

The background features a line art illustration of five lit candles of varying heights, with flames. Below the candles are holly leaves and clusters of berries. The entire scene is enclosed in a decorative border.

# Our Advent Season

Waiting for a baby  
to be born

Cycle C

# Introduction

Seasons Greeting 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, Christmas Day, the Holy Family and The Epiphany of the Lord (Cycle C).

The general theme is based on the idea of Waiting.

Introduction	Page 2
Advent Wreath (Help for anyone explaining the story of the Wreath)	Page 3
Week 1, Waiting – Hope	Page 4 and 5
Week2, Waiting – Peace	Page 6 and 7
Week 3, Waiting – Joy	Page 8
Week 4, Waiting - Love	Page 9 and 10
Christmas Day	Page 11, 12 and 13
The Holy Family	Page 14
The Epiphany of The Lord	Page 15

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 Story)!

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”.

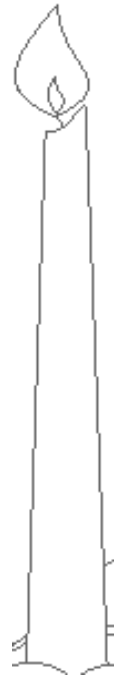
Advent in the past was like Lent; people would have eaten less and prayed more to prepare for Christmas. The pink candle is lit on the third week (Gaudete Sunday) as a sign of Joy. People could break their fast for the day (like St Patrick’s Day). On this day the priest would wear rose or pink coloured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

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Waiting (Hope)

(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!)



A bright Star shone in the sky. The 3 Wise Men saw the star. They hoped this was the sign that a very special child was to be born. They set off following the Star.

Find the WORDS in the box and complete the Hidden Message using 3 words from the list.

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

- ADVENT
- JESUS
- JOSEPH
- MARY
- PRAYER
- RUDOLPH
- SANTA
- WAITING
- WISH
- GOD

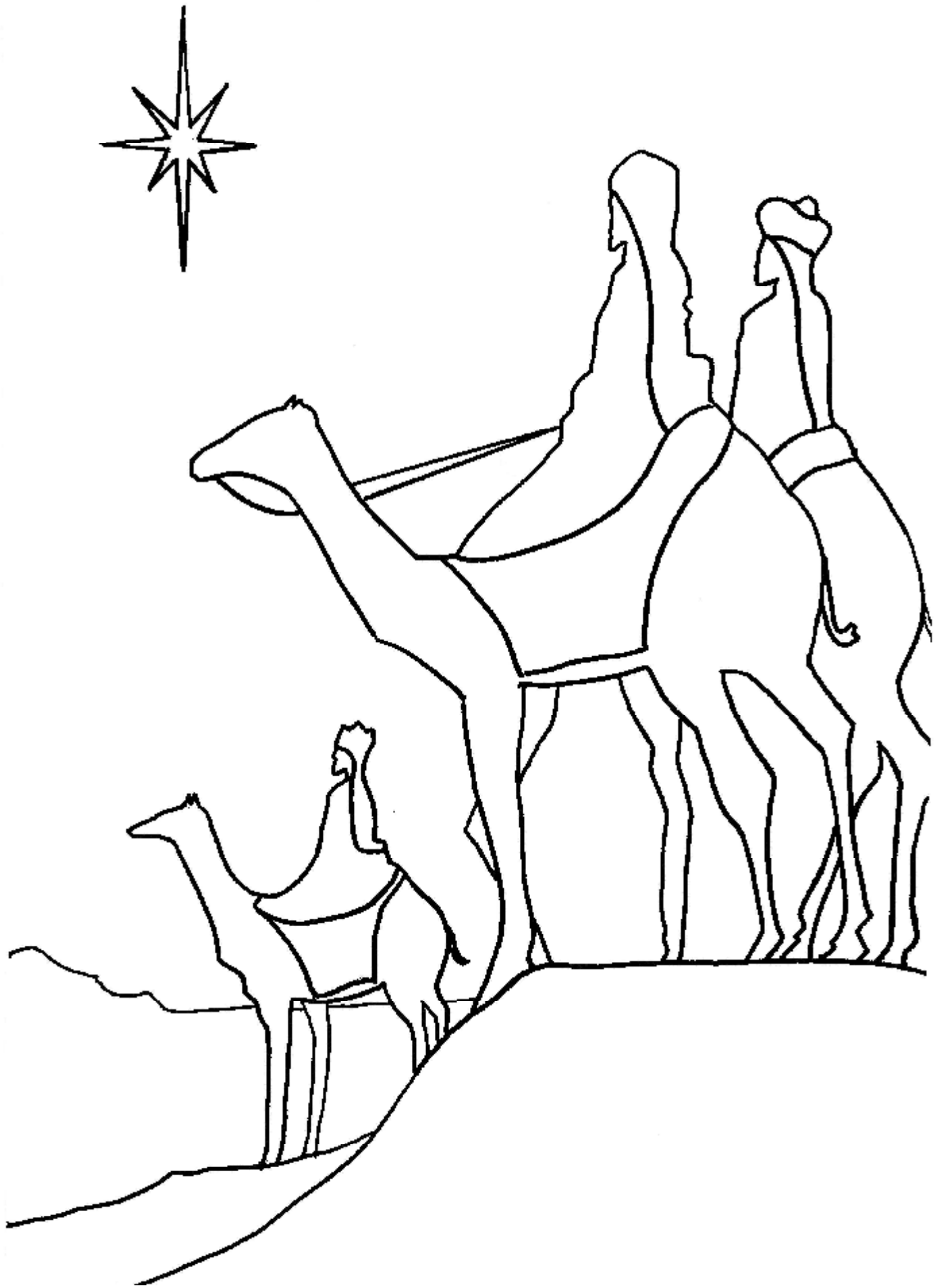
A ---- or a hope is a ----- if you ask --- .

Write down 3 things you HOPE for!

.....

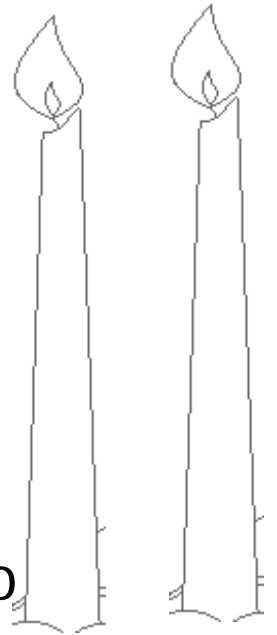
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Waiting (Peace)

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



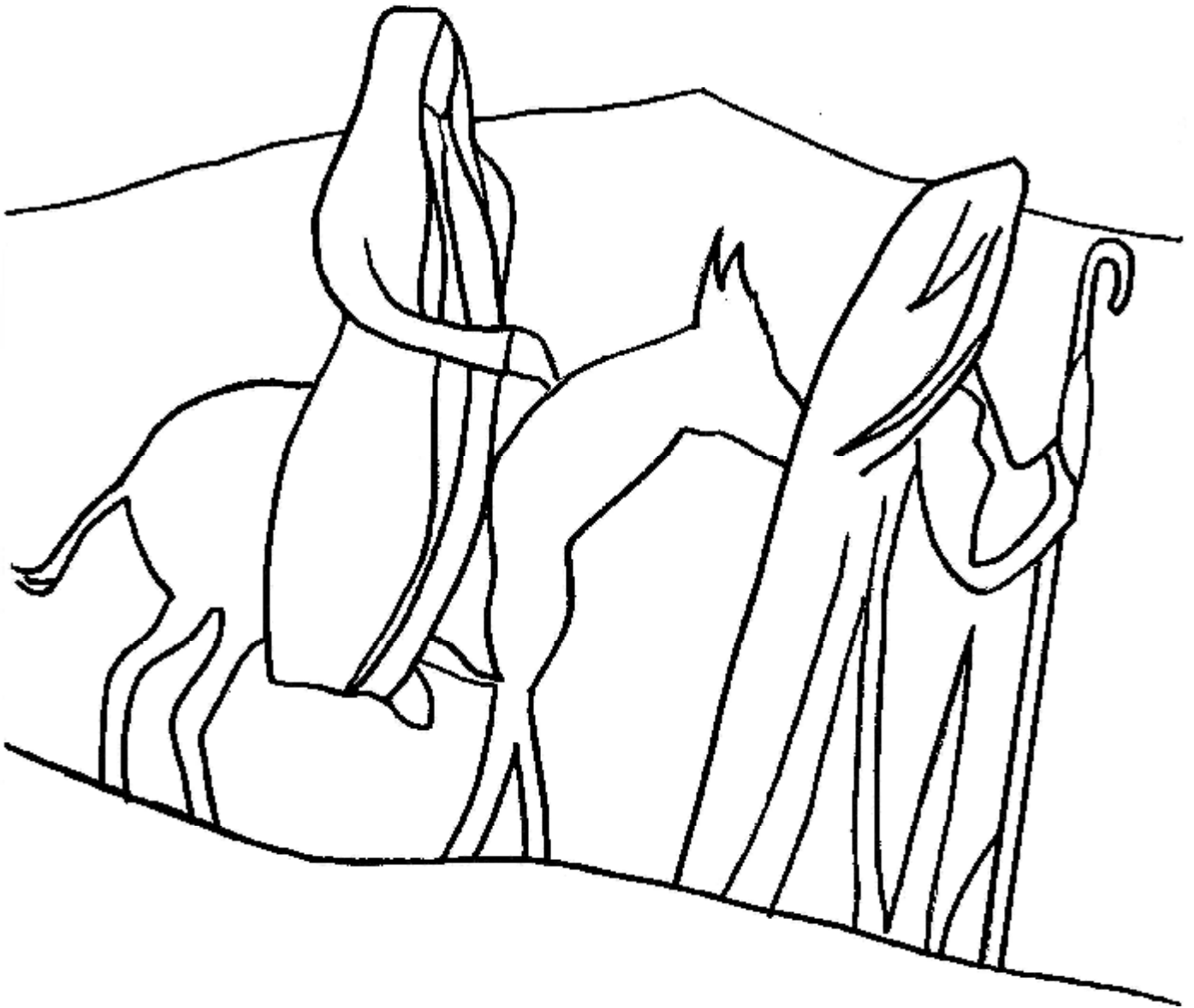
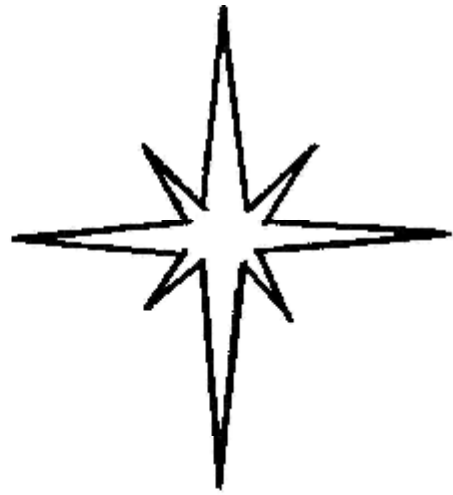
Mary and Joseph set off on a donkey to Bethlehem. They wanted to get there and prepare for the coming of their baby. They were sure all would be well. They were at peace.

Write down 3 things that make you happy.

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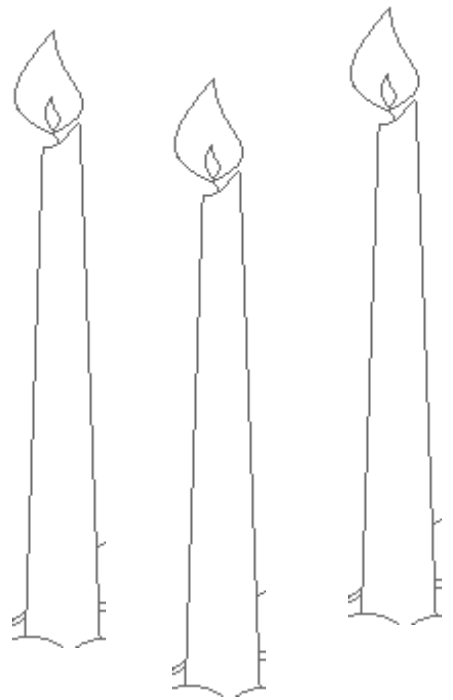
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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Waiting (Joy)

(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)



We are still waiting for a baby to be born. The baby is very near! We are happy and excited.

Make some people happy this week

(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).



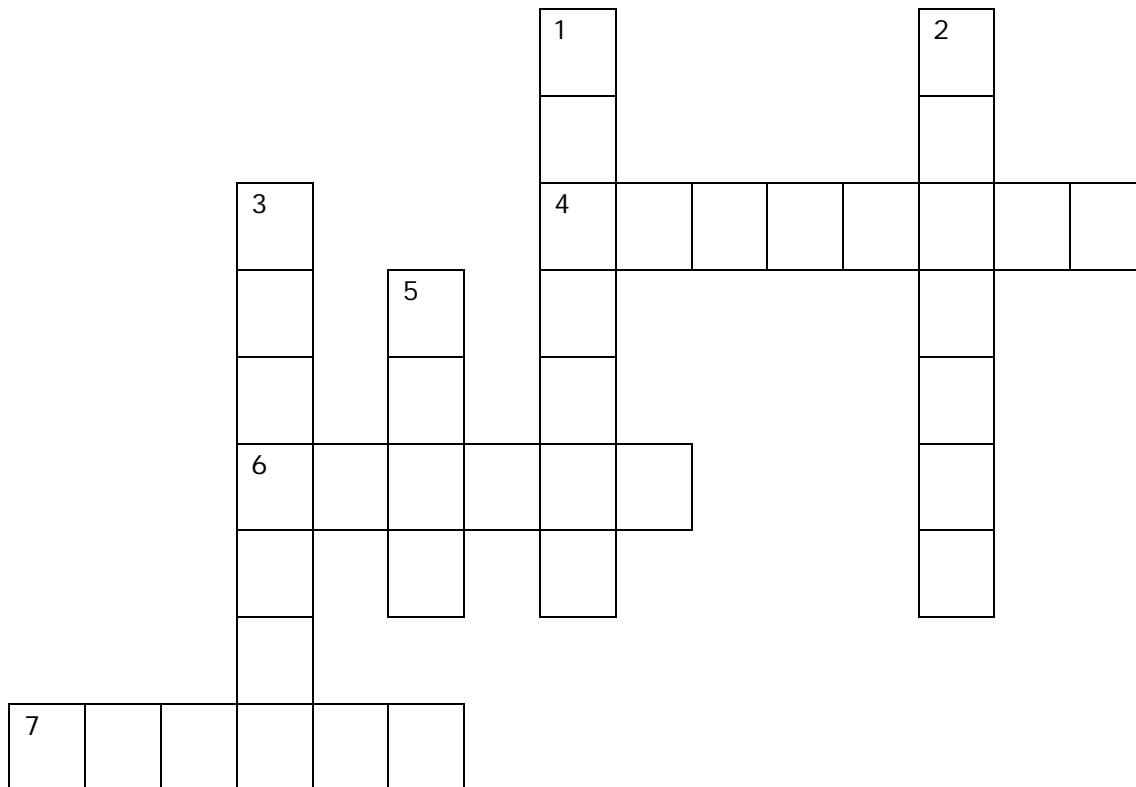
# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Waiting (Love)

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

Love is the true gift of Christmas. Give a present of hugs and kisses to people you love this week!



## Christmas Crossword



### Across

4. Christmas Day is Jesus' ..... (8)
6. What we eat on Christmas Day (6)
7. Away in a ..... (7)

### Down

1. This angel appeared to Mary (7)
2. This reindeer has a red nose (7)
3. Another word for Advent (7)
5. Baby Jesus' Mum (4)

## My Guardian Angel and me

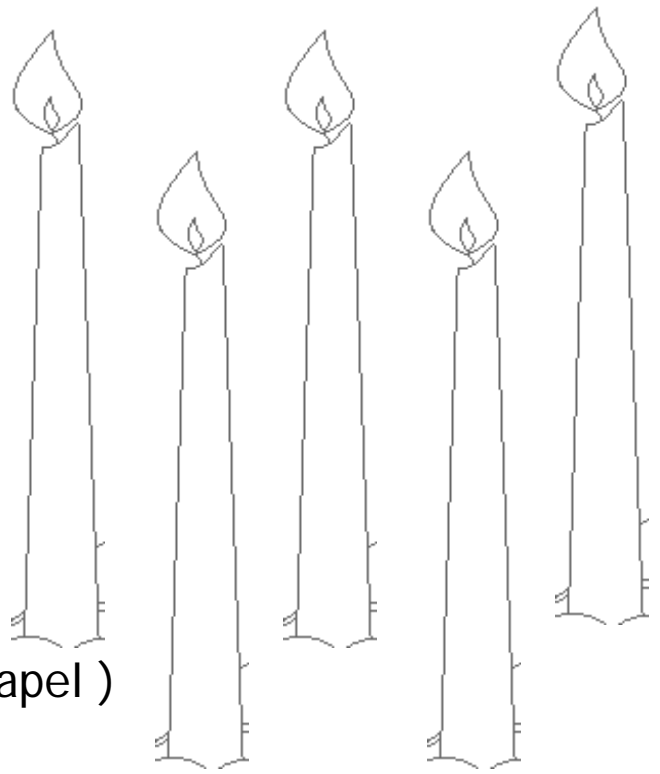
My Guardian Angel is by my side  
To help me along and be my guide  
To be my friend through all my tears  
And keep me safe throughout my years  
To stay with me both night and day  
To help me love all who come my way

Photo of people who love you

Stick in a photo of your family

# 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 )

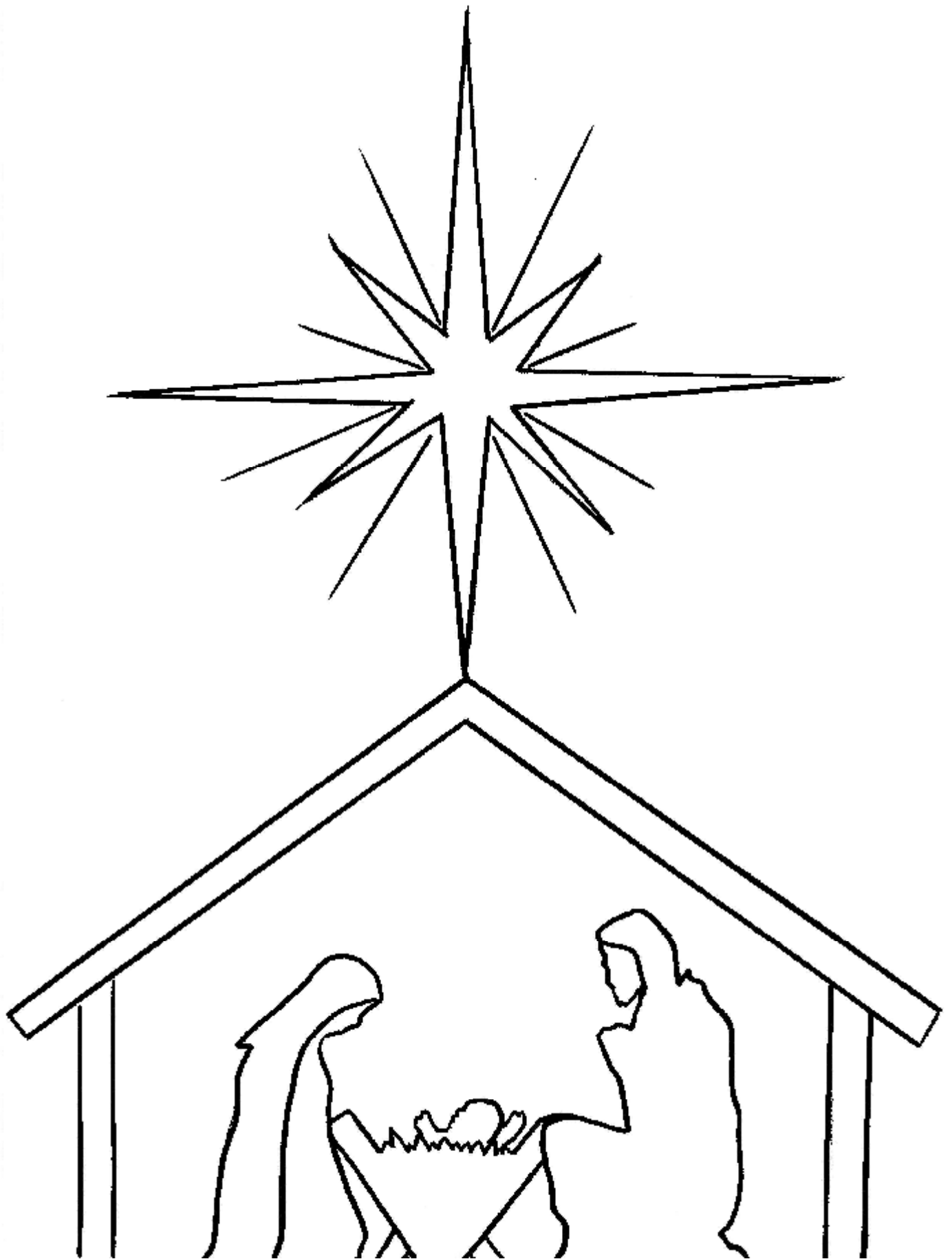


The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus lying in the manger.

Happy Birthday Jesus! You were born today!

## Prayer for Jesus' Birthday

We  
HOPE  
today you give everyone  
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 fill it in the box

TIMES THIS WEEK

Colour in the letters with bright happy colours

*I Am a Follower of Jesus*

