

Children's Newsletter

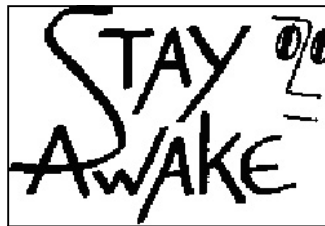
St Margaret Mary's

Luke's Gospel 21:25-28, 34-36

Advent is the start of the church year and this year we will be listening to Luke's Gospel on most Sundays.

Today's Gospel reading tells us about when Jesus will come again. We do not know when this will happen, but Jesus tells us to pray and to think about how we behave while we are waiting, so that we will be ready when he comes.

How do you think Jesus wants you to behave? What will you do this week, so that you can be ready when Jesus comes again.



1st Sunday of Advent

News

- Don't forget to take home your advent calendars
- Will you be coming to the family Mass at Christmas?
- Do you have any news for the newsletter?

The 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

ADVENT
AWAKE
CANDLES
COMING
DOORKEEPER
GOD
JESUS
JOY
PREPARATION
PURPLE
WATCH
WREATH

Prophets

All through the Bible it mentions prophets.

A prophet was someone whom God sent to others with a message from Him.

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 famous prophet because he spoke about Jesus coming and being born among us.



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 very happy."

Pepita picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made 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 much 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'.

Make an Advent Wreath

1. Cut a hole in the middle of a paper plate.
2. Draw around your hands on green paper or paint your hands green and print on paper.
3. Stick the cut-out hands around the outside of the paper plate to make the leaves.
4. Make four candles by rolling paper into tubes (3 purple and 1 pink).
5. Attach a paper flame to one candle on each

Presents on December 5th?

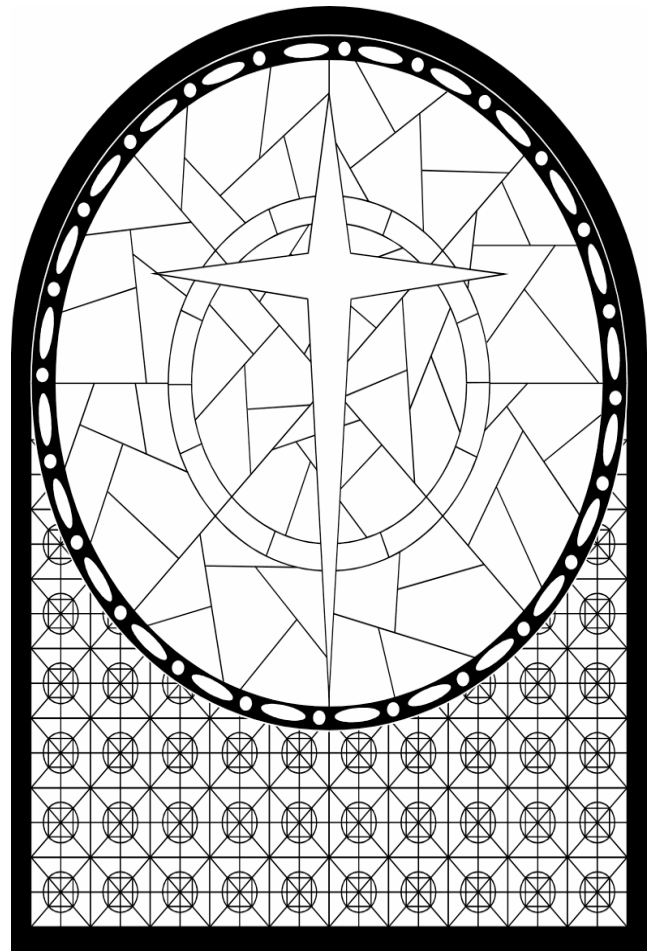
In Holland, children will be getting very excited now. St Nicholas, known as Sinterklaas, has arrived from Spain and is getting ready to visit all the children in their houses.



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 'banketletter' (meaning letter cake), which is made

For You to Colour



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.