

KAIROS

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 48



# BUDS

A CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN



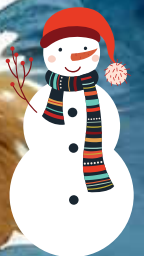
*Come,  
Let us  
Adore Him*



**WITHIN**

*God is Light*

.....  
From Celebrations  
to Reflection



Jesus Youth

A Missionary Movement at the Service of the Church



# WITHIN



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## EDITORIAL

### Jesus is the Heart of Christmas

Dear Friends,  
Christmas is almost here - a magical time of year! You might see sparkling lights, hear joyful carols, and start dreaming about presents. But Christmas is about much more than decorations and gifts. It's a celebration of Jesus' birth - a reminder of God's amazing love for each of us. This Christmas season, as we enjoy the festive fun, let's also remember to share Jesus' love by being kind, helping others, and giving thanks. His love is the greatest gift of all!

'Christmas' means 'Christ's Mass' and celebrates Jesus coming into our world. Born in Bethlehem in a humble stable, Jesus' birth brought hope, peace, and love. Mary and Joseph welcomed Him with faith, while the shepherds, wise men, and angels rejoiced in this special moment.

Christmas is a time to think about giving! Jesus showed us that love and kindness are the best gifts. We can celebrate His birth by:

- ★ **Being kind and helpful:** Help around the house or be a good friend; small acts of kindness matter.
- ★ **Sharing with others:** If you have extra toys or clothes, consider giving them to someone in need.
- ★ **Praying:** Say a prayer to thank Jesus and ask Him to bless those in need.

These simple actions let us share Jesus' love and make Christmas special for everyone!

Christmas is also a wonderful time to celebrate with family. Spending time together, making holiday treats, decorating the tree, and celebrating Christmas Mass are all ways to feel the joy of the season. At Holy Mass, we remember Jesus' birth, hear the story of His arrival, and pray together in faith. Singing carols and reading the Nativity story can bring us even closer to Jesus, filling our hearts with His love and peace.

As you decorate, sing, and celebrate, remember that the true heart of Christmas is Jesus. His love is the greatest gift, one that can be shared all year through.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Christmas!



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# Church of Our Lady of Victories, Prague

- THOMAS MULLOTH » 11 YRS

The Church of Our Lady of Victories in Prague is a captivating site that stands as a testament to faith and resilience. Nestled in the heart of the city, it invites visitors to explore its rich history and admire stunning artwork reflecting the enduring spirit of the community it has served for centuries. Originally built for German Lutherans around 1611, it was transferred to Catholic friars and nuns by the Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II in 1624. In that same year, the church was consecrated to Our Lady of Victories and Saint Anthony of Padua.

The church's design is striking both inside and out, showcasing the highly decorative and theatrical baroque architectural style that emerged in Italy in the late 16th century and spread across Europe. Inside, visitors can admire numerous paintings and statues, many created by the Czech artist Petr Brandl. The church is extensively adorned with real gold, as well as bronze, copper, and silver.



The primary reason people visit the Church of Our Lady of Victories is to see the Infant Jesus of Prague statue. This 16th-century statue is believed by many to possess miraculous powers, drawing pilgrims from around the globe. Many people report being miraculously healed from illnesses after praying to Infant Jesus. During the Swedish siege of Prague in 1639, believers prayed to Infant Jesus for protection, and the city was spared from destruction.

When you visit the Church of Our Lady of Victories, you're immersed in history, spirituality, and stunning baroque architecture. As you walk through its serene halls, you're drawn to the miraculous statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague, feeling the divine presence. The beautiful baroque architecture, combined with intricate artworks and historical relics, captivates your senses. Each step connects you to centuries of devotion and faith, leaving you with a deep sense of awe. This sacred place intertwines history and the divine, making it an unforgettable part of your journey.

This year, I had the privilege of attending the tenth National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis at the Lucas Oil Stadium. The invitation from the United States Catholic bishops was a call to all faithful Catholics, and I was deeply moved by the opportunity to be part of this historic event. The congress was a profound experience that enriched my spiritual journey, and I am eager to share the moments that touched my heart and nourished my soul.

The main focus of the congress was the Eucharist. Each day began with Holy Mass and ended with Eucharistic adoration. All the sessions and events during the congress were centred on the Eucharist. One day, they celebrated the Syro-Malabar



Qurbana, and I really enjoyed attending. It was amazing to watch the long procession of bishops and priests. Bishop Joy Alappatt of the Saint Thomas

# EMBRACING THE Eucharist

- GRATIA PARAMBY » 11 YRS



Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Chicago celebrated the Holy Qurbana. I was thrilled to hear a Malayalam song during communion.

I took part in a Eucharistic procession with my Jesus Youth family. The procession was one mile long through downtown Indianapolis. During the procession, there was public adoration in the middle of the city, and thousands of faithful Catholics adored Jesus by praying, and singing.

During the Eucharistic Congress, there were nightly revival sessions at Lucas Stadium. The stadium was packed with thousands of people, and I really enjoyed attending these sessions. I found all the sessions interesting, but my favourite was a talk by a nun who shared stories of real miracles involving the Eucharist. I was thrilled to see Bishop Barron and Jonathan Roumie, who played Jesus in a show called *The Chosen*. After the



sessions, there was adoration, and more than 50,000 people came to adore the Lord. The adoration was beautiful, with lovely songs and



amazing people coming together to worship our Lord.

This Eucharistic Congress for me was wonderful and one of my best heavenly experiences. I enjoyed every moment of this and being with our Lord in the Eucharist.



# JESUS WITH A SAMARITAN WOMAN

(LUKE 4: 1-42)

Jesus left Judea and went back once more to Galilee through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus talked to her (usually Jews do not associate with Samaritans).

Will you give me a drink?

His disciples had gone into the town to bring food.

You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?

If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.



Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?

Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.

Go, call your husband and come back.

But the woman replied that she had no husband

You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.

Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.

Woman, believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

To be continued....

STORY: SR. SUMA THOMAS CSM ILLUSTRATIONS: MADHU S



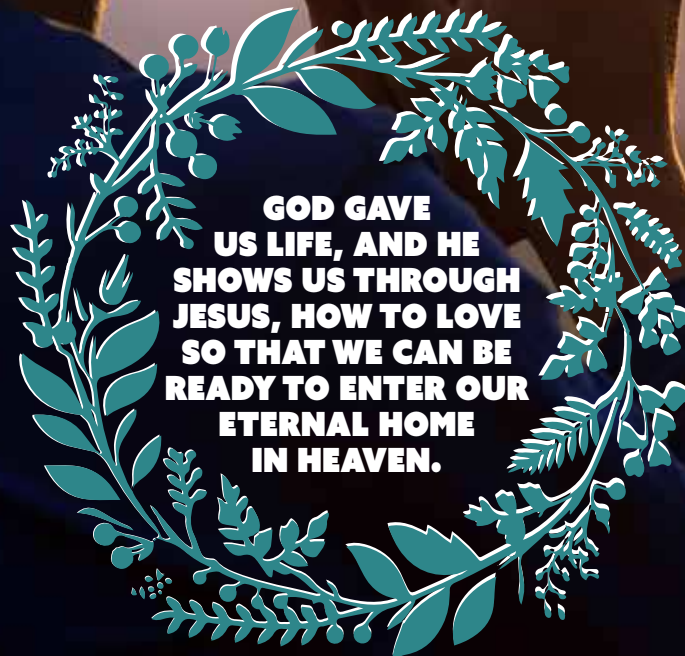
# God is Light

- KATRINA BARNES JOHNSON

*God is light; in him there is no darkness* - (1 John 1:5)



*At Christmas* time we celebrate the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus, who is the Son of God born of Mary. He became like us in everything but sin. He came as a baby who was born in a manger, but He was never poor in what matters to God. When St John says that there is no darkness in Him, he is saying that Jesus does not lie. There is nothing false or deceitful in Him. He is Truth, and He reveals to us that God is merciful, and that He is love (1 John 4:8). In His wisdom, He created each one of us for a



**GOD GAVE US LIFE, AND HE SHOWS US THROUGH JESUS, HOW TO LOVE SO THAT WE CAN BE READY TO ENTER OUR ETERNAL HOME IN HEAVEN.**

purpose. He created us to be children of God and part of His family (1 John 3:1).

God gave us life, and He shows us through Jesus, how to love so that we can be ready to enter our eternal home in heaven. Although Jesus was born in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago, *He said, I am with you always, even to the end of the age* (Matthew 28:20). Apart from Him, we can lose our way, so we need to remain close to Him. In friendship with Him we can be free from anything that keeps us away from God's love that never ends (John 8:32). He cares for each one of us (1 Peter 5:7).

To grow in friendship with Him, Jesus taught us to pray. Because He works through those who love Him,

we can also pray to Mary our Mother, the good angels, and the saints to help us in doing God's will. He gave us the sacraments as ways to be near Him. In the Eucharist we receive Him who is the source of all truth, goodness, and beauty. When we receive the Eucharist with pure hearts, His grace then helps us to live holy lives and become eternal like Him. Only with Jesus, can we, who were made out of nothing by God, become more like God (2 Peter 1:4). He gives us the joy of living according to what is true and good. He helps us to live as 'children born of the light' (Ephesians 5:8). Jesus is the great gift of the Father to each one of us!



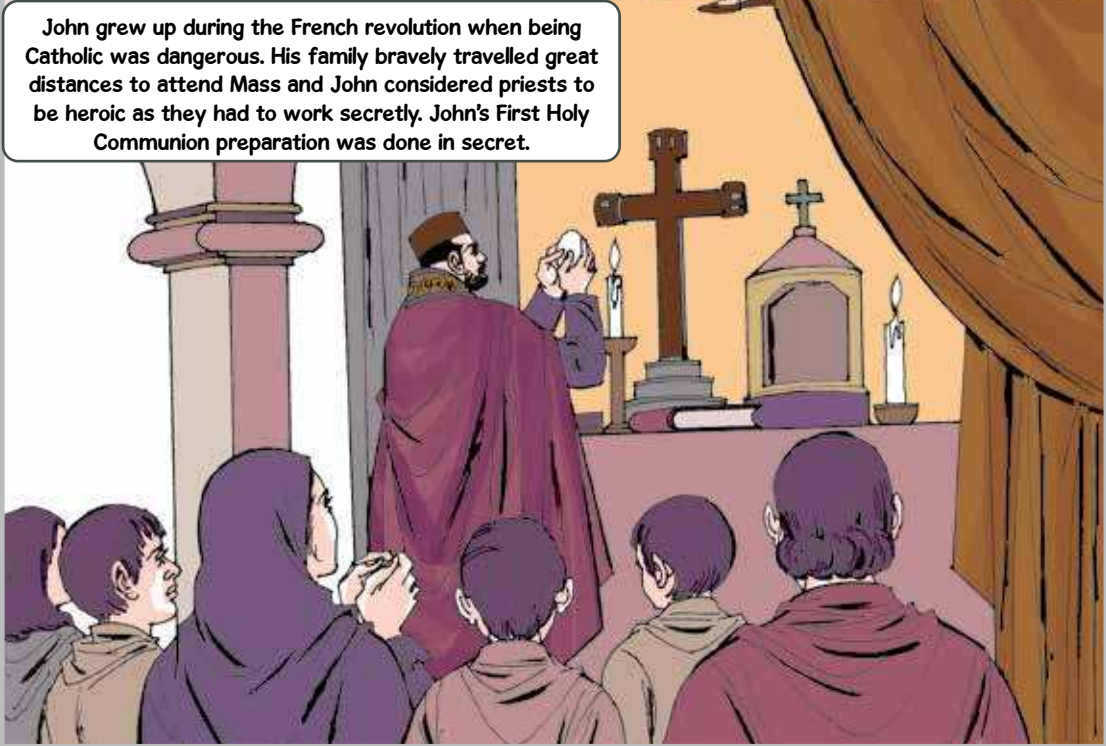
# St John Vianney

## Part 1

John Marie Vianney was born into a farming family at Dardilly, France on 8th May 1786 and baptised that day. He was the fourth of six children born to Matthieu and Marie Vianney. He was raised in a devout family and they often helped the poor.

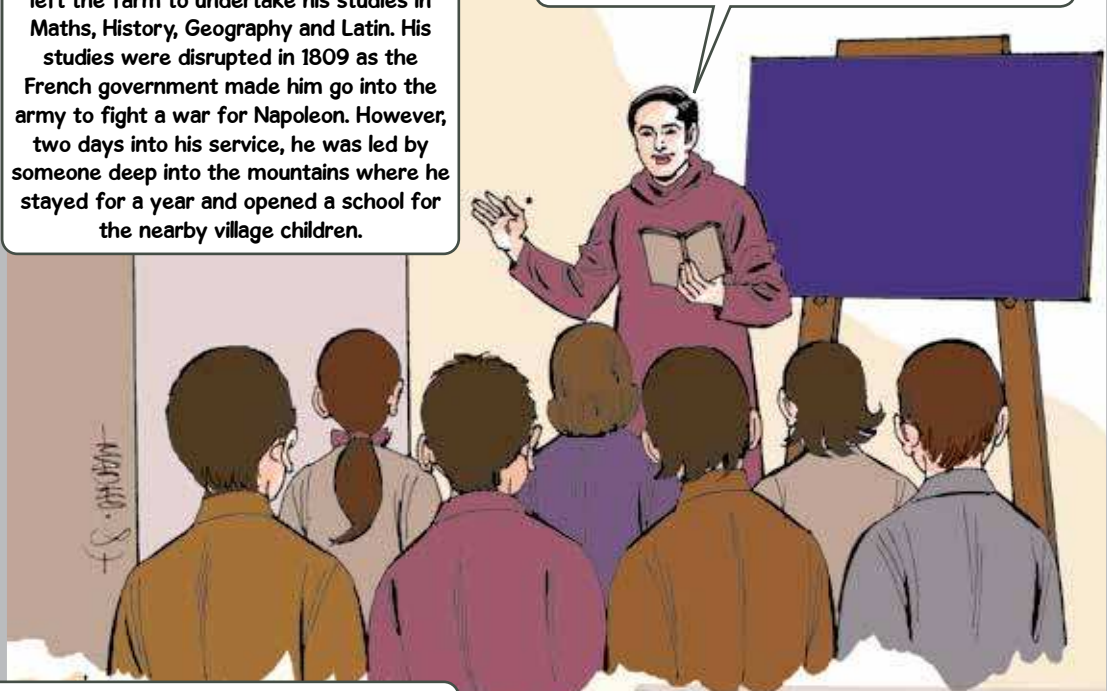


John grew up during the French revolution when being Catholic was dangerous. His family bravely travelled great distances to attend Mass and John considered priests to be heroic as they had to work secretly. John's First Holy Communion preparation was done in secret.

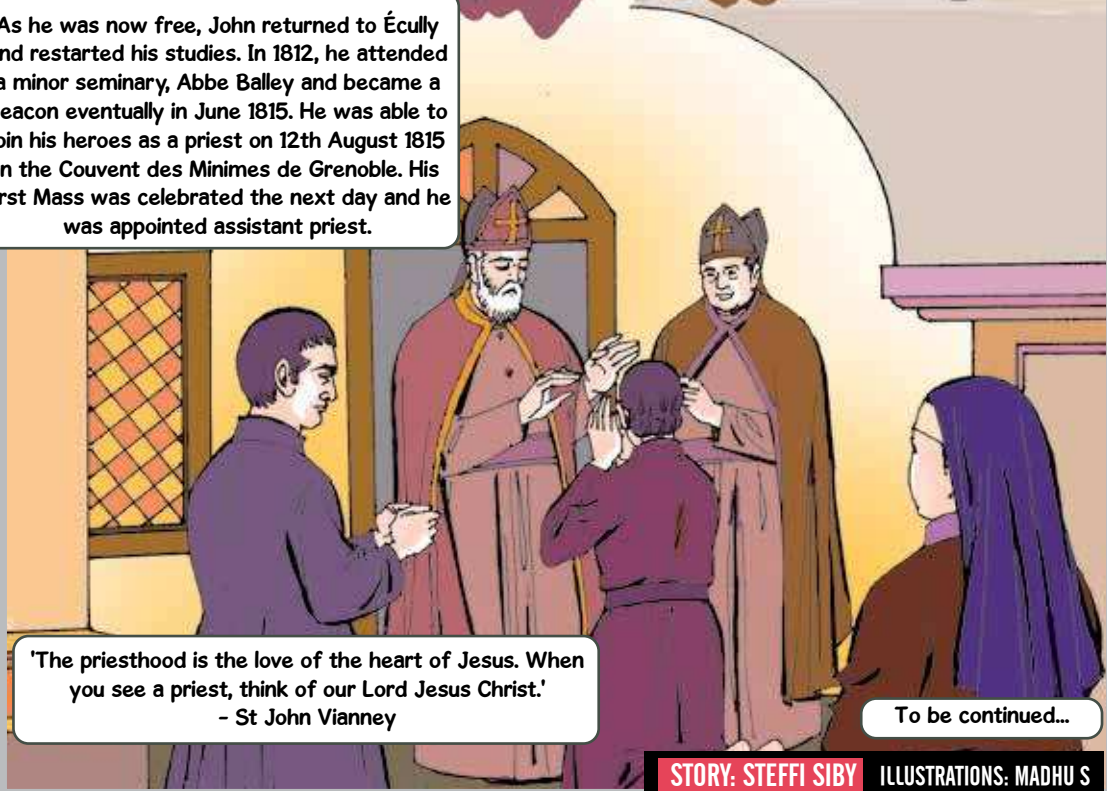


When John was twenty years old, he left the farm to undertake his studies in Maths, History, Geography and Latin. His studies were disrupted in 1809 as the French government made him go into the army to fight a war for Napoleon. However, two days into his service, he was led by someone deep into the mountains where he stayed for a year and opened a school for the nearby village children.

Do not try to please everybody. Try to please God, the angels, and the saints – they are your public.



As he was now free, John returned to Écully and restarted his studies. In 1812, he attended a minor seminary, Abbe Balley and became a deacon eventually in June 1815. He was able to join his heroes as a priest on 12th August 1815 in the Couvent des Minimes de Grenoble. His first Mass was celebrated the next day and he was appointed assistant priest.



'The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.'  
- St John Vianney

To be continued...

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,  
as God in Christ has forgiven you.  
(Ephesians 4:32)

# Rejoice

- JOAN JERO D'CRUZ » 16 YRS

Dear Diary,

Today was one of those days when everything just felt right. I woke up to the sun shining through my window, and I read the verse written on my wall: *This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.* I never paid much attention to it before but this time it stuck with me all day.

At school, things went smoothly. I had a great time during the history period, and the whole class worked together on a project. It felt nice to enjoy the class. Then during gym we played basketball, and I scored three baskets for my team! I didn't expect it, but it felt amazing.

When I got home, Dad was in the yard fixing the fence, and he asked if I wanted to help. It wasn't anything huge, but I felt good spending that time with him. We laughed a lot and had a lot of fun.

The day wasn't perfect, but it was a reminder that each day is special. I'm glad I could rejoice in all that happened today, no matter what came my way.



Do you have a faith experience you'd like to share for this page? Send it to us at [kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org](mailto:kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org) with your full name, age and complete postal address.

## VERSE-IVE WRITING



This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice  
and be glad in it

- Psalm 118:24

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice  
and be glad in it

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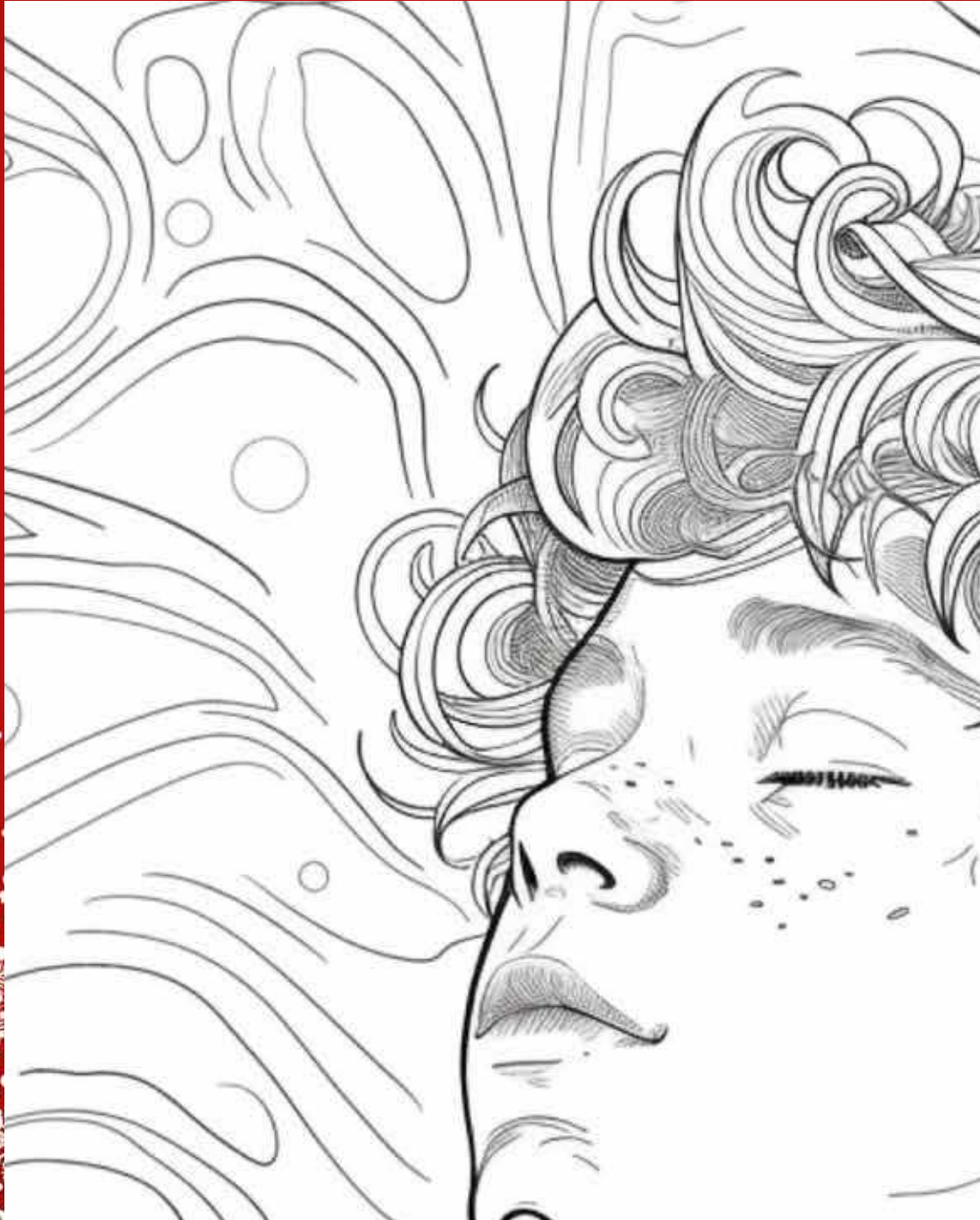


# Colour. Arrange. Frame (Part 1)

In this section, a picture is divided into 4 parts, one for each issue. Children can colour each part, and when the picture is complete it can be glued together and framed.



COLOUR ME



# CRYPTIC CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

Can you guess what the clues describe?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> They played huge roles.</p> <hr/> <p><b>2</b> This symbolises the Trinity because of its shape, as well as everlasting life with God because of its colour.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3</b> The singing of these announces Jesus' birth.</p> <hr/> <p><b>4</b> One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and our wishes for everyone.</p> <hr/> <p><b>5</b> Derived from a French word which means, 'to sparkle', this reminds us of the brightness and warmth of Christmas.</p> <hr/> <p><b>6</b> Advent and Christmas season is incomplete without hearing these.</p> | <p><b>7</b> They followed a celestial guide.</p> <hr/> <p><b>8</b> Seen everywhere during Christmas season, they symbolise Jesus' passion, and everlasting life.</p> <hr/> <p><b>9</b> We place them, make them, light them.</p> <hr/> <p><b>10</b> We are happy to give and receive these.</p> <hr/> <p><b>11</b> Shaped like something shepherds always have.</p> <hr/> <p><b>12</b> Its shape reminds us of Jesus' love for all.</p> |
|---|---|

# COLOUR BY NUMBERS



The coloring page features a large Christmas tree with various ornaments and a star on top. Numbers 1 through 12 are placed on different parts of the tree and ornaments. A color key on the right side shows the corresponding colors for each number:

- 1: Light Orange
- 2: Red
- 3: Orange
- 4: Yellow
- 5: Blue
- 6: Light Blue
- 7: Pink
- 8: Purple
- 9: Teal
- 10: Green
- 11: Dark Blue
- 12: Yellow-Green

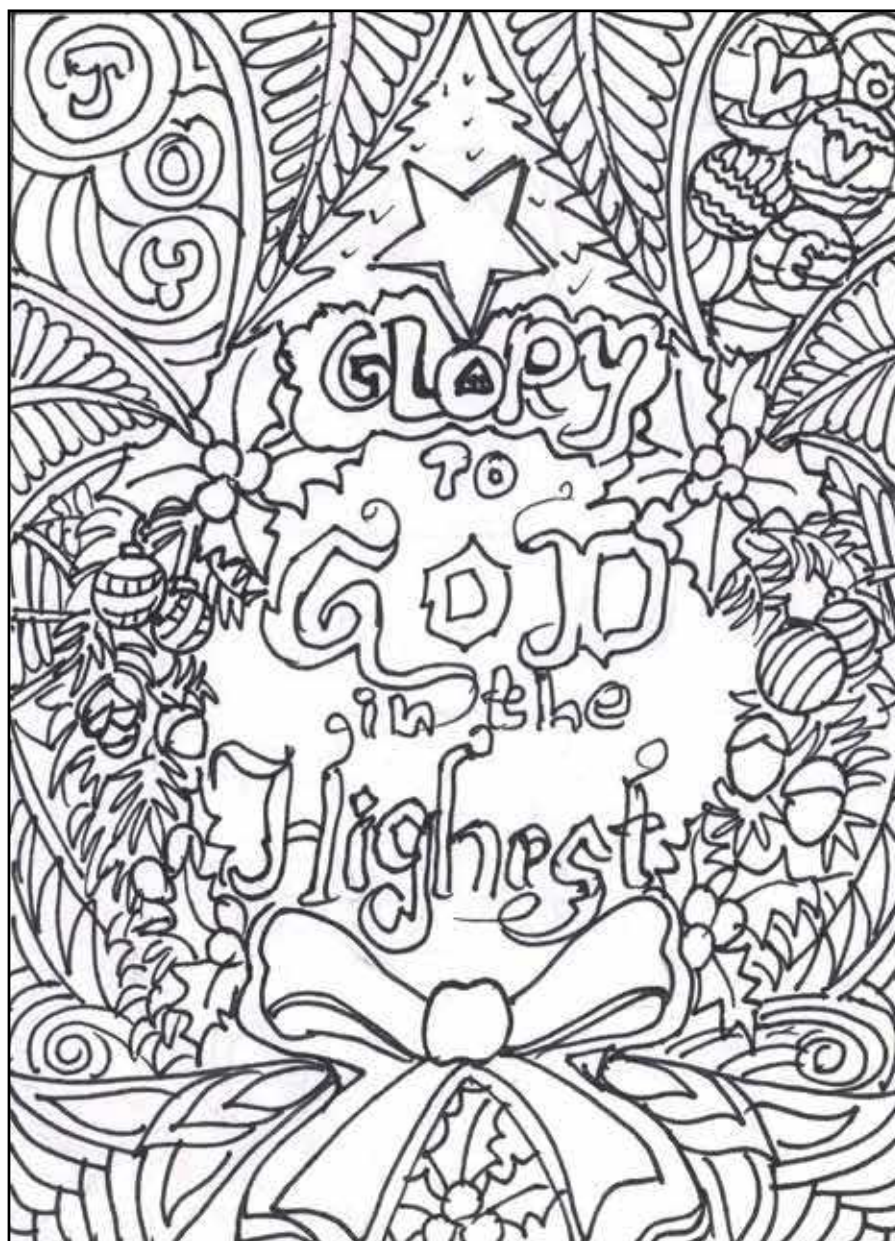


Merry  
Christmas



Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those  
with whom he is pleased.

Luke 2:14



## Q AS A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN, CAN YOU GO TO WAR?

**ANS:** To be honest, the shortest answer is, it depends.

First, let us have clarity on the Commandment, thou shall not kill; our Lord asked for peace of heart and denounced murderous anger and hatred as immoral.

The fifth Commandment forbids the intentional destruction of human life. However, 'as long as the danger of war persists and there is no international authority with the necessary competence and power, governments cannot be denied the right of lawful self-defence, once all peace efforts have failed.' (CCC 2307-8, 2266)

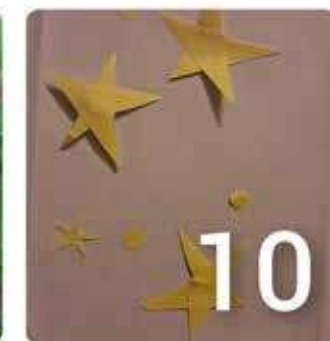
Now, respect for and development of human life require peace. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is 'the tranquillity of order.' (CCC 2304)

The Second Vatican Council stated, 'Those who are pledged to the service of their country as members of its armed forces should regard themselves as agents of security and freedom on behalf of their people. As long as they fulfil this role properly, they are making a genuine contribution to the establishment of peace.' (*Gaudium et Spes*, No. 79) So, a soldier *does not necessarily need to confess* his killing of other soldiers in combat. **Provided that the war is just**, this killing is not a sin as it is not the taking of an innocent human life; it is stopping an unjust aggressor for the sake of the common good.

Going to battle for the sake of a just cause is noble. It is noble in the same way that defending one's family from an intruder is noble. **But it is not pretty. It is not glorious.**

But it can be virtuous if done properly: according to the teachings of the Church, and with a formed and attuned conscience. But it is ugly. We ought to be extremely grateful for those soldiers who have, and continue to, risk their lives doing this very difficult service.





## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- A4 craft paper: green, white and any colour you prefer
- Scissor/paper cutter • Scale • Pencil • Glue

## PROCEDURE

1. Take the green colour craft sheet.
- 2 (a). Make two parallel lines along both edges at the distance of 1.5 cm.
- 2 (b). On each line mark at the intervals of cm. Join the corresponding points on each side.
3. Fold the paper in half and cut along the lines.
4. Take the white paper and cut two 1.5 cm wide strips.
- 5&6. Paste the strips on both edges of the green sheet.
7. Fold the sheet lengthwise and glue the long edges along the 1.5 cm margin.
- 8&9. Now paste both the ends together to make a ring.
10. Cut out small circles and stars on different coloured craft paper.
- 11&12. Fold another green colour paper to make the holder.
13. Stick the stars.
14. Stick the holder and hang it. You can make a bow with paper and attach it as well.

# Christmas GIFT WRAPPER

- SINU EMMANUEL



## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Brown paper bag
- Black paint
- Brown paint
- Black pen
- Red paint
- Jute thread (optional)



## PROCEDURE

**Step 1:** Cut the brown paper bag and spread it open to create a sheet.

**Step 2:** Dip your index finger in brown paint and stamp it onto the paper.

**Step 3:** Using red paint, fingerprint reindeer nose, as shown in picture.

**Step 4:** Draw reindeer antlers using a black pen.

**Step 5:** For eyes, add two small dots using black paint and a thin brush.

**Step 6:** Allow the paint to dry completely.

**Step 7:** Wrap your gift, and if desired, tie with jute thread for a rustic touch.



## FILLING BIG SHOES

It was the monthly parish family gathering in the church hall. Dad and Mom had just given a talk about the family's mission experience to Akanyo. Fr Joseph Mary, the parish priest, was now addressing the gathering.

'My dear brothers, sisters, and little children. Wasn't the Peters' family mission experience a wonderful sharing? How many people all over the world, and even around us are in need of Jesus' love? Advent is soon coming. Even if we may not be able to go on mission sometime soon, why don't we see what can be done for the underprivileged around us?'

The next day after Mass and Catechism, Sr Marcellus stopped to talk to Mom just as Kevin and Lizzy caught up.

'Hello Annie. Hello children, please give me a moment while I talk to your mom.'

'Sure, Sister,' Lizzy replied, and went to wait in the carpark with Kevin.

As they were driving home, Kevin asked, 'Mom, what did Sister want to talk to you about?'

'It was about the children's home the sisters run, Kevin. Every year they have a benefactor who sponsors a small Christmas celebration and gifts for the children. Seems this year that benefactor won't be able to help them out.'

'Oh, how come?' Kevin asked.

'He's run into some financial problems, Sister said.'



'How many children do they take care of, Mom?' Lizzy asked.

'I think they look after 20 or 30 children, and send them to school too. These are children who don't have proper homes or families and are cared for by the sisters till they finish their schooling.'

'Too bad they won't be having Christmas celebrations or gifts...' Kevin said.

'I know, Kev. Though the sisters do make sure the children receive new clothes every Christmas, I guess the children look forward to the benefactor's Christmas party and his gifts.'

That evening, Lizzy sent a message to her friends:



A month later, at the next parish family gathering.

'And now, dear brothers, sisters and dear little children. As many of you know, the children's home run by our beloved sisters had their Christmas party on the 23rd – all because of the love and sacrifice of a group of our children. Having heard that the children might not have Christmas celebrations, they gave up for Advent and saved money to buy each child a gift and for a Christmas party. Let's call these children on stage and give them a huge round of applause.'



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# From Celebrations to Reflection!

- DR JOSEPH SEBASTIAN

As we approach Christmas, the excitement is all around us: festive gatherings, sparkling lights, and the joy of sharing gifts with family and friends. Yet, amidst all the fun, this season also offers a chance for reflection and realignment in our lives.

Think about how we celebrate our own birthdays. The cake, the laughter, and the presents create cherished memories. But what about those quiet moments on our birthday? When we wake up or times when we are alone, we often pause to express gratitude. We reflect on our blessings, remember our loved ones, and consider the year that has passed. Some even make resolutions for the future. These moments help us reconnect with ourselves and our purpose.

This Christmas let's challenge ourselves to a step further, from celebration to reflection. Amid your festive traditions, carve out 30 minutes for quiet time with the Child Jesus. This can transform your holiday experience, making it more meaningful and joyful.

### How to Create Your Reflection Time

**1. Choose the Right Space:** Find a place that feels right for reflection. It could be a church, a chapel, or even a cosy corner in your home. Look for a spot where you can be undisturbed and truly present with Jesus. Maybe a live adoration chapel would be great!

**2. Seek Silence:** Take a few deep breaths and let go of distractions. This quiet time is your opportunity to listen for God's gentle voice. If you're into meditation, feel free to follow your usual process.

**3. Reflect on Your Life:** Think about the past year – what you've learned, the challenges you've faced, and the blessings you've received. Consider your relationships, goals, and faith journey. As Proverbs 4:26 says, *Keep straight the path of your feet, and all your ways will be sure.*

**4. Make Intentions for the Future:** Think about changes you want to make in the coming year. What resolutions or commitments can you set to live a more meaningful life? Jot them down to clarify your thoughts. Colossians 3:23 reminds us, *Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters.*

This Christmas let's not just celebrate the gift of Christ but also take time to reflect on our journeys along with Child Jesus. By doing this, we can deepen our connection with Him and discover our true purpose. As Philippians 4:13 says, *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

Embrace this opportunity as a time for renewal along with the Christmas tree, Santa and carols, and let this joyful season inspire you to live more fully in faith and purpose!

**Merry Christmas!**



# REVELLING IN THE OLD

Anna and Tina had been going through an old photo album in the storage room with Grandma when she suddenly got upset.

Grandma, what happened?!

The girls bring Grandma to the drawing room to get some air.

There are some old memories I try to forget...

'We dreamed of going to the big city...'

Grandma reminisces about her younger days with her sister.

As Anna sits with Grandma, Tina goes through the old letters they've brought down.

Your old letters! I had no idea you had such a rich history!

They sit together, reading letters while Grandma fills them in on more stories from her youth.

You were quite the troublemaker! I can't believe you did that!

You had such a full life...

It's so beautiful.

But not all memories are happy... some haunt me.



Grandma remembers the time she received news about her sister's death.

Anna's eyes fill with understanding and concern.

I never realised how much you went through.

You're not alone in this. We'll do it together, one story at a time!

'Life isn't just about the joyful moments...'

It's okay to share the hard parts too...

Yes, Grandma. We want to help!

Anna is now determined to record Grandma's stories.

Let's add your sister's story to the scrapbook. It matters!

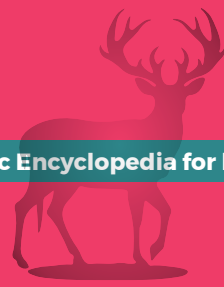
You really want to know?

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.'

# KID CATHOPEDIA

- MARIA TERES SEBASTIAN

Catholic Encyclopedia for kids!



## Babylon



A prominent city in the Old Testament, it is located in present-day Iraq.

The Bible presents Babylon as a symbol of earthly power that ultimately crumbles before God. It represents human pride and the dangers of defying God. Across the Bible, Babylon serves as a cautionary tale and a reminder of God's ultimate sovereignty.

Babylon is a symbol of what happens when people forget about God and think they're in charge. It's a warning to us all to stay humble and remember that God is the true boss.

### INTERESTING FACT:

It is referenced 280 times in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation.

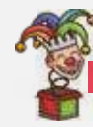
**Babylon was referred to by diverse names in the Old Testament. Find them from the Bible:**

1. Ezekiel 12:13
2. Daniel 1:2; Zechariah 5:11
3. Isaiah 21:1, 9
4. Isaiah 47:5
5. Jeremiah 50:1, 21
6. Jeremiah 25:12, 26



Answers to Kid Cathopedia

Answers: 1. Land of the Chaldeans; 2. Land of Shinar; 3. Desert of the Sea; 4. Land of kingdoms; 5. Land of Merathaim; 6. Sheshach



HOLY HUMOUR

## CRYPTIC WISHES!



A man received a Christmas card from his friend.

Inside was written:

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

He puzzled over it for weeks, finally gave up and wrote asking for an explanation. Sometime later, he received a postcard which said:

NO 'L'!



Answers to Brain Gym

Cryptic Christmas Symbols: 1. Angels, 2. Christmas Tree, 3. Bells, 4. Joy, 5. Tinsel, 6. Carols, 7. Three Wise Men, 8. Christmas Colours Red and Green, 9. Stars, 10. Gifts, 11. Candy Cane, 12. Wreath



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CHRISTMAS,  
we give  
ourselves  
COMPLETELY  
TO YOU**

As our Christmas gift to our readers, all digital content on Kairos Media's website [www.jykairosmedia.org](http://www.jykairosmedia.org) will be free from 25 December 2024!

**May your Christmas be as heartfelt and joy-filled  
as the ones who first beheld the Infant King.**

**Kairos Media wishes you and your dear ones a**

*Blessed Christmas!*

