prayer and Spirituality Group

Cycle A

# 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](http://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 A).

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 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".

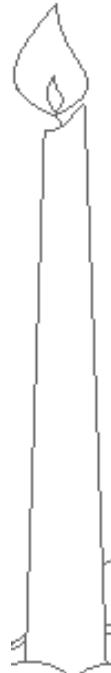
Advent in the past was like Lent; people would have eaten less and prayed more to prepare for Christmas. The pink candle is lit on the third week (Gaudete Sunday) as a sign of Joy. People could break their fast for the day (like St Patrick's Day). On this day the priest would wear rose or pink coloured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

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Waiting

(Light our 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!)



Do you ever play "Hide and Go Seek"? Does someone count to 10 and say, "Here I come hidden or not?"

Jesus says this in today's Gospel.

"Stay awake for you do not know when the master is coming!"

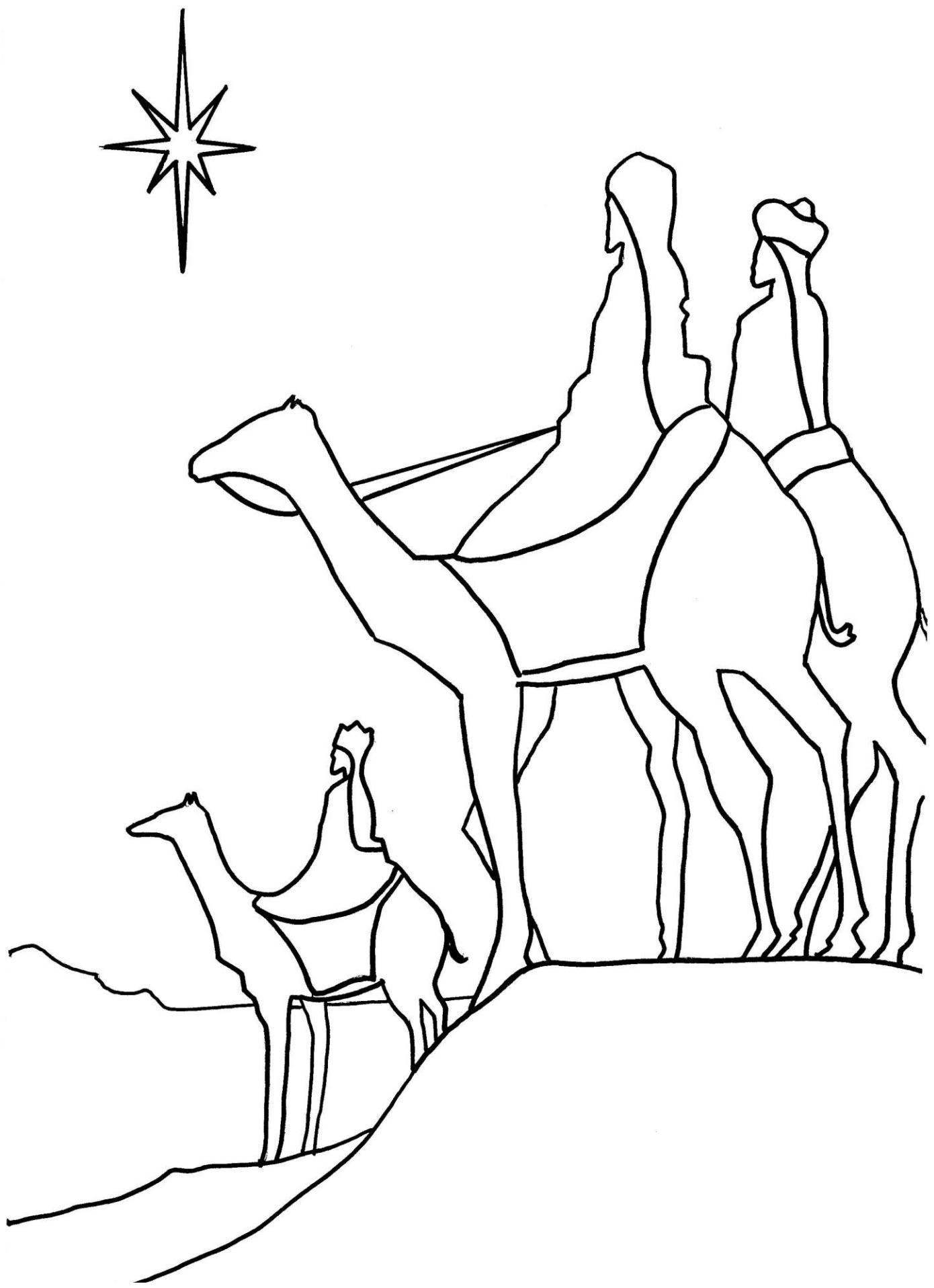
Just like the game where we rush around looking for the right spot to hide, Jesus tells us to make sure we have done the right things to please God when he finds us.

Write down 3 things that will please Jesus when he finds us

1.....

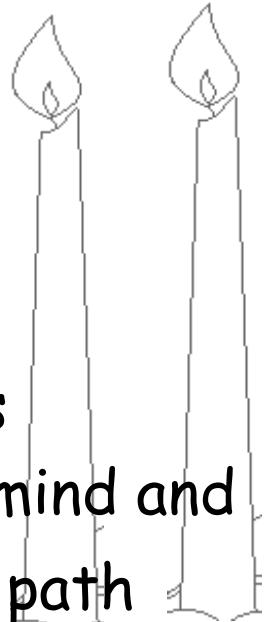
2.....

3.....



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Waiting

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



In today's Gospel John the Baptist says "Love God with all your heart, soul and mind and "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his path straight."

How can we do this? John says to "Repent".

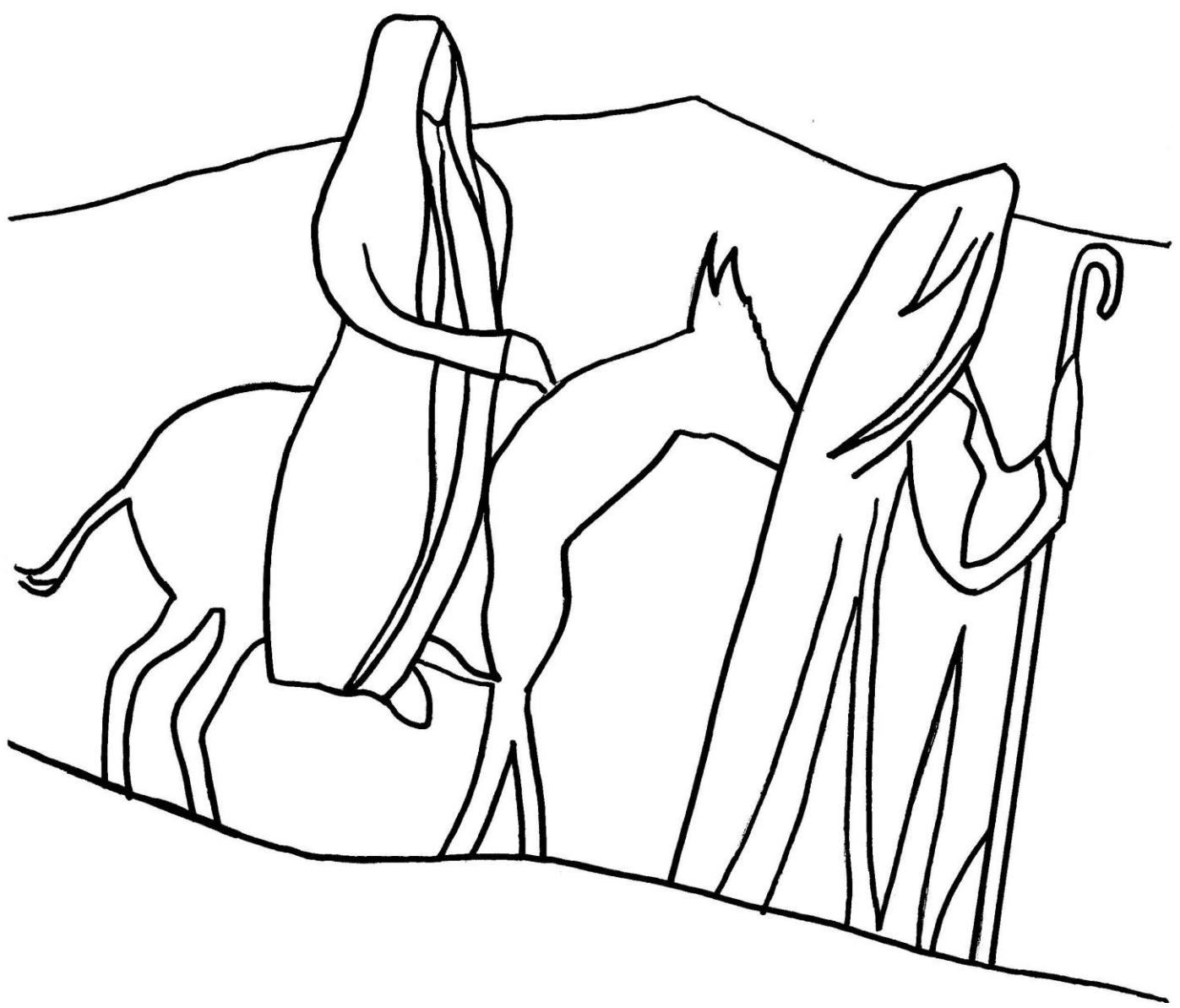
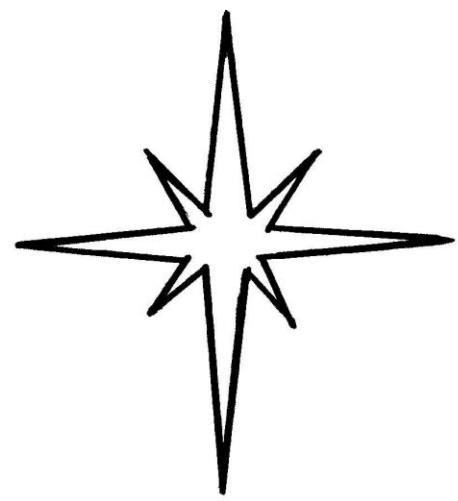
This means to be sorry for the wrong we have done and to want to make things better.

Find the words and finish the sentence using some of the words.

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

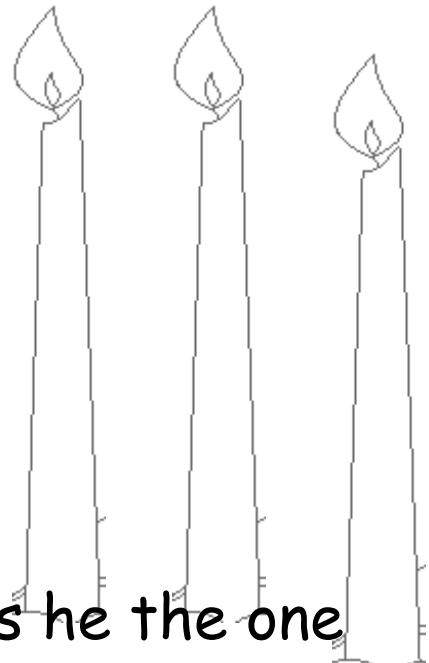
GOD  
JESUS  
LOVE  
HEART  
SOUL  
MIND  
NEIGHBOUR  
JOHN  
BAPTIST

LOVE \_\_\_\_ WITH ALL YOUR \_\_\_\_ , SOUL AND \_\_\_\_  
AND LOVE YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ AS YOURSELF.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Waiting

(Light our 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)



John the Baptist asked Jesus was he the one who was to come and save us? Jesus said yes - "For I make the blind see, the lame walk and the deaf hear".

Maybe this week we can do the work for Jesus. (For example:- Give a gift to St Vincent De Paul at Mass. They will give it to people who need it - you will make them happy! Or you could make a card or shoebox present for a little girl or boy in a poor country).



# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Waiting

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

The Gospel today is all about people saying YES to God.

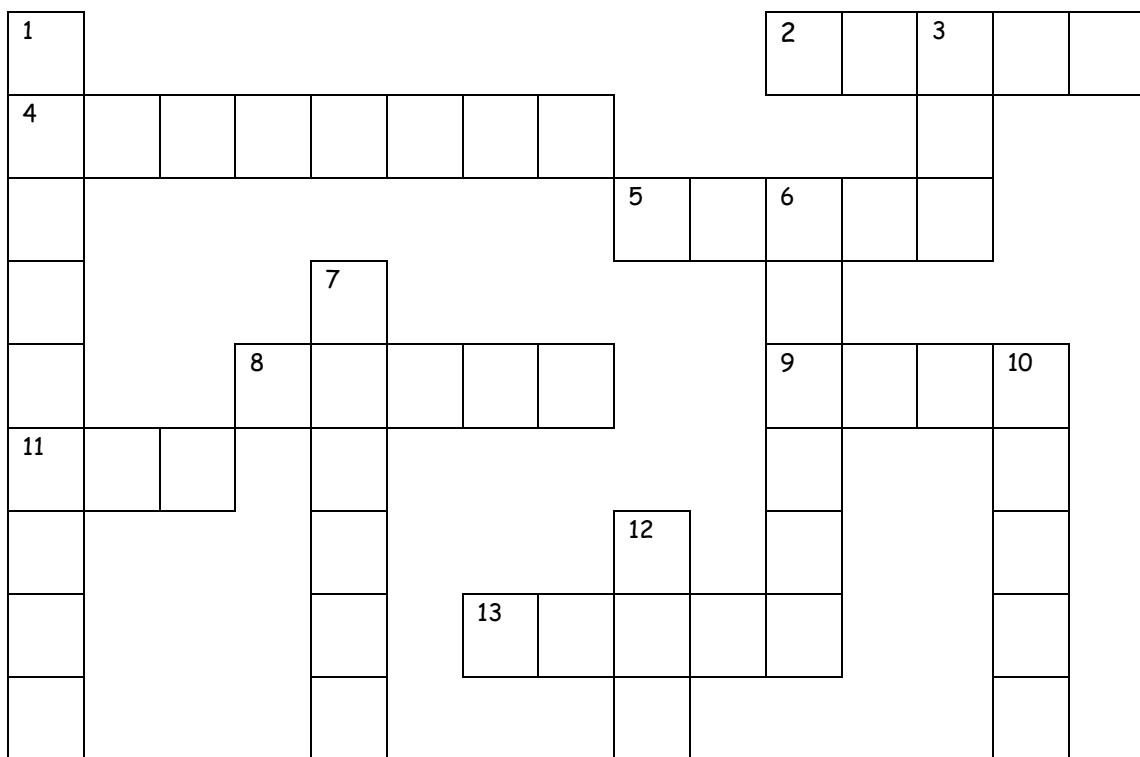
Mary said YES and became Jesus' mum

Joseph said YES and took Mary to a safe place.

Say YES to people this week instead of NO !



## Christmas Crossword

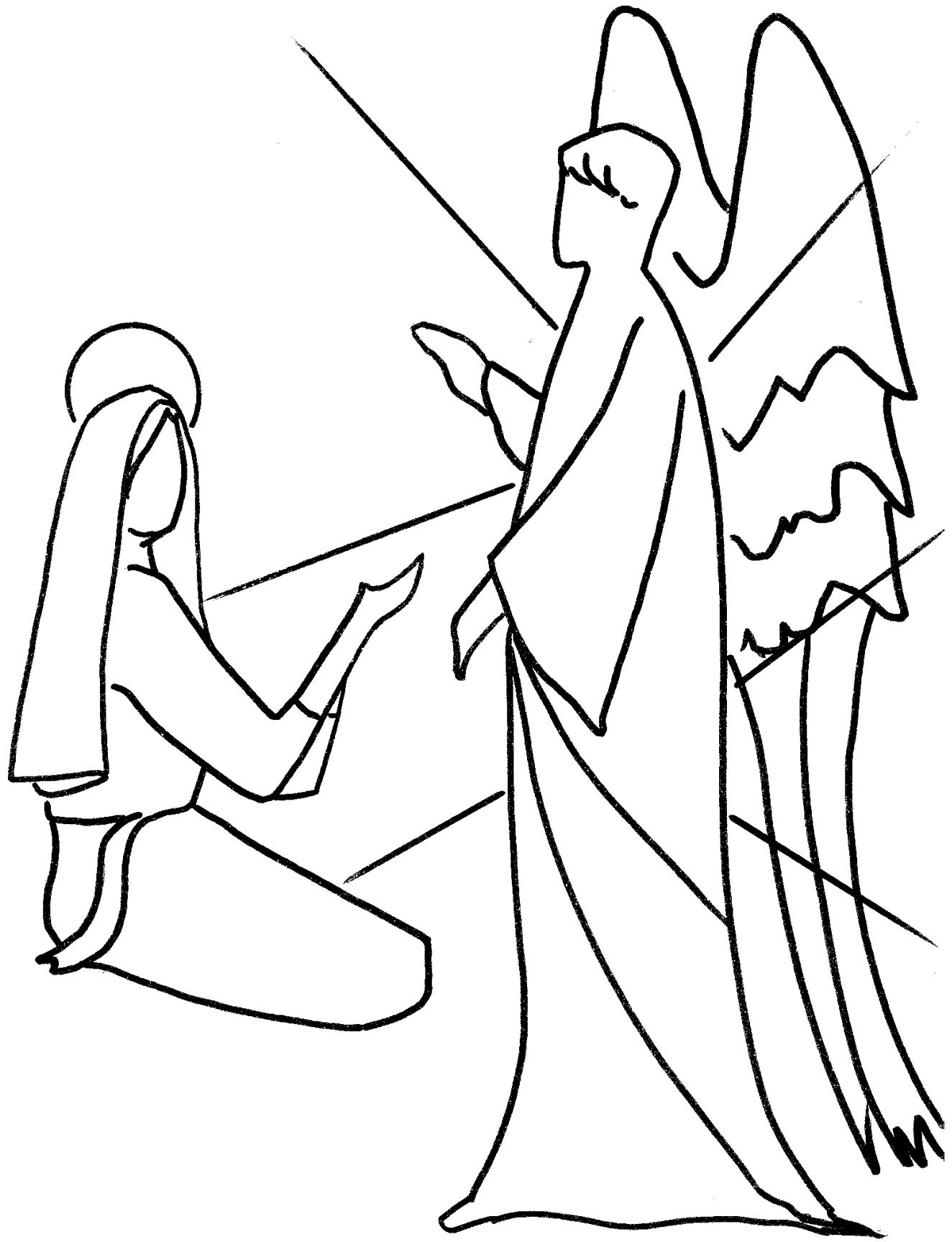


Across

2. Have a \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas! (5)
4. Name that means God-is-with-us (8)
5. One of Santa's Reindeers (5)
8. Santa's Workshop is at the \_\_\_ Pole (5)
9. Unable to walk properly (4)
11. Noah built this (3)
13. Not asleep (5)

Down

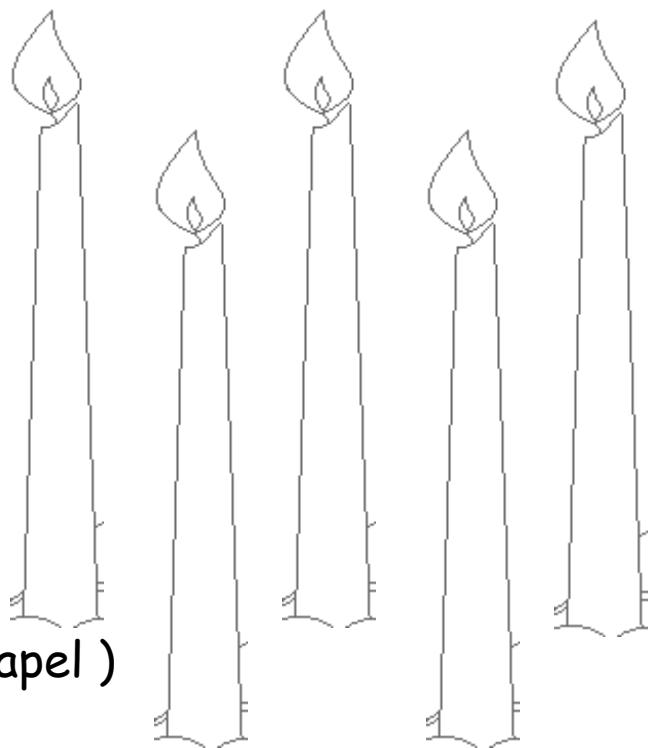
1. Main city in Israel
3. Colour of Rudolph's Nose (3)
6. Where a King and Queen Live (6)
7. Insect John the Baptist ate (6)
10. Santa's little helpers (5)
12. Meat we eat with Turkey at Christmas (3)



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 the chapel )



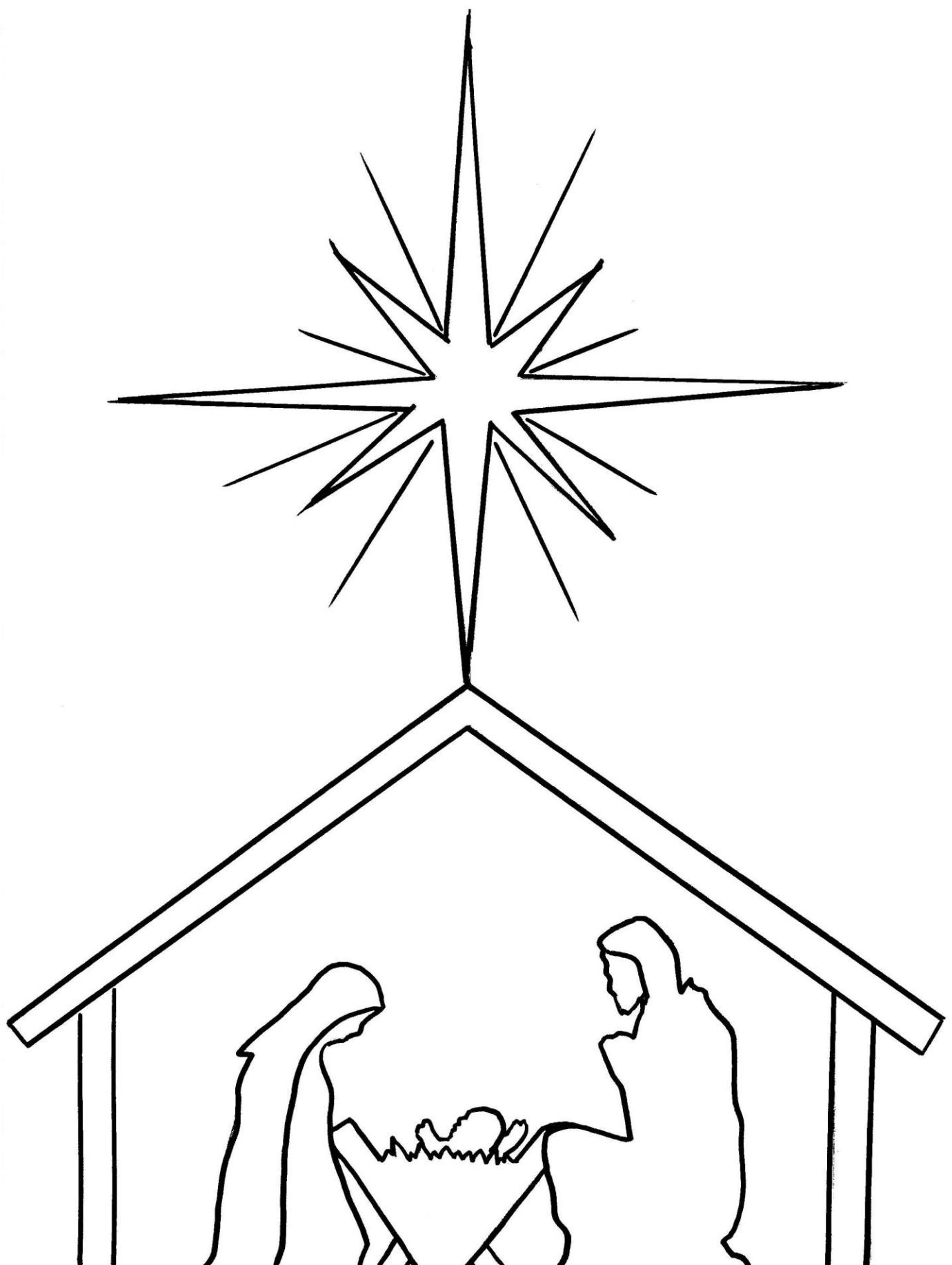
The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus lying in the manger.

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

