

KAIROS

VOLUME 3 » ISSUE 36

# Budds

A CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN

# REJOICE!

**WITHIN**

*Unwrapping the True Spirit of Christmas*

.....  
Christmas Friends



Jesus Youth

A Missionary Movement at the Service of the Church

# WITHIN

**KAIROS**  
**Buds**

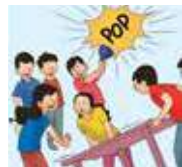


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**KAIROS**  
**Buds**

**PATRON**  
Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil  
(Ecclesiastical Advisor, Jesus Youth International)

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**  
Fr Joseph Ezhumayil  
(Jesus Youth International Chaplain)

**PRINTER AND PUBLISHER**  
Dr Edward Edezhath

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Dr Midhun Paul  
(Jesus Youth International Coordinator)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Nobin Jose

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Joshy Joseph, Houston, USA

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Tania Rose Josun | (editor.buds@jykairosmedia.org)

**ISSUE EDITORS**  
Suby Emmanuel, India | Serena DSouza, USA | Sonu Michael, USA

**CIRCULATION COORDINATOR**  
Anto Puthur, Cochin, India +91 96055 11644

**ASSOCIATE CIRCULATION COORDINATORS**

<b>AUSTRALIA</b> Mintu Vijoy, Melbourne +61 452 538 785	<b>NETHERLANDS</b> Jojo Varghese, Utrecht +31 684974552
<b>BAHRAIN:</b> Neenu Maria Jibin +973 33715472	<b>NEW ZEALAND</b> Derrick Daniel, Auckland +64 29 127 0650
<b>BANGLADESH</b> Tias Victor Palma +880 1717-152023	<b>OMAN</b> Sanal +968 92120376
<b>CAMBODIA</b> Sophearong Ravy, Phnom Penh +855 96 426 5472	<b>PAKISTAN</b> Asif Emmanuel +92 3022534254
<b>CANADA</b> Joby Joseph Ontario +1 2899 686 074	<b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b> Abin Michael +675 7479 4368
<b>EAST TIMOR</b> Sr. Julie Antony +670 77827618 (Whatsapp+91 97447 32431)	<b>QATAR</b> Metty Don, Doha +974 7040 868
<b>GERMANY</b> Anna Paul, Berlin +49 176 83495451	<b>SINGAPORE</b> Savio Francies +65 9021 9798
<b>INDIA</b> Austin Michael, Mangalore +91 8277405251	<b>SRILANKA</b> Sankal Fernando +94 77 3818399
<b>IRELAND</b> Suresh V Joy +353 87 963 0904	<b>SWITZERLAND</b> Anu Jose +41 799177100
<b>ISRAEL</b> Jaison K Thattil, Tel Aviv +972 55 9974339	<b>THAILAND</b> Vineeth Andrew +66 86 372 6601
<b>ITALY</b> Anoop P Varghese +39 3884256258	<b>UAE</b> Dennies Antony +971 50821 3122
<b>KUWAIT</b> Rajeev J Chacko, Ahmadi +965 66388310	<b>UGANDA</b> Mboowa Ronald +256 706844152
<b>MALAYSIA</b> Sweetsy Kamala Prasad +60 162568139	<b>UK</b> Mathachen Maduckakuzhy +44 7969 365686
	<b>USA</b> Denny Joseph +1 (832) 640-3106

**FINANCE COORDINATOR**  
Leena Shaju, Cochin, India | +91 62382 79115 | finance@jykairosmedia.org

**DESIGN**  
Manna Media Hub, Delhi, India | info@mannaediahub.com

**MAILING ADDRESS**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kairos Media USA 3010 Mason Grove Ln Pearland, TX, USA, 77584 ● +1 832 592 3675</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kairos Media India No 8/174, Navodaya Studio Complex, Thengod PO, Cochin, Kerala, India, Pin: 682030 ● +91 9895711718</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kairos Media UK St Charles Street, Sheffield S9 3WU, United Kingdom ● +44 7969365686</li> </ul>
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EDITORIAL

## A Heartfelt Christmas

December! A magical month. Christmas lights adorn trees, transforming the ordinary into a mesmerising spectacle. Let me take you on a mini tour to my childhood days.

One main family activity was to go Christmas card shopping at a Catholic book stall near the cathedral, early December. Their card selection was impressive. Notably, some cards could play Christmas music upon opening, adding an extra touch of delight and surprise to the festive greetings. We would buy dozens of cards for all our relatives, friends and for some teachers as well.

Next task was to write a personalised message and Christmas greeting inside the card. My mother, blessed with beautiful handwriting, would joyfully pen both the heartfelt message and the recipient's address on the envelope. My siblings and I would gather around the table, joining our mother as we collectively placed the card into the envelope, sealed it, and affixed the stamp. Finally we head to the post office to send them off.

Dear friends, your creativity shines bright! Let's add a special touch to this Christmas season by crafting our own heartfelt cards with beautiful messages. Whether mailed or handed to loved ones, each card becomes a reminder of the love bestowed by God, who graciously gifted us his beloved Son, Jesus. Let's share the warmth of this divine love through our handmade greetings.

Merry Christmas!  
Keep Christ in Christmas

**Nobin Jose, Singapore**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
[nobin.jose@jykairosmedia.org](mailto:nobin.jose@jykairosmedia.org)

# San Agustin Church

## Manila, Philippines

- GRATIA PARAMBY » 10 YRS » ARKANSAS, USA

**T**HE SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH is the oldest church located in Manila, Philippines. This Catholic church is also known as the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation and Cinture. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and survived several natural and historical incidents. The current church structure is the third church built in the exact location. There is a rich history behind the San Agustin Church.



## History

The Spaniards came to preach Christianity in the Philippines, and they built several churches throughout the country, one of them being the San Agustin Church. It was built in 1571 by Augustinian monks. The monks used nipa and bamboo to build the church. The monks gave the name Iglesia y Convento de San Pablo. The church was dedicated to Saint Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles, because their mission was to evangelise the native people of the Philippines.

A Chinese pirate named Limahong tried to invade the city of Manila in 1574. Limahong burned the city and all the houses in it including the San Agustin Church. The church was rebuilt again in 1575 with light materials like wood. Unfortunately, during the funeral of a Spanish Governor, there was a candle fire, and the church was burned down again. There was another fire incident, and the church was destroyed again in 1586.

The Augustinian monks were afraid that another disaster would happen, so they decided to use strong materials like adobe stones to reconstruct the church, which was completed in 1607 and named the Church of Saint Paul of Manila.

During the Second World War, this church became a concentration camp under the Japanese. The church suffered minor injuries during World War II. In 1993, the church was declared a UNESCO world heritage Site. Currently, this church is an archdiocesan shrine of Our Lady of Consolation and Cinture honouring the Virgin Mary.

# UNWRAPPING THE TRUE SPIRIT OF..



# CHRISTMAS

- AARON SKARIA » 12 YRS » HOUSTON, USA

**C**hristmas is my favourite time of the year. There are so many fun traditions such as exchanging presents, decorating the house and tree, baking cookies, singing carols, and seeing the festive lights. With all of these extra fun things happening, we often forget the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday. For thousands of years, people longed for a saviour. In due time, God sent his son Jesus to save us from our sins. Many people thought that Jesus would come from Heaven wearing flashing armour and stuff like that; but no, he was born as a baby, in a manger, under humble circumstances. His birth brought great joy to those in Heaven and on Earth including shepherds, angels, and wise men. All of them knew that this baby, Jesus, wasn't an ordinary baby. They knew he was the Saviour they had longed for.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life (John 3:16).*

The tradition of giving presents goes back to the time right after Jesus was born, when the three wise men gave, gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and recognised Jesus as the Son of God. Today, the reason we exchange presents is not only to remind us of the greatest gift of all,

Jesus, but to also imitate the wise men, showing our love and gratitude to others.

The evergreen leaves on the Christmas tree symbolise eternal life. The Christmas wreath also symbolises eternity and God's endless love and mercy. The twinkling lights remind us of the light of Christ that shines within us, bringing hope within a dark world. When we sing carols like 'Silent Night' and 'Away in a Manger,' we are telling the story of that holy night

when Jesus was born. These songs help us feel the warmth of God's love and the peace that Jesus brings to our hearts.

When we start to realise the meaning behind the traditions, we can truly understand that Jesus is the reason for the season!

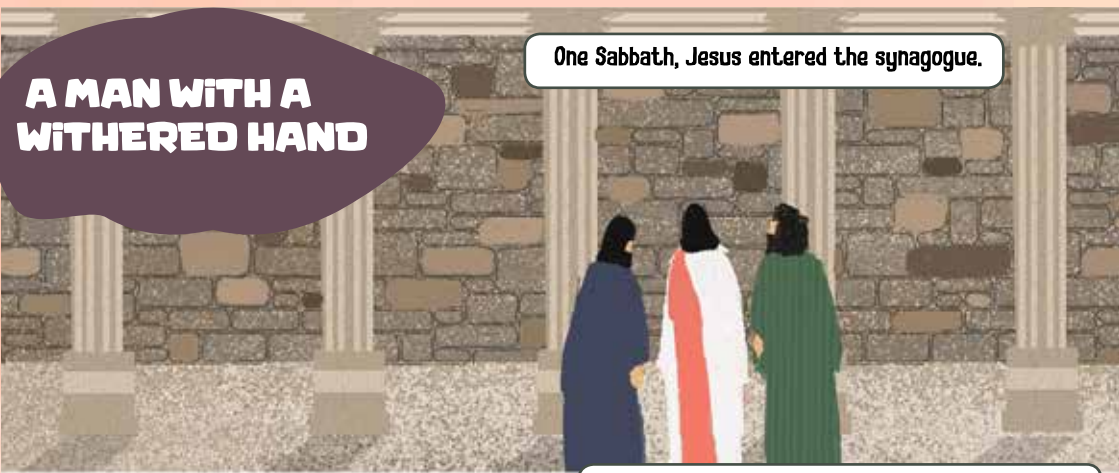


**TODAY, THE REASON WE EXCHANGE PRESENTS IS NOT ONLY TO REMIND US OF THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL, JESUS, BUT TO ALSO IMITATE THE WISE MEN, SHOWING OUR LOVE AND GRATITUDE TO OTHERS.**



# A MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND

One Sabbath, Jesus entered the synagogue.



As Jesus was teaching, there was a man there whose right hand was withered.

And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him.

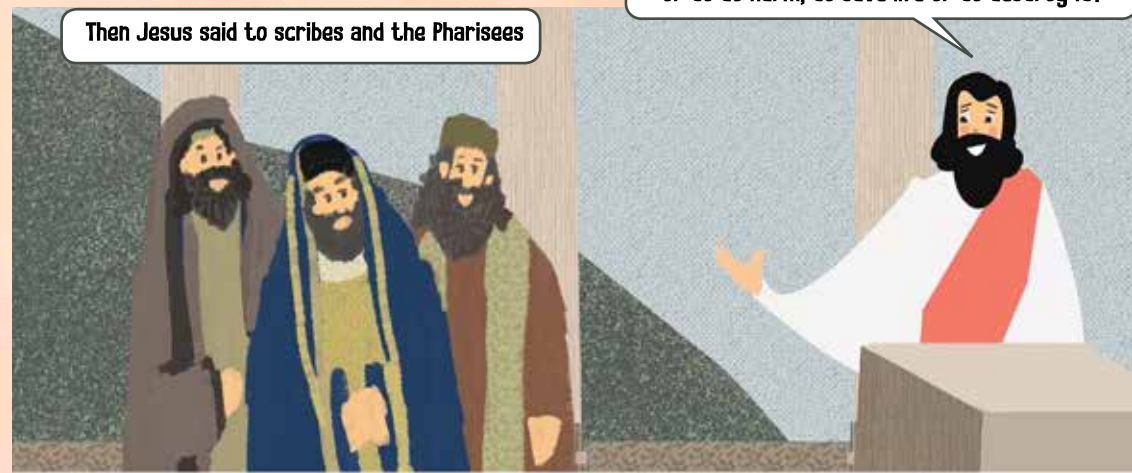


But Jesus knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand.

Come and stand here.



And the man rose and stood there.

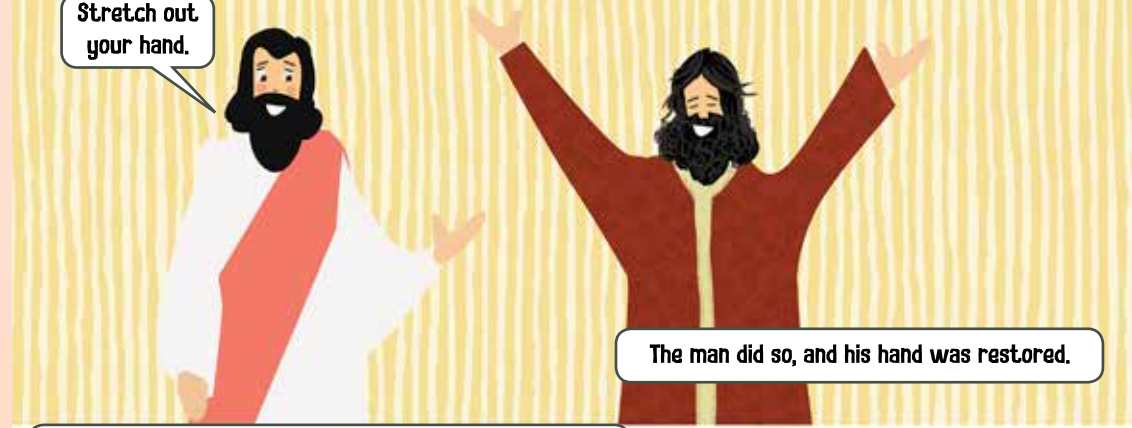


Then Jesus said to scribes and the Pharisees

I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?

And after looking around at them all Jesus said to the man.

Stretch out your hand.



The man did so, and his hand was restored.

But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.



STORY: SR. SUMA THOMAS CSM ILLUSTRATIONS: SOOSANNA JAXON



**CHRISTMAS IS THE OUTPOURING OF GOD'S IMMEASURABLE LOVE AND MERCY ON HUMANITY BY GIVING HIS OWN SON AS AN EVER-SHINING 'HEAVENLY GIFT' TO THIS DARKENED WORLD.**

# A 'Heavenly Gift' to the Universe



- FR JOHNSON JOHN CMI » WASHINGTON, USA

**C**HRISTMAS IS THE SEASON OF JOY and gladness for the whole universe especially for the lovers of peace and joy and it is the most important feast in Christian tradition. The Gospel of John 3:16 is probably the most well-known Bible verse: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Christmas is the outpouring of God's immeasurable love and mercy

on humanity by giving his own Son as an ever-shining 'Heavenly Gift' to this darkened world. It is the long-awaited fulfilment of the prophecy, *therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign: the maiden is with child, and she will bear a son, and will call his name Immanuel. By the time he learns to reject the bad and choose the good...* (Isaiah 7: 14-16). Let's rejoice, Immanuel is here and stays with us.

Dear friends, when we celebrate our birthdays, we receive many gifts and blessings from our friends and families. Though we are grateful for them, sometimes we are overwhelmed by the

gifts we received. Have you ever considered what the most valuable gift on your birthday could be? The chocolates we receive, fancy dresses we wear, delicious cakes we cut, beautiful birthday parties we offer are trivial compared to the very gift of our life itself. Seldom do we realise this fact.

I brought this point to highlight the importance we give to our Christmas celebrations. For most of our kids, Christmas means Santa Claus, stars, Christmas trees, lights, house decorations, cookies, chocolates, etc. As our lives are more valuable than all the gifts we receive on our birthday, this Holy Child, our saviour – 'The Heavenly Gift' is the cause of all other paraphernalia attached to Christmas. Never forget this fact in our lives especially during Christ's birthday party.

While we celebrate the nativity of our Lord, let us learn to live, increase in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man (Luke 2:52). May God's lavish love made flesh in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, bless you with an extravagantly beautiful and blessed Christmas.

May the Lord bless and keep you and your families this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**



# BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

## PART 1

Pier Giorgio Frassati was born on 6 April 1901 in Turin, Italy. His parents were very wealthy and influential people. His mother Adelaide Ametis was a gifted painter and his father Alfredo Frassati was a politician and owned a newspaper. Pier had one younger sister, Luciana whom he was close to. However, his parents did not have a happy marriage which saddened him and they were not very affectionate.



From a young age, Pier wanted to help others. Once as a child, he opened the door and saw a mother begging with her son who was barefoot. Pier took off his own shoes and gave them to the child.

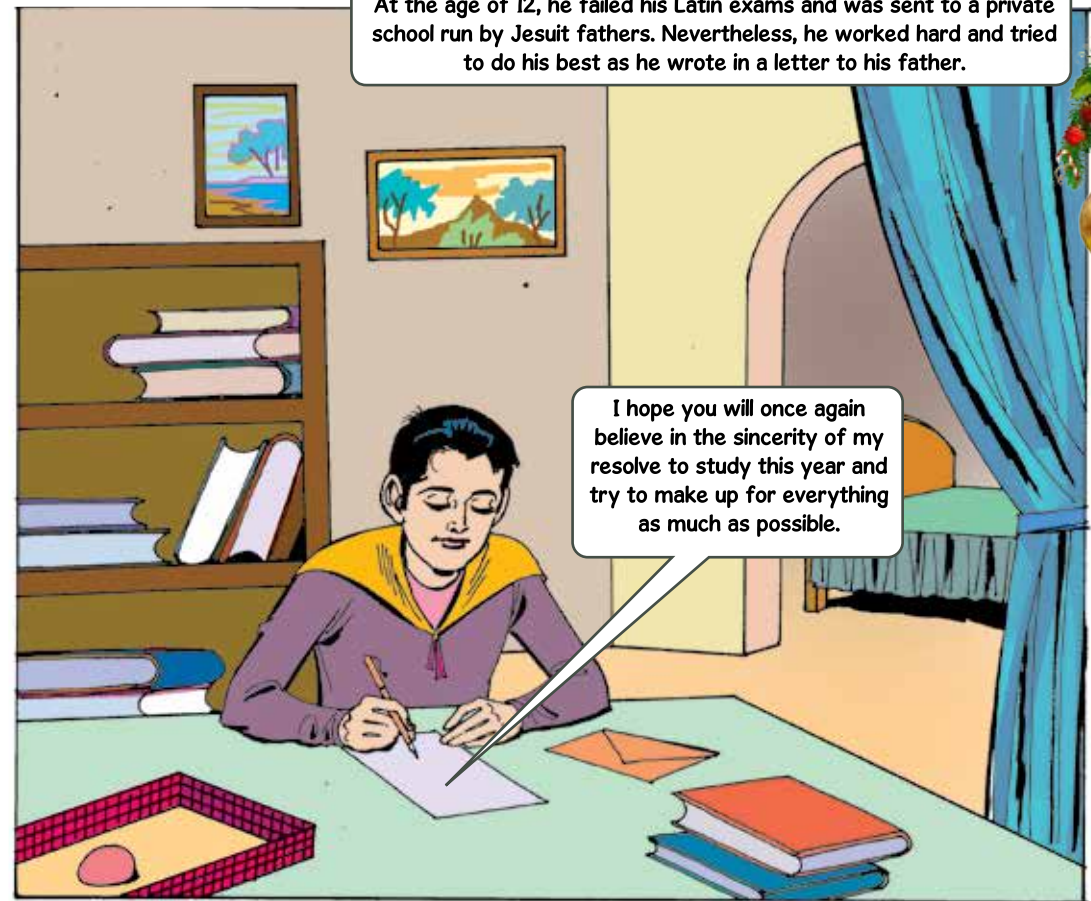


Please can you spare something for me and my son?

You are generous. May God bless you my child.

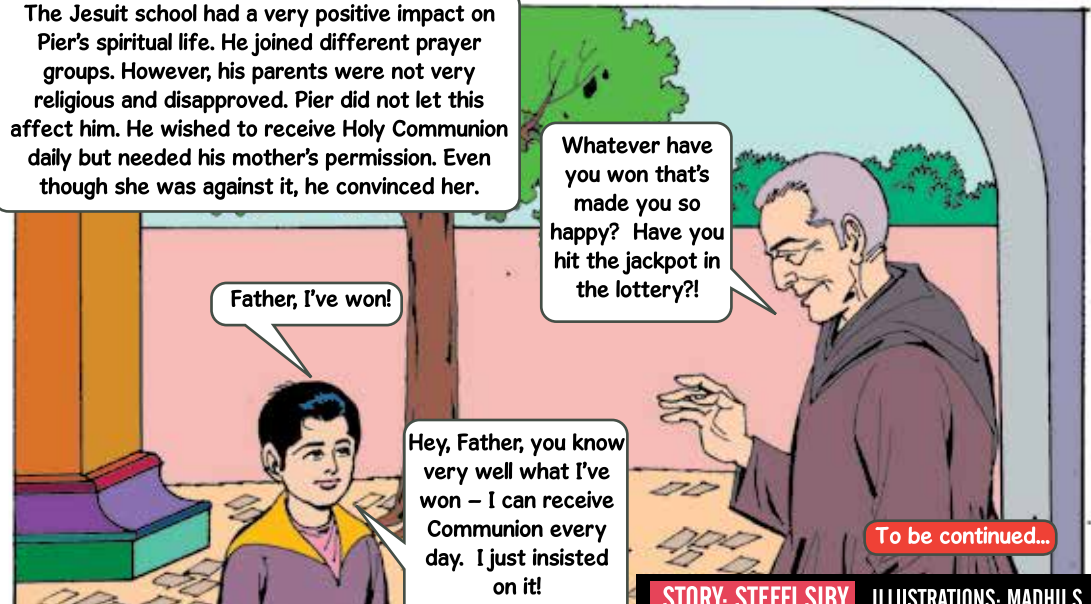
Yes, of course. Your son is my brother in Christ. Here, he can have my shoes.

Although he excelled at sports, Pier was not very good at his studies. At the age of 12, he failed his Latin exams and was sent to a private school run by Jesuit fathers. Nevertheless, he worked hard and tried to do his best as he wrote in a letter to his father.



I hope you will once again believe in the sincerity of my resolve to study this year and try to make up for everything as much as possible.

The Jesuit school had a very positive impact on Pier's spiritual life. He joined different prayer groups. However, his parents were not very religious and disapproved. Pier did not let this affect him. He wished to receive Holy Communion daily but needed his mother's permission. Even though she was against it, he convinced her.



Father, I've won!

Whatever have you won that's made you so happy? Have you hit the jackpot in the lottery?!

Hey, Father, you know very well what I've won - I can receive Communion every day. I just insisted on it!

To be continued...

STORY: STEFFI SIBY ILLUSTRATIONS: MADHU S

# MAGIC CHRISTMAS CARD

-SINU EMMANUEL » ERNAKULAM, INDIA

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- OHP sheet
- OHP black marker pen (red is optional)
- White drawing sheet
- Colour sheets - green, white
- Scale
- Pencil
- Colours (paint/ crayons/ sketch/ pencil)
- Glue
- Scissors



## PROCEDURE

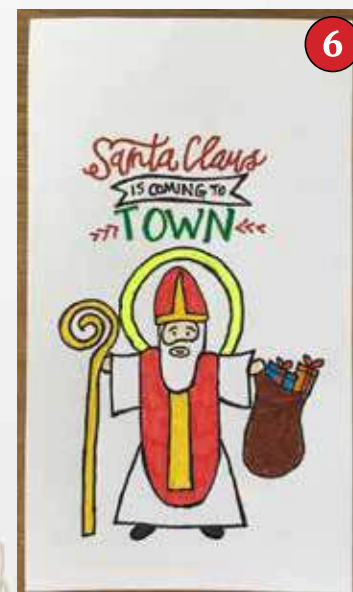
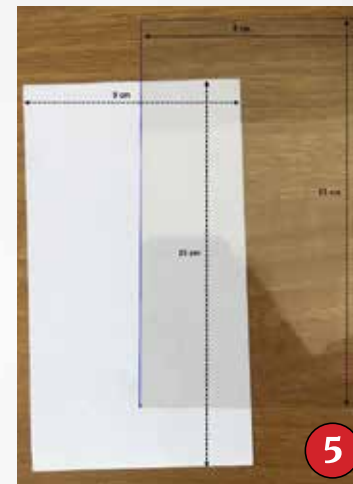
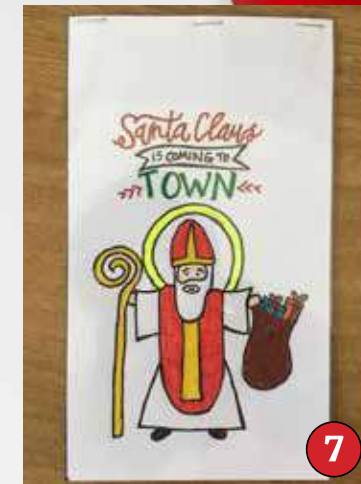
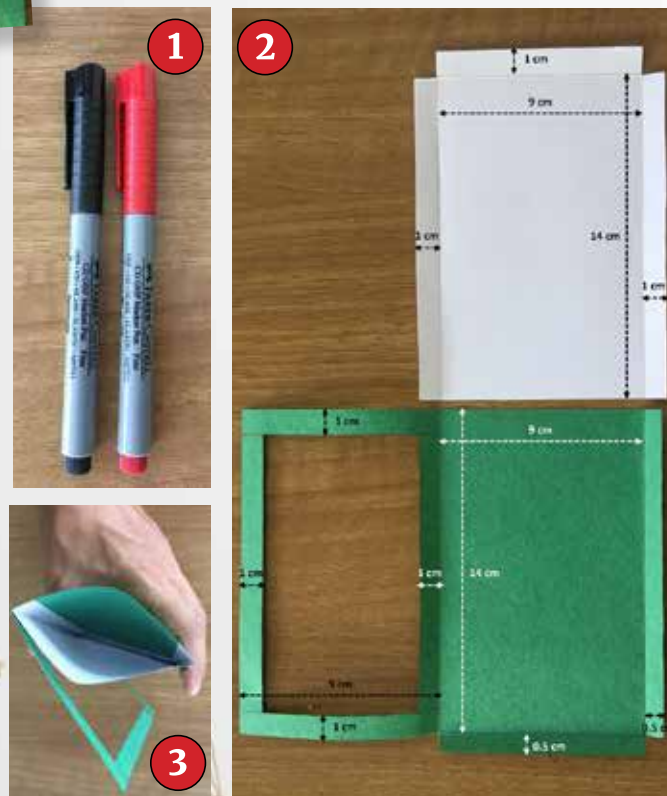
**Step 1:** Cut the (green) colour sheet and white sheet according to the given measurements in Pic 2.

**Step 2:** Stick the three 1 cm sides of the white paper to the green colour paper (Pic 3).

**Step 3:** Next, stick the two 0.5 cm sides of the green paper to its frame's inner side (Pic 4).

**Step 4:** Cut another white paper and OHP sheet according to the given measurements in Pic 5. Draw and colour a picture of Santa Claus in this white paper (Pic 6).

**Step 5:** Staple the OHP sheet to the white paper with Santa Claus picture (Pic 7). And trace the picture of Santa Claus with OHP marker pens on the OHP sheet. No need to trace the whole picture to the OHP sheet. Only trace as shown in Pic 9.



**Step 6:** Insert the stapled picture card to the green and white paper frame as shown in Pic 8.

**Step 7:** You can decorate the stapled part with different colour papers of your choice (Pic 10).

**Step 8:** And now your magic card for Christmas is ready! As you slide the card up, you can see the coloured version of Santa with gifts (Pic 11).



# The Storm Mountain

-LUCIA SHELLY » 8 YRS » TEXAS, USA

**DURING OUR SCHOOL BREAK,** my family went on a road trip to visit our friends who live six hours away. On our return trip home, there was a storm while we were on the road. It was so strong that we couldn't see the road ahead. So we moved very carefully. I was very scared, terrified that we might meet with an accident. As a family, we started praying the Rosary and I offered the last decade for the rain to stop. Slowly, the wind started to clear the rain so we could see the road better.

We got caught in the storm many times during the trip but everytime we prayed the Rosary, the storm cleared. We sang Hail Mary till we reached home and thanked God for protecting us.

I remembered the Bible story of having faith as small as a mustard seed and felt that God saw my little faith. This happened in October, the month of the Holy Rosary. Mother Mary was protecting us through her prayers.

## VERSE-IVE WRITING



*If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move.*

- Matthew 17:20

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*If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move.*

## ALL ABOUT

# St Nicholas of Bari

Bishop of Myra



**ST NICHOLAS SPENT HIS LIFE HELPING THE POOR, THE WEAK AND THE DEFENCELESS. MANY STORIES TELL US OF HIS LIFE OF SERVICE.**

## PATRON OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**B**asileos was a young boy who was kidnapped from his home in Myra and forced to serve as a cup-bearer to a foreign autocratic monarch. While his parents prayed for his safety, St Nicholas appeared to Basileos and miraculously restored him to his family just then. The story goes that Basileos was still holding the monarch's golden cup! Another story about St Nicholas involves a man with three daughters of marriageable age. The family was so poor that they could not afford the dowries to get the daughters



married off. One night Nicholas went to the family's home and threw a bag of coins through their open window and left the scene immediately. With that money, the father was able to marry off the eldest daughter. Nicholas repeated this twice more, each time at night, so he would not be identified. But the third time, the father rushed out and recognised it was Nicholas. He begged the man not to reveal his identity.



## PATRON OF SEAFARERS

As a young man, Nicholas went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There, he prayed that he might experience more closely the presence of Jesus and share in His suffering. On the voyage back home, the ship was caught in a terrible storm and was in danger of flooding. Nicholas prayed and the storm ceased and the waves died down, much to the astonishment of the sailors who had been fearing shipwreck.



COLOUR THE PICTURE

## FACTS

### ABOUT ST NICHOLAS OF BARI

- Nicholas was born in the 3rd century to a good and wealthy Christian family in the seaside town of Patara, in Southern Turkey. From his earliest days, his life was marked by obedience.
- At a young age, his parents died in an epidemic, and Nicholas was raised by an uncle – the Bishop of Patara.
- Remembering the rich young man in the Gospel, Nicholas used his wealth to help the poor, sick and needy. His uncle mentored him and later ordained him a priest.
- He was elected Bishop of Myra, and was later exiled and imprisoned by the Emperor Diocletian.
- After Nicholas was freed, he attended the Council of Nicea in 325 AD
- He died in Myra on 6 December 343 and his feast is celebrated on this day.

## SANTA CLAUS

(in Dutch, 'Sint Nikolaas' and later 'Sinteklaas' )

Since the feast of St Nicholas falls on 6 December, winter time in most countries, and because of his patronage of the young, the tradition of giving gifts on his feast day arose. Children would leave socks or shoes near the fireplace at night before going to bed in the hopes that it would be filled with gifts in the morning. But it would be good to realise the importance of selfless gift giving throughout the days before Christmas.



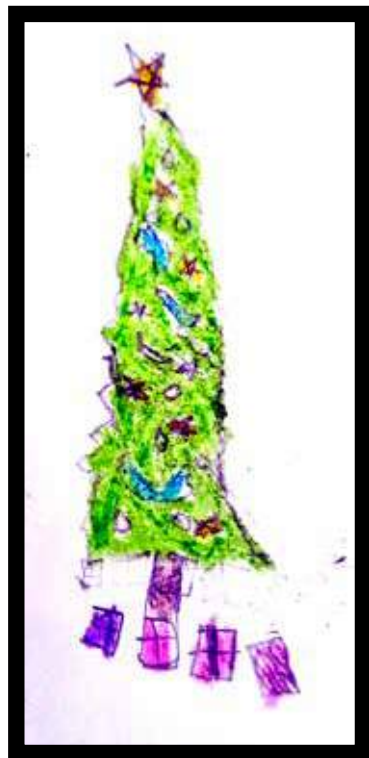
ELIZABETH SHELLY » 11 YRS » TEXAS, USA



ALPHONSE OLIAPURATH » 12 YRS » TEXAS, USA



RYAN FIBIN » 6 YRS  
» TRICHUR, INDIA



RYAN JACOB THAYYIL » 8 YRS » KERALA, INDIA



RONAN TAURO » 10 YRS » BANGALORE, INDIA



Art and articles can be sent by WhatsApp to +1 346 339 4500 or by email to [kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org](mailto:kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org). Please include full name, age, place/country.

# KID CATHOPEDIA

Catholic Encyclopedia for kids!

COMPILED BY BY MARIA TERES SEBASTIAN, KOTTAYAM, INDIA

## ADORATION

The word Adoration means 'to feel and/or express very strong love or worship for someone.' In Catholic faith, adoration is the acknowledgement and expression of gratitude to our Father and Creator. In adoration, we exalt the greatness of the Lord who made us and the almighty power of the Saviour Jesus who saved us through his death and resurrection. The most common form of adoration in the Church is the Eucharistic Adoration, which is prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, either in front of a closed Tabernacle or in front of the exposed host in a monstrance.



## ADVENT

The word Advent means 'coming,' and Catholics specifically use it to refer to the coming of Jesus Christ. The Advent season is observed from the Sunday nearest to 30 November till the birthday of Jesus (25 December). It is traditionally a time to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus by practising virtues and purifying ourselves. But the season reminds us of the coming of Jesus in two ways - the remembrance of the birth of Jesus and the anticipation of Jesus' second coming.



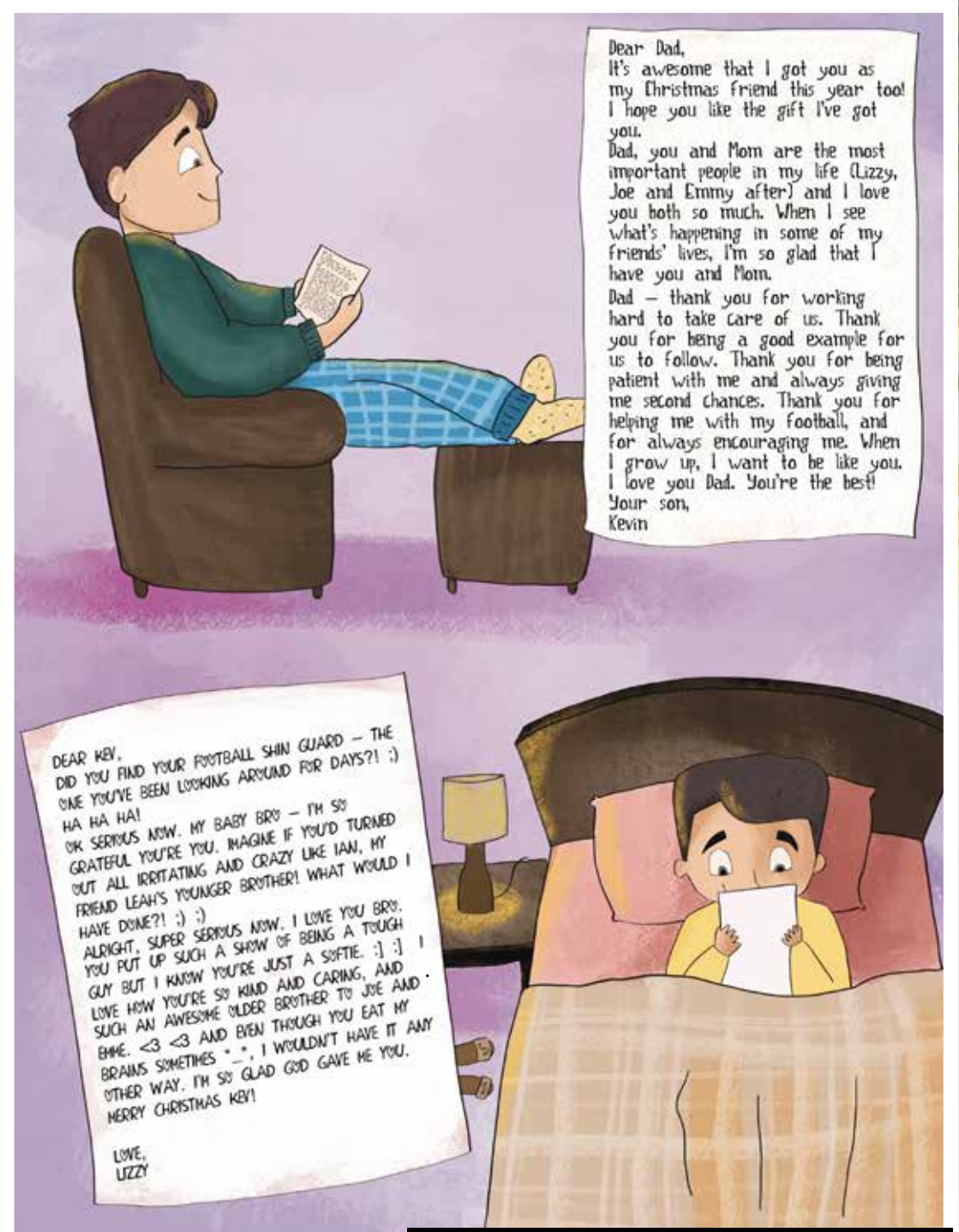
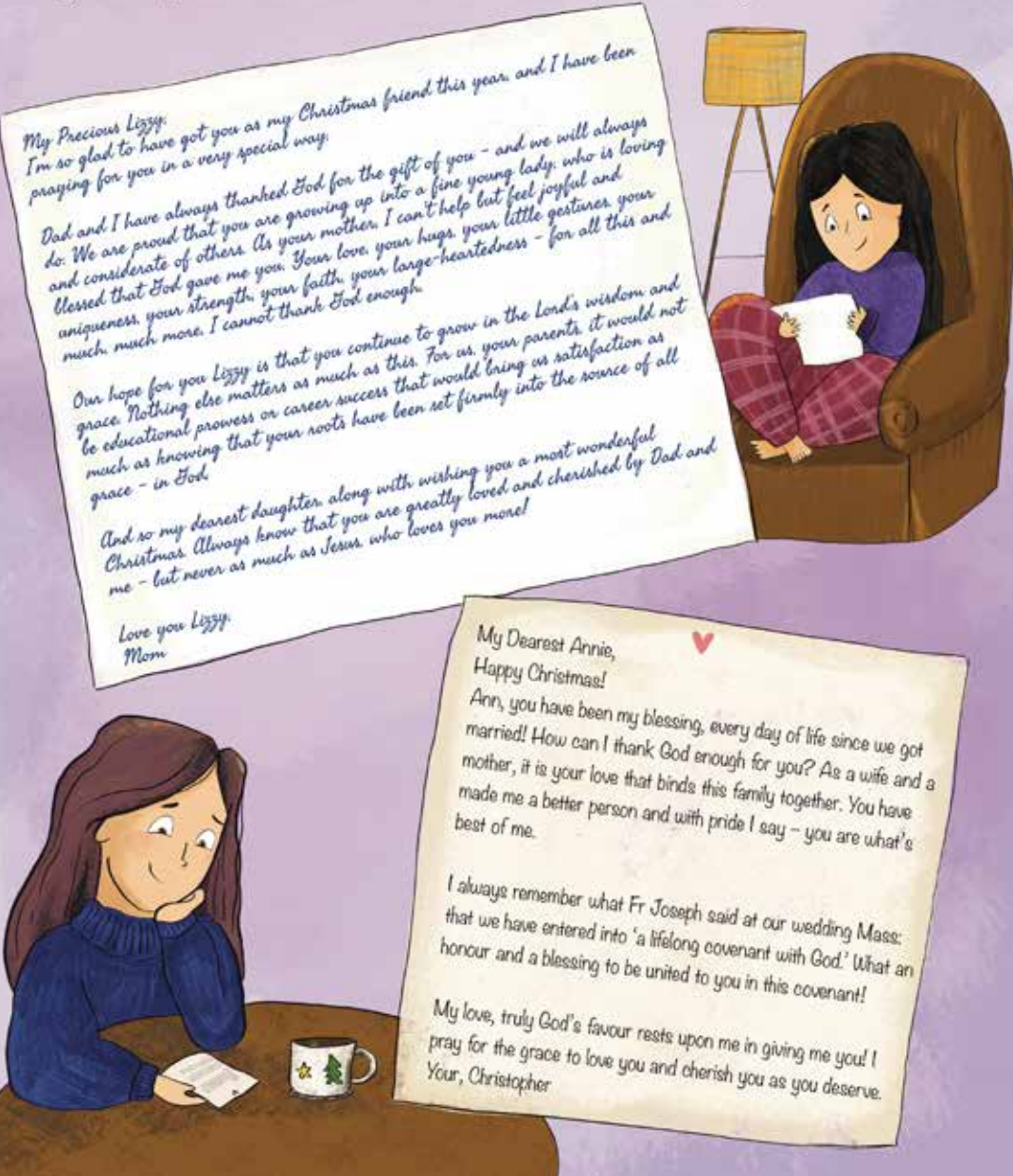
## AGAPE

Agape is a Greek word that is used in the Bible to denote God's fatherly love for humans. It is considered the highest form of love. Agape is unconditional and sacrificial, as revealed to us by Christ on the Cross when he willingly gave his life for us. This is the perfection of love towards which we, as children of God, are also called to grow.



### CHRISTMAS FRIENDS

Mom, Dad, Lizzy and Kevin (the twins not included since they're too small) have got their Christmas friends – for whom they will pray very specially during Advent and finally give a gift on Christmas. This year, they decided that along with the gift, they would also write a letter, telling their respective Christmas friends how much they are a blessing.



STORY: TANIA ROSE JOSUN ILLUSTRATIONS: STEFFI ANDRAT FARIA

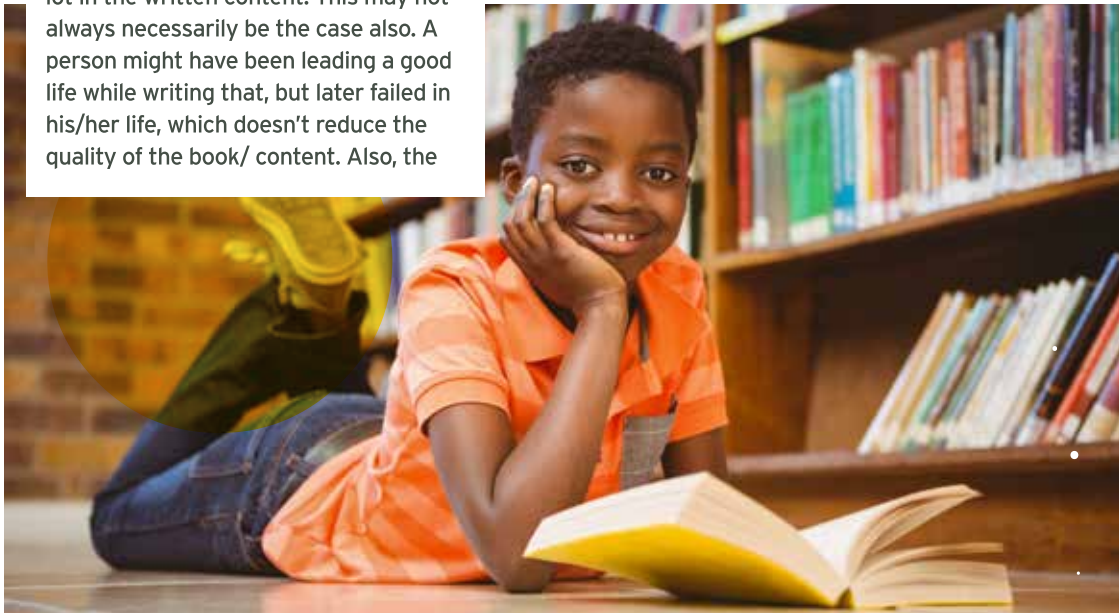
## CAN WE READ A BOOK WRITTEN BY A PERSON NOT LEADING A GOOD CHRISTIAN LIFE?

**ANS:** This is a very good question.

First of all it is a very good habit to read books, as reading books improves our language and knowledge. At the same time it is good to properly check the content and/or type of books that we read. This is actually the most important part. What we read matters a lot. So we have to make sure that the things (books, articles, social media posts, etc.) that we read don't mislead or contradict our faith, holiness and morality. One of the ways to check this is to see the quality of the life of the author, for that will be reflected a lot in the written content. This may not always necessarily be the case also. A person might have been leading a good life while writing that, but later failed in his/her life, which doesn't reduce the quality of the book/ content. Also, the

person might be struggling in the personal life of faith and holiness, but the written work would be of excellence and integrity. This could be the case with fictional works or stories.

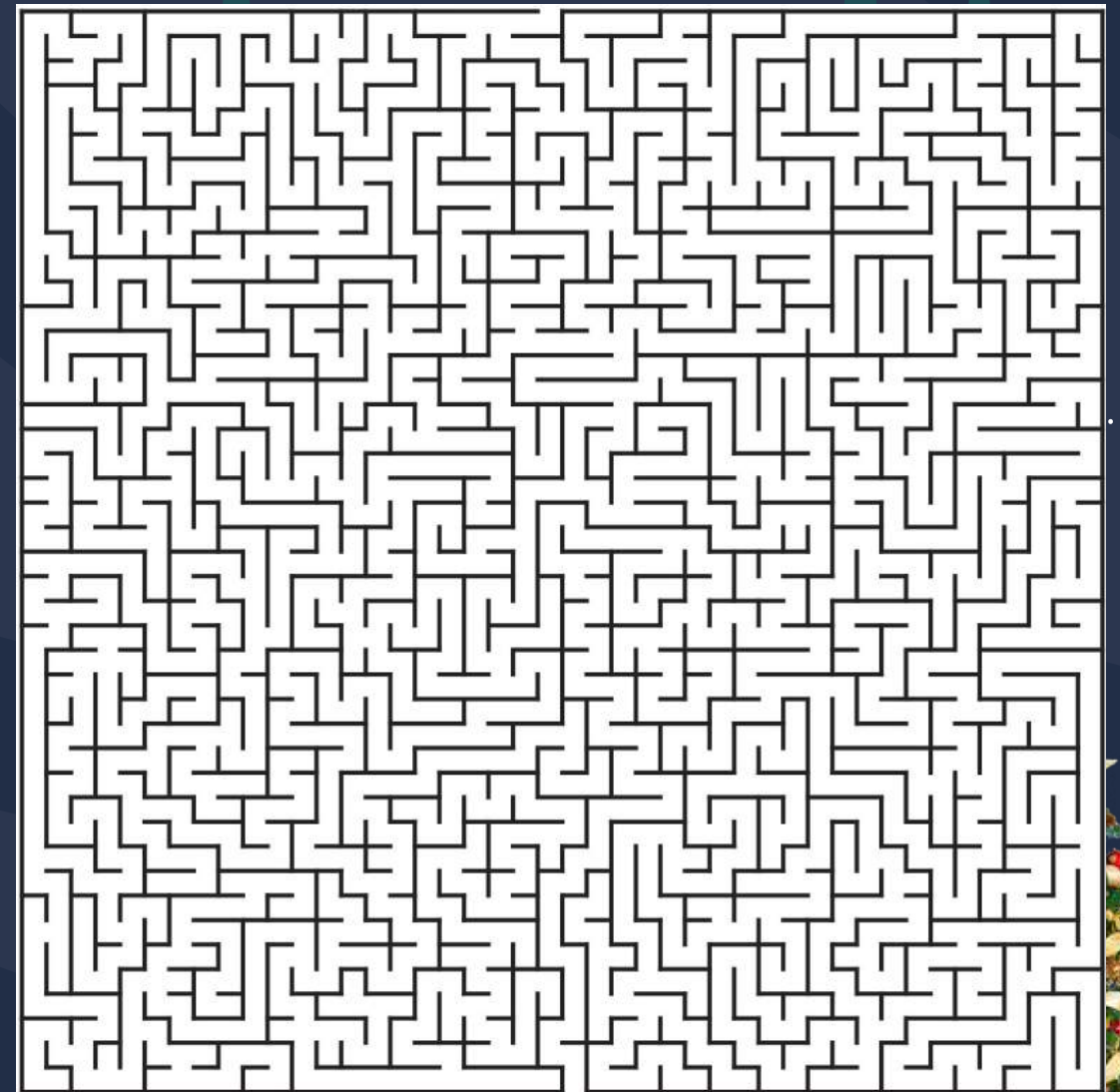
Therefore, while reading something, we should ask ourselves: is this against faith, Church teaching and the scriptures? Is this against the Ten Commandments and basic morality? We should be shrewd to find out what is the message and ideology that is put forth, which may not be obvious at times. The message of the content - ideas, opinions, facts, statements, arguments - are that which matter the most. Check again to see whether it is approved by the Church. It would be advisable to avoid the written works of those who are publicly and directly against Faith and morals. Let's use our prudence in this matter in distinguishing what to read and what not to.



Our young readers can email their questions on faith/life to [kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org](mailto:kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org) or WhatsApp it to us on +1 346 339 4500



### HELP THE THREE KINGS REACH BABY JESUS



Did you know the coming of Jesus was mentioned in the Old Testament? And all these prophecies were fulfilled in the New Testament!

We will learn those verses throughout this month...Hurray! Look up these verses and teach your family and friends too!

# DECEMBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				01 Genesis 3:15	02 Numbers 24:17	03 Jeremiah 23:5-6
04 FEAST OF Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church	05 Isaiah 9:2	06 FEAST OF Saint Nicholas, Bishop	07 FEAST OF Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	08 FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	09 FEAST OF Saint Juan Diego	10 Isaiah 11:10
11 Isaiah 7:14	12 FEAST OF Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 FEAST OF Saint Lucy	14 FEAST OF Saint John of the Cross	15 Psalm 72:10,11	16 Genesis 49:10	17 Hosea 11:1
18 Micah 5:2	19 Isaiah 9:6	20 Luke 1:26-35	21 Matthew 2:1,11	22 Luke 2:15	23 John 1:1,14	24 Luke 2
25 CHRISTMAS	26 FEAST OF Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	27 FEAST OF Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	28 FEAST OF The Holy Innocents	29 FEAST OF Saint Thomas Becket	30 Mathew 3:16 John 3:16	31 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Sunday School Annual Day is coming up and everyone is busy preparing for it.

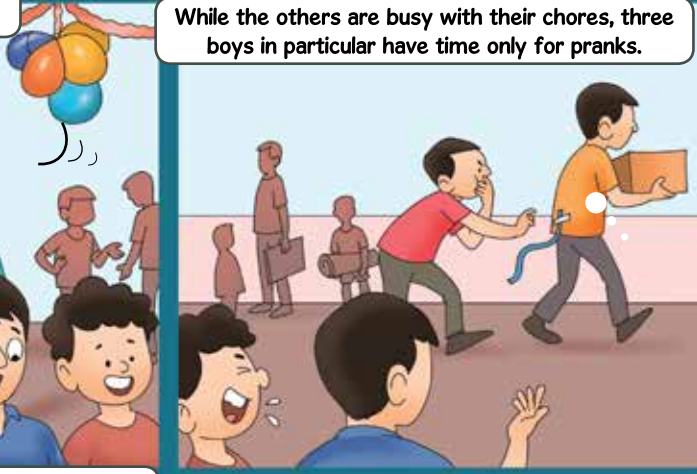
**MUCH IS REQUIRED**



Tony, Tina and their friends are busy with the preparations.

Hmm... I think it'll be fine over there.

While the others are busy with their chores, three boys in particular have time only for pranks.



And now their pranks have begun annoying everyone.

Ha Ha Ha!

That was hilarious!

Ha Ha Ha!

Those fellows are a real nuisance.



Hey, don't worry. At least no one was hurt!

They continue with the preparations. Even little Jim is doing his best to help the older children.



While Tina and the others are heaving a heavy table across, the naughty three, not willing to pitch in, are up to trouble again.

And one of the legs of the table lands on Tina's feet.



THAT'S IT! IT'S BAD ENOUGH YOU THREE ARE NOT HELPING, NOW YOU HAVE STARTED HURTING OTHERS?!

Tony notices the effect his outburst had on little Jim and realises he doesn't have the right to be angry like everyone else. Much more is expected of him.

Boys, I'm sorry I shouted at you. Could you please help us carry the table?



To whom much is given, much will be required.



STORY: ANEESH SUNNY THOMAS ILLUSTRATIONS: SANISH DIVAKARAN



Puzzle

# GUESS THE CAROL!

Below are the names of Christmas carols we sing during Christmastime but only the first letters of the carol's title is given. Can you guess them?!

AIAM .....

OCAYF .....

SNHN .....

JTTW .....

TFN .....

HTHAS .....

OCOCE .....

OHN .....

ITBM .....

GRYMG .....

GTIOTM .....

WTK .....

MBC .....

TLDB .....

JJWAT .....

AWHHOH .....

WCIT .....

OLTOB .....

ISTS .....

COTB .....



WhatsApp (+1 346 339 4500) or email ([kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org](mailto:kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org)) solved Puzzle to us with your full name, place & photo before 25 December 2023. Correct entries will be featured on our social media pages.

## 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.



Share your completed Colour.Arrange.Frame pictures with us at [kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org](mailto:kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org) with your full name, age, place/country. We will be happy to share this on our social media.



# Solve and Find

Solve the below Christmas quiz and find the answers (and twenty Christmas words) in the grid below.

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

1. To which city did Joseph and Mary travel to, to be registered?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The angel of the Lord brought good news of great joy to these people.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The angel told them that they would find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a \_\_\_\_\_

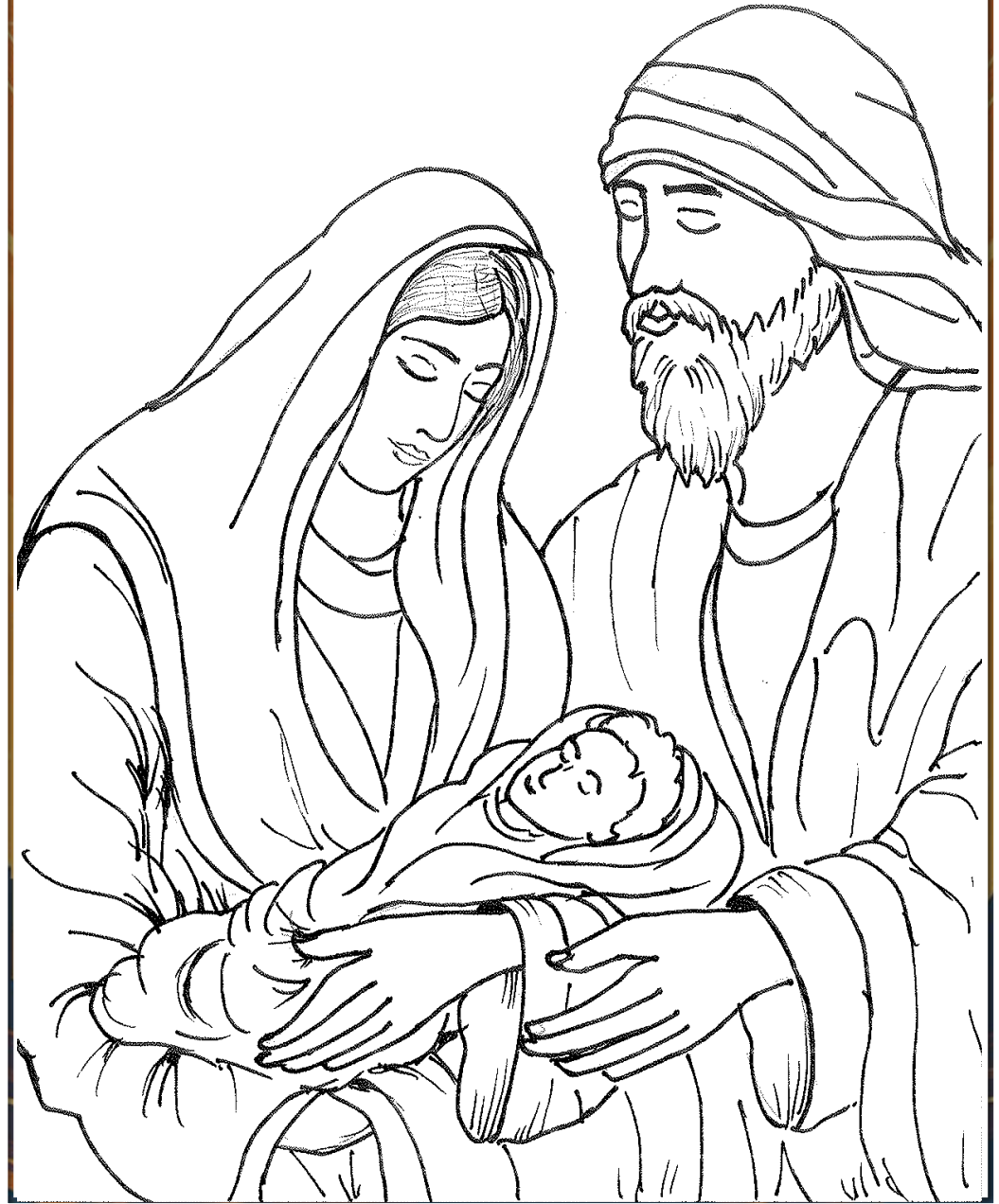
4. What song did the angels sing, praising God?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What gifts did the three wise men bring?

\_\_\_\_\_

COLOUR ME

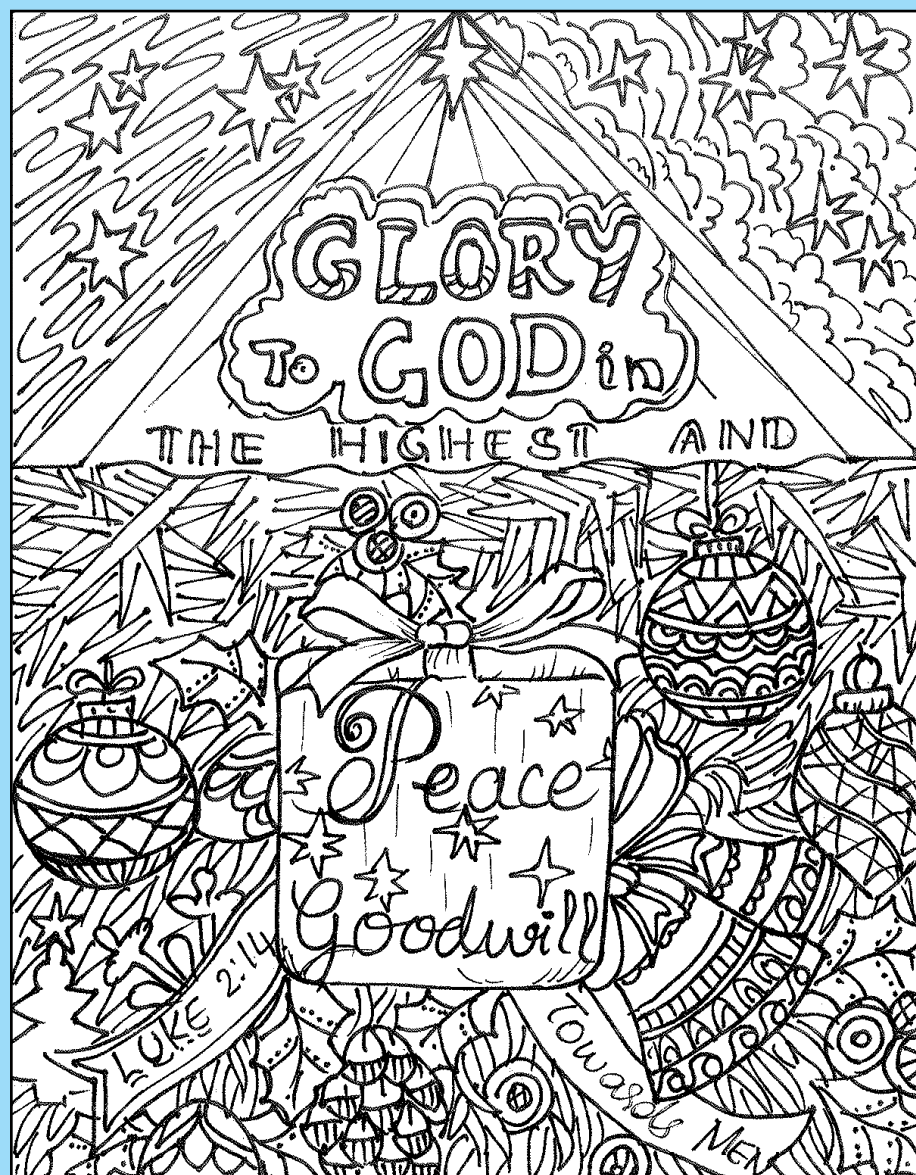


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*'Learn and Colour'*

**Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!**

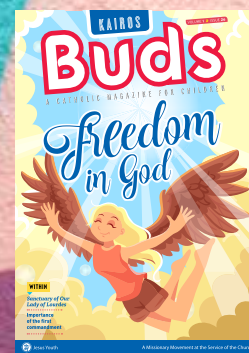
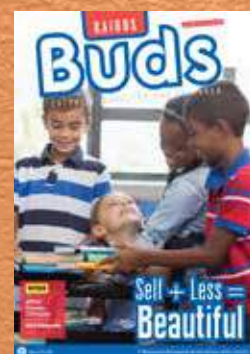
Luke 2: 14



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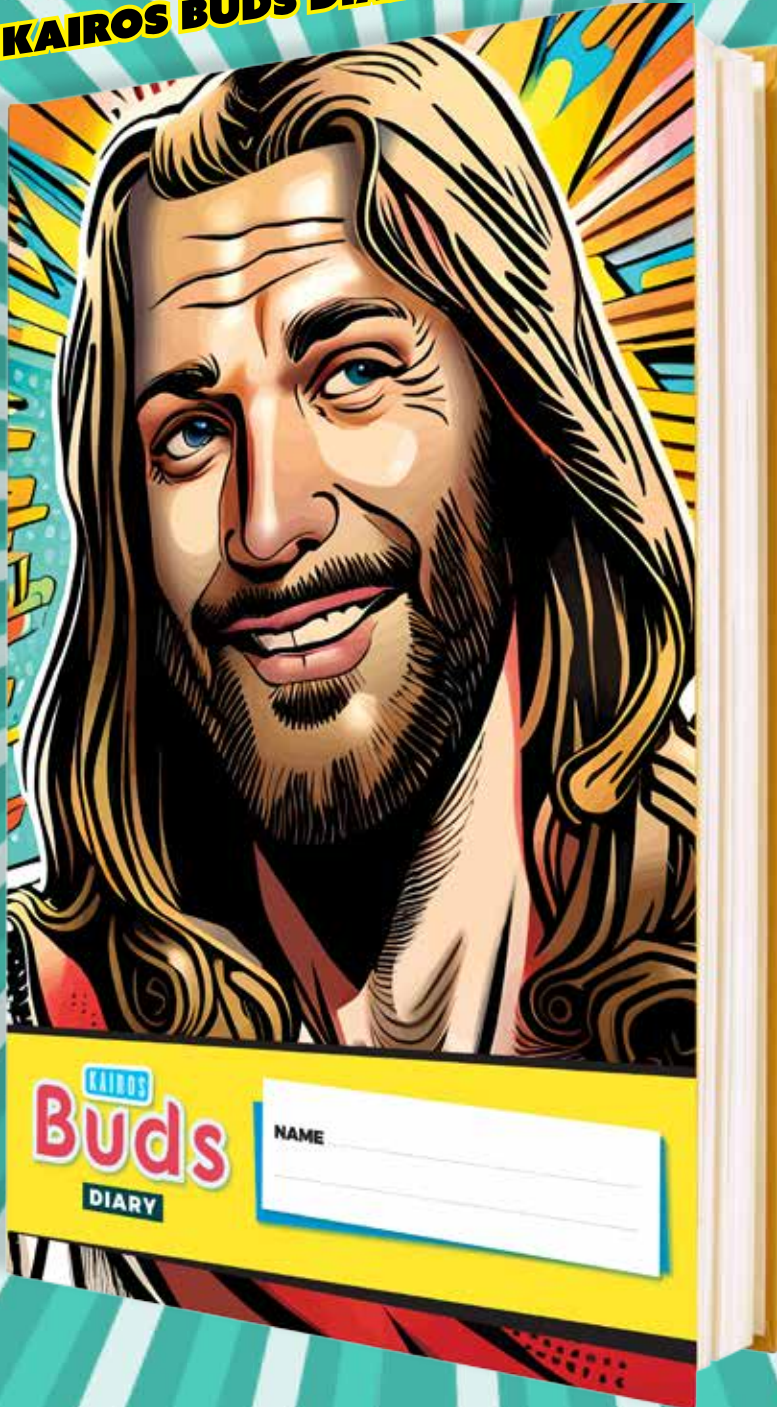
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