

# Children's Newsletter

## St Mary's

1st Sunday  
of Advent

### Mark's Gospel 13:33-37

The numbers above show you where you can find today's gospel. It is in Marks' Gospel, chapter 13, verses 33-37 (they are the tiny numbers at the beginning of sentences).

Today is the start of a new year in the church and we will usually be hearing Mark's Gospel from now until advent next year.

Mark's Gospel is the oldest of the four gospels and is also the shortest.

Today's gospel tells us that we should always be ready for when Jesus comes back. No-one knows when that will be and Mark tells us that we must stay awake.

Perhaps what Mark is teaching us is that we should take time now to check if we are behaving

as Jesus would want us to behave. It's no good thinking that we will be good tomorrow. Today is the day to



News:

You will find this year's Advent Calendar on the parish website.

### Prophets

All through the Bible it mentions prophets.

A prophet was a messenger from God.

Quite often the message was to tell people to behave better and they didn't usually like the prophets very much.

Today's 1st reading is from the Book of Isaiah.

Isaiah is a very famous prophet because he spoke about Jesus coming and being born among us.

### Advent Wreath

Today we light the first candle on our advent wreath.

The wreath is in the shape of a circle to tell us that God has no end and no beginning. It is made from leaves of evergreen trees to tell us

that God's love is everlasting. The word Advent means 'coming' and it is a time of preparation for us.

The priest will be wearing purple vestments at Mass until Christmas. Do you know what colour he will wear then?



### Advent Wordsearch

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

ADVENT  
 AWAKE  
 CANDLES  
 COMING  
 DOORKEEPER  
 GOD  
 JESUS  
 JOY  
 PREPARATION  
 PURPLE  
 WATCH



## The Poinsettia

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas are connected.

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked sadly to the chapel, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. "Pepita," he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus happy."

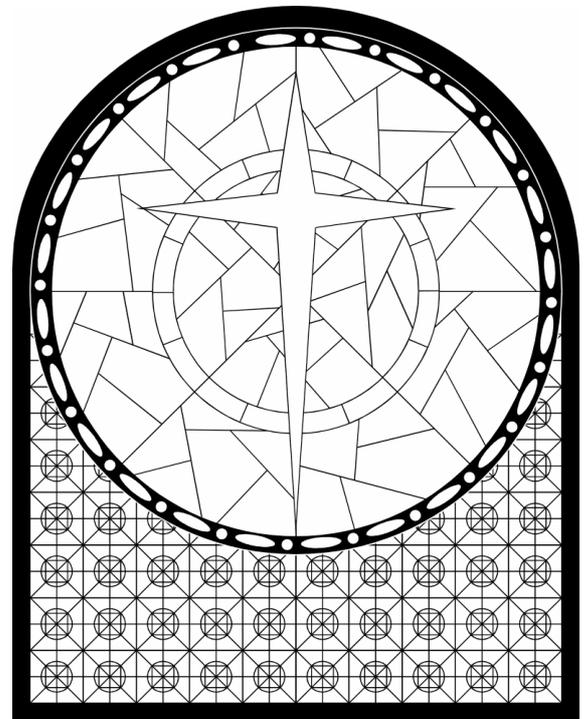
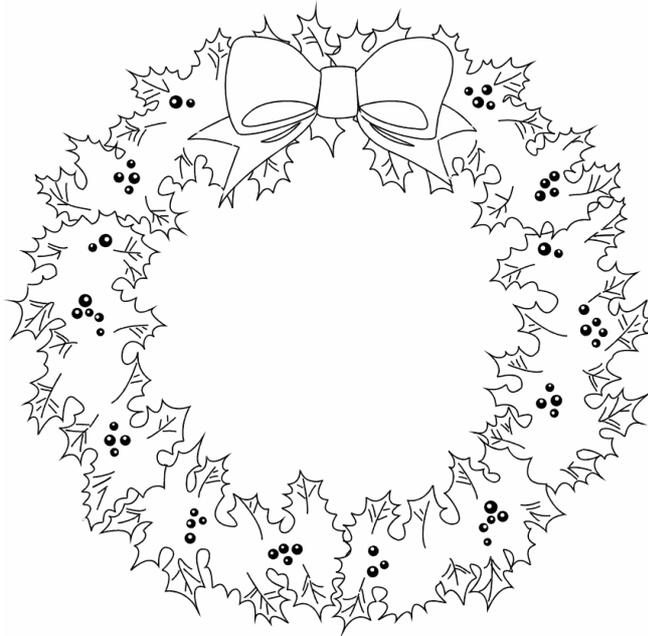
Pepita picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and them into a small



bouquet. She felt very embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus but as she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better and she knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the crib.

Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

## For You to Colour



## Presents on December 5th?

In Holland, children will be getting very excited now. St Nicholas, known as Sinterklaas, has arrived from Spain and is getting ready to visit all the children in their houses.



With him are his helpers, Zwarte Pieten, who have a book with them. In the book there is a list of all the good boys and girls so that Sinterklaas knows where to leave the presents.

Dutch boys and girls leave out their clogs or shoes on St Nicholas' eve, December 5th. There is often a party where treasure hunt games are played with poems and riddles giving the clues. Children follow the clues to find little presents left by Sinterklaas. Special biscuits and sweets are also eaten at the party. One type of biscuit is called 'letter blanket' or 'baketletter' (meaning letter cake), which is made from marzipan or pastry. The biscuits are made in the shapes of the first letter of the peoples names who are at the party. Another sweet biscuit that is eaten at the parties are 'pepernoot' which are made with cinnamon and spices in the pastry biscuit mix.