

Advent & Christmas

Activity Booklet



Am Páistí

Oranmore Parish

Name: _____



This booklet will help you and your family prepare during this Advent season and celebrate Christmas.

What is Advent?

Advent is a holy season that starts four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. It is a time to wait and prepare.

During advent, we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus. It is the time to show how thankful and happy we are for all God's gifts.

We happily wait for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus. During advent priests wear the colour purple.

This booklet has lots to do- there are worksheets, prayers, poems and Bible stories.

This booklet will also help you learn more about the events of the first Christmas and will help you celebrate and mark the important and special time of year.

Keep an eye out for words below for Advent

Preparing

WAITING

JESUS

SAVIOR



JOY

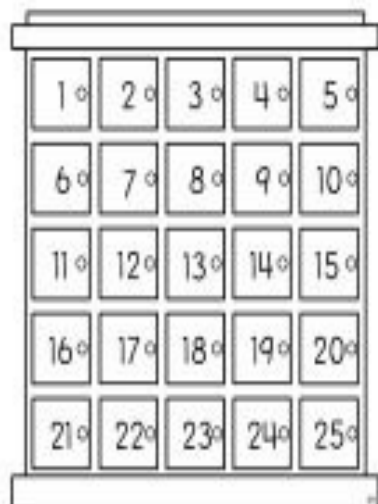
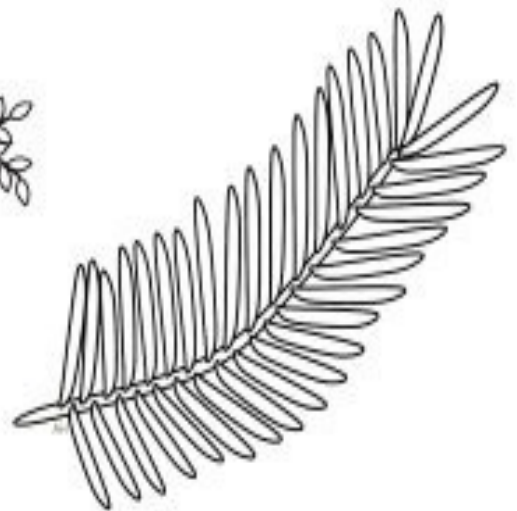


LOVE



Symbols of Advent

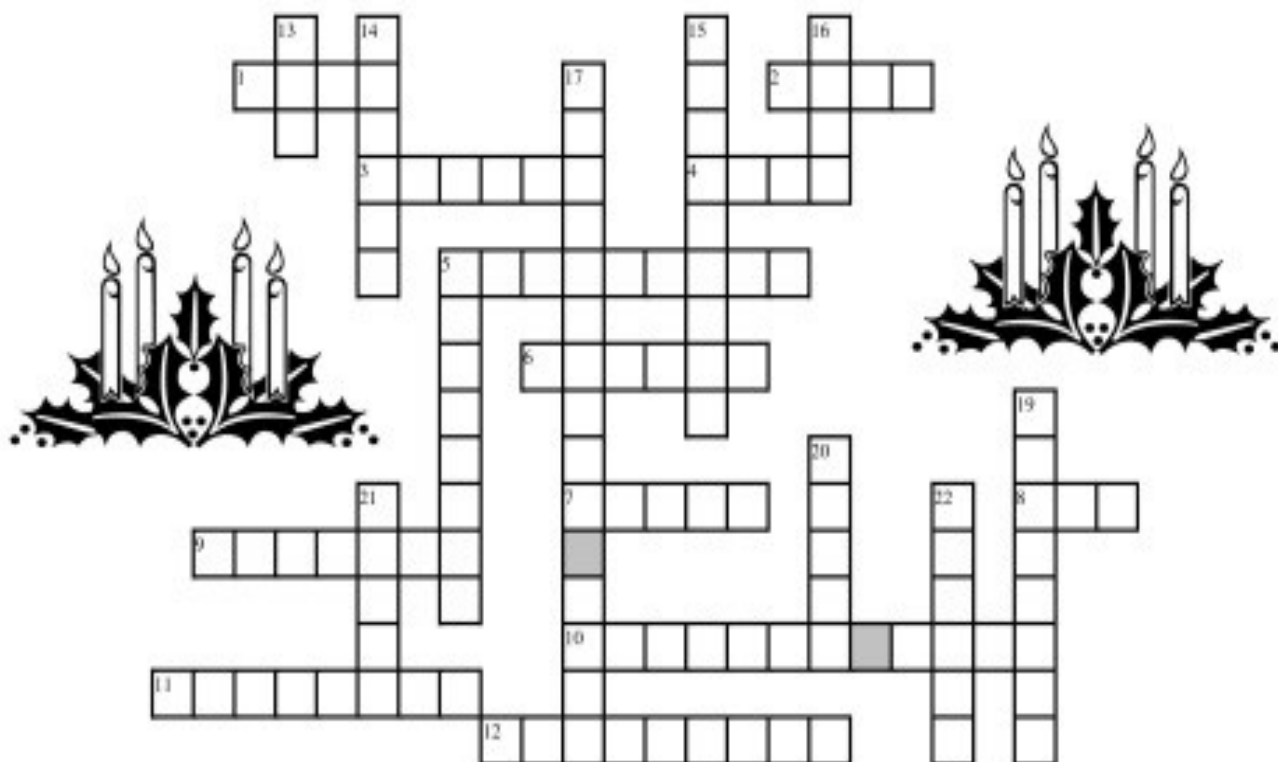
Put an "X" through the items that are not symbols of Advent.



Name: _____

Advent Crossword Puzzle

Put each word in the correct boxes based on the clues.



Across

1. Advent is the ___ Sunday's prior to Christmas.
2. The liturgical color of the 3rd Sunday of Advent is ____.
3. ___ is the start of the liturgical year.
4. The symbol of the 1st Sunday of Advent is ____.
5. The ___ branches represent the unending love of God.
6. ___ is the liturgical color for the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sunday of Advent.
7. Christ is the ___ of the world.
8. Each candle on the Advent wreath represents ___ week.
9. The 3rd Sunday of Advent is called ___ Sunday.
10. The circular shape of the Advent wreath represents ____.

11. The 3rd candle is called the ___'s Candle.
12. The day that Jesus was born is ___ day.

Down

13. The symbol of the 3rd Sunday of Advent is ____.
14. One candle is lit each Sunday on the Advent ____.
15. The 2nd candle is called the ___ Candle.
16. The symbol of the 4th Sunday of Advent is ____.
17. The first Sunday of Advent is the start of the new ____.
5. Another name for Jesus is ____.
19. The 1st candle is called the ___ Candle.
20. The 4th candle is called the ___'s Candle.
21. The symbol of the 2nd Sunday of Advent is ____.
22. Advent means that Jesus is '___'.

Advent PRAYER

4,3,2,1... Count the weeks

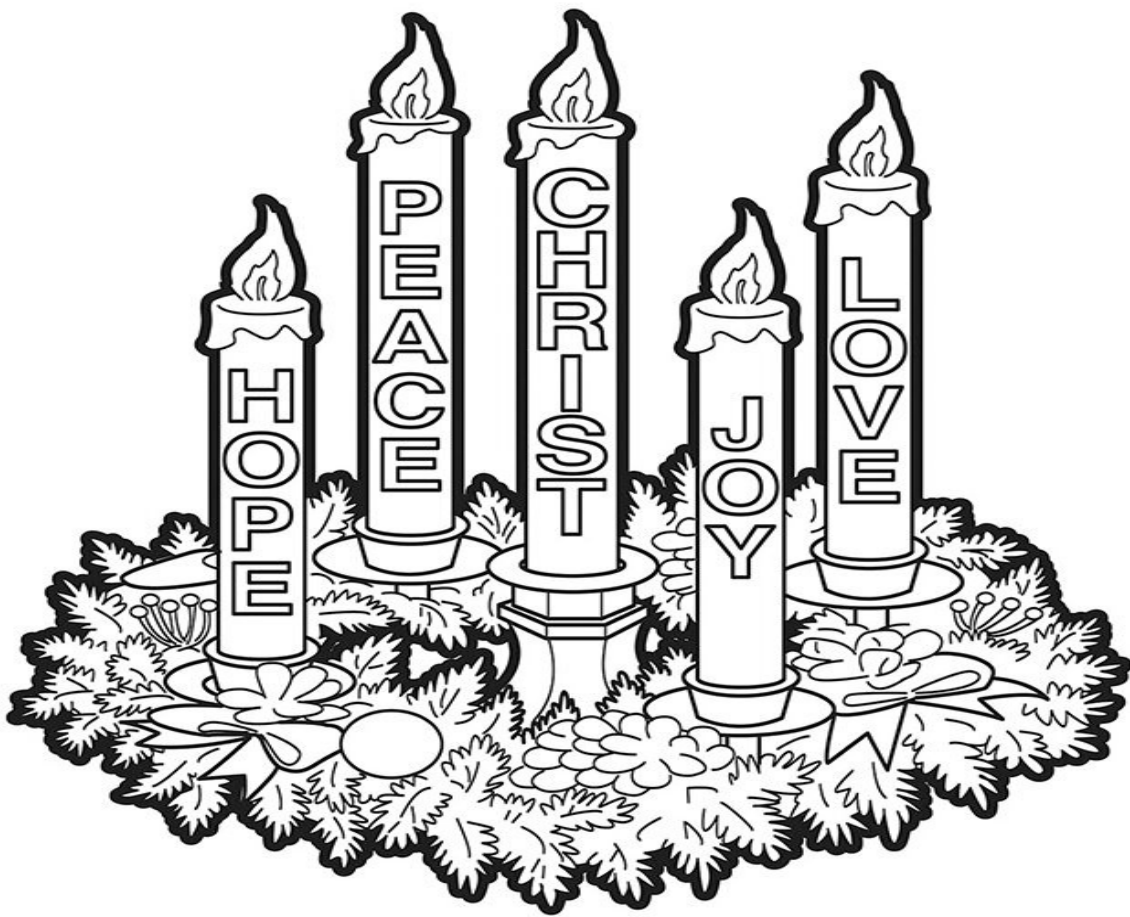
'till Jesus comes.

Each week we add another light.

Our hope for Jesus growing bright.

Amen





ADVENT WREATH

The circle reminds us that God's love has no beginning and no end. The green leaves remind us that God's love never changes.

One candle is lit on each Sunday of Advent. The rose (pink) colored candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, sometimes known as *Gaudete Sunday*.

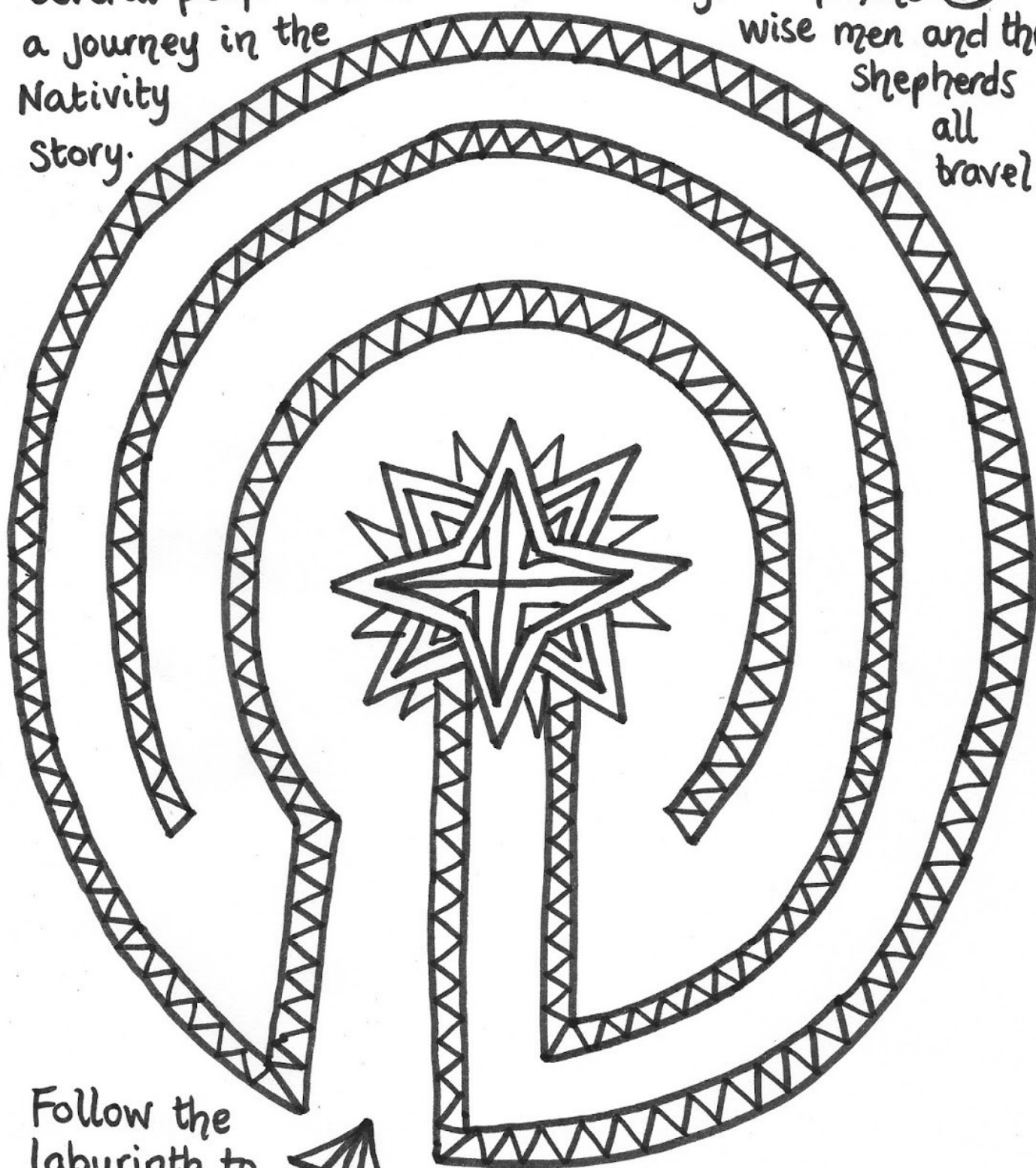
A white candle in the center of the wreath can be lit on Christmas Eve.

Advent

Several people make
a journey in the
Nativity
Story.

Journey

Mary, Joseph, the
wise men and the
shepherds
all travel.



Follow the
labyrinth to
the star at
the
centre.



Think about what their
journeys might have been
like.

First Sunday of Advent

28th November

Welcome: Today is the first day of Advent. Advent is a special time when we wait in hope for the coming of Jesus. Let's think a bit more about the things we wait for and what we hope for today.

Opening prayer: Dear God, because you love us so much you sent your only Son into the world to be with us. Help us to wait in hope with joyful hearts for his coming and to share your hope with others. Amen.

Gospel:

"There will be strange things happening to the sun, the moon, and the stars. On earth whole countries will be in despair, afraid of the roar of the sea and the raging tides. People will faint from fear as they wait for what is coming over the whole earth, for the powers in space will be driven from their courses. Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation is near."

"Be on your guard. Don't let yourselves become occupied with too much feasting and drinking and with the worries of this life, or that Day may suddenly catch you like a trap. For it will come upon all people everywhere on earth. Be on the alert and pray always that you will have the strength to go safely through all those things that will happen and to stand before the Son of Man."

Intercessions

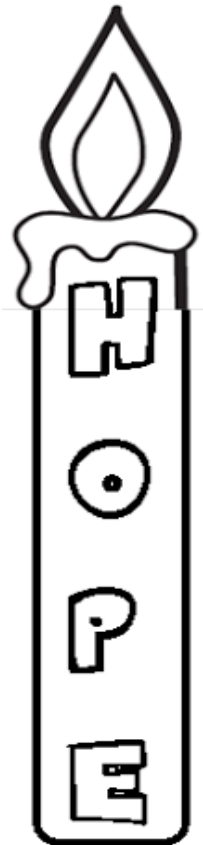
As we wait for the coming of Jesus, we pray together:

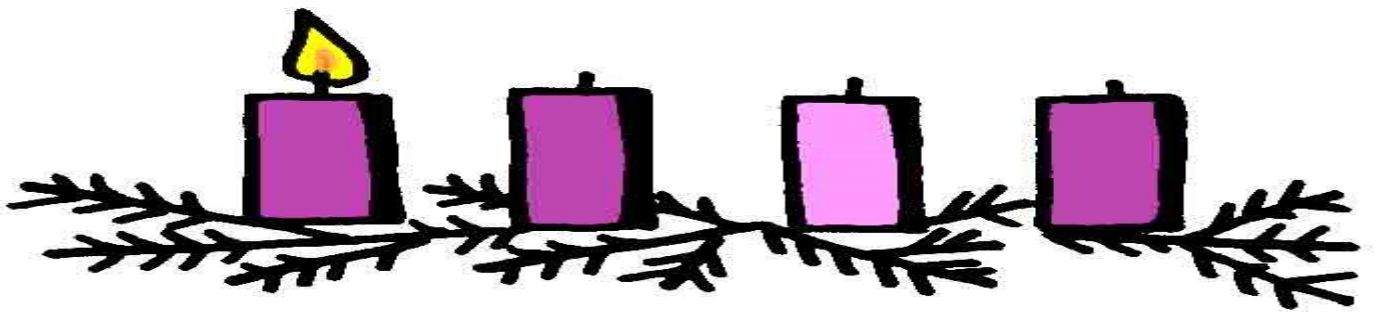
We pray for all the leaders in the world: that God may give them the wisdom to treat their people with fairness and compassion, bringing hope to all. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the Church around the world: that she may follow the example of Jesus and work to make the world a fairer place. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our communities, families and friends: that we may treat others as we would wish to be treated and always be ready to welcome Jesus into our lives. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving God, may your love be with us always and bring peace and joy to all people around the world, as we wait in hope for the coming of your Son Jesus. We ask this





**During Advent,
something I am hoping for is...**

Second Sunday of Advent

5th December

Welcome: In today's readings we are told that someone very special is coming. Who do you think that might be? John the Baptist tries to help people get ready for this special person. Let's think some more about this today.

Opening prayer: Loving God, you want the whole world to welcome Jesus. Help us to prepare for his coming by changing our lives for the better. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Gospel:

It was the fifteenth year of the rule of the Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip was ruler of the territory of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler of Abilene, and Annas and Caiaphas were High Priests. At that time the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. So John went throughout the whole territory of the River Jordan, preaching, "Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins." As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

"Someone is shouting in the desert:
'Get the road ready for the Lord;
make a straight path for him to travel!
Every valley must be filled up,
every hill and mountain levelled off.
The winding roads must be made straight,
and the rough paths made smooth.
The whole human race will see God's salvation!'"

Intercessions

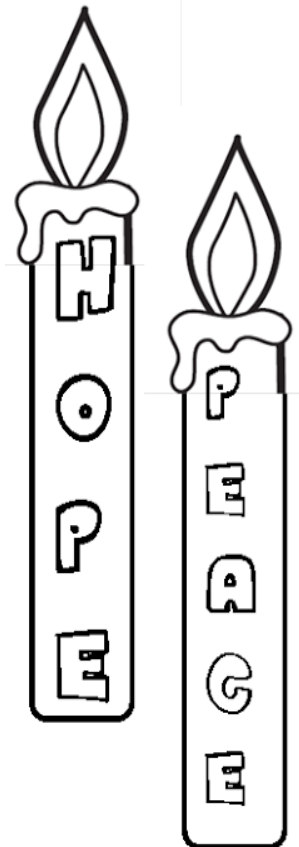
We try to make a change to our lives and the lives of others as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, and so we pray together:

We pray for all the leaders in the world: that they may treat their people and those of other countries with fairness and compassion. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all children around the world: that they may have the chance to change their lives for the better and look to the future with hope and happiness. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our communities, families and friends: that we may care for each other as Jesus taught us, and so change all our lives for the better. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Merciful God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of your Son, Jesus. Help us to get ready as well. Lead us to make positive changes in our lives and the lives of others around the world. Amen.



PEACE



**During Advent,
I can show peace...**

Third Sunday of Advent

12th December

Welcome: Today we hear John the Baptist preparing people for the coming of Jesus. The people were very excited. John told them they had to change their lives for the better and share what they had with others. Let's think a bit more about that today.

Opening prayer: Generous God, we give you thanks for all the good things that you have given us. Inspire us to share what we have so all people may live a full and happy life. Amen.

Gospel:

The people asked [John the Baptist], "What are we to do, then?"

He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it."

Some tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what are we to do?"

"Don't collect more than is legal," he told them.

Some soldiers also asked him, "What about us? What are we to do?"

He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay."

People's hopes began to rise, and they began to wonder whether John perhaps might be the Messiah. So John said to all of them, "I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He has his winnowing shovel with him, to thresh out all the grain and gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."

In many different ways John preached the Good News to the people and urged them to change their ways.

Intercessions

All that we have is given to us by God and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a shining example of joy and God's love, welcoming everyone and spreading the message of sharing to all people. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all members of our global family: that we may all recognise the importance of our brothers and sisters and share what we can for the good of all people. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our communities, families and friends: that we may be moved to care for one another and share what we have so all people can live full and happy lives. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Christ Jesus, as Christmas approaches, we look forward joyfully to your coming. Help us to share what we can so all people may have what they need. Amen.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

19th December

Welcome: Today we hear how cousins Mary and Elizabeth rejoiced when they saw each other and how Elizabeth knew straight away that Mary's baby was very special. Let's think a bit more about this and about babies around the world.

Opening prayer: Caring God, Elizabeth was filled with joy when she saw Mary and knew how special her baby would be. May all parents and their babies around the world have the chance to live healthy and happy lives, with hope for the future. Amen.

Gospel:

Soon afterwards Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!"



Intercessions

We know that God loves us all, even the tiniest baby, and so we pray together:

We pray for all parents around the world: that they may be able to give their children a safe and loving home and encourage them to fulfil their dreams. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all babies and children throughout the world: that they may live happy and healthy lives and have hope for a future free from poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be inspired to share God's love with all people, no matter where they are in the world. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of all, fill us with joy at the coming of your Son, as Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy. Help us to spread your love by caring for all our brothers and sisters around the world. Amen.

The First Christmas

Mary and Joseph went to the town of Bethlehem. When they got there, all of the hotels were full. They had to spend the night in a stable. When Jesus was born, they wrapped him up and put him in a manger.

Not too far away, an angel of the Lord came to see some shepherds that night. The angel said, "I bring you good news! A savior has been born!"

Many people came to visit Jesus. Some people even brought gifts for him! Jesus was going to be very important! God had come to help his people, just as he promised in the beginning.





The Christmas Story

by Leanne Guenther

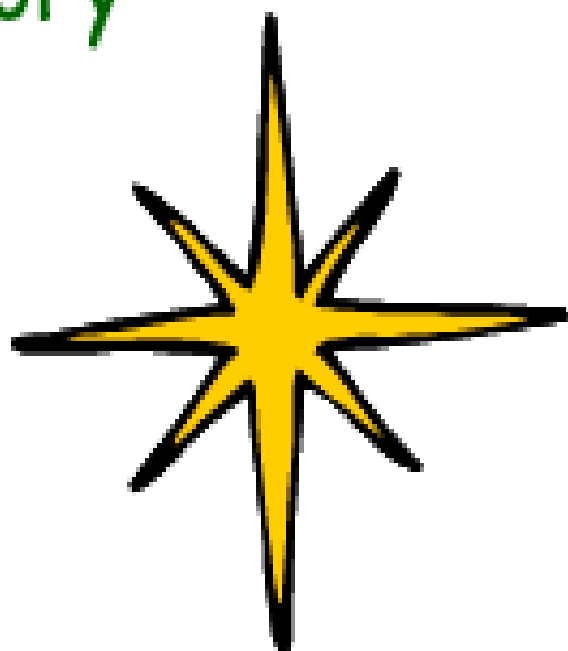
Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
Is our Saviour here on earth!



My gift for Baby Jesus



NUBIA GROUP

Touch your Heart

Christmas Prayer

I said a Christmas prayer for you
Because the season's near
I didn't ask for riches
But for gifts so much more dear.

I asked for joyful gatherings
With your family all around
And for carols to inspire you
With their old familiar sound.

I asked for quiet moments
In your heart on Christmas morn
For a special time to celebrate
The Savior who was born.

I asked for friends to send their best
That you might know they care
I asked for peace and love and hope
And I know God heard my prayer.

~ Nancy Brummett ~

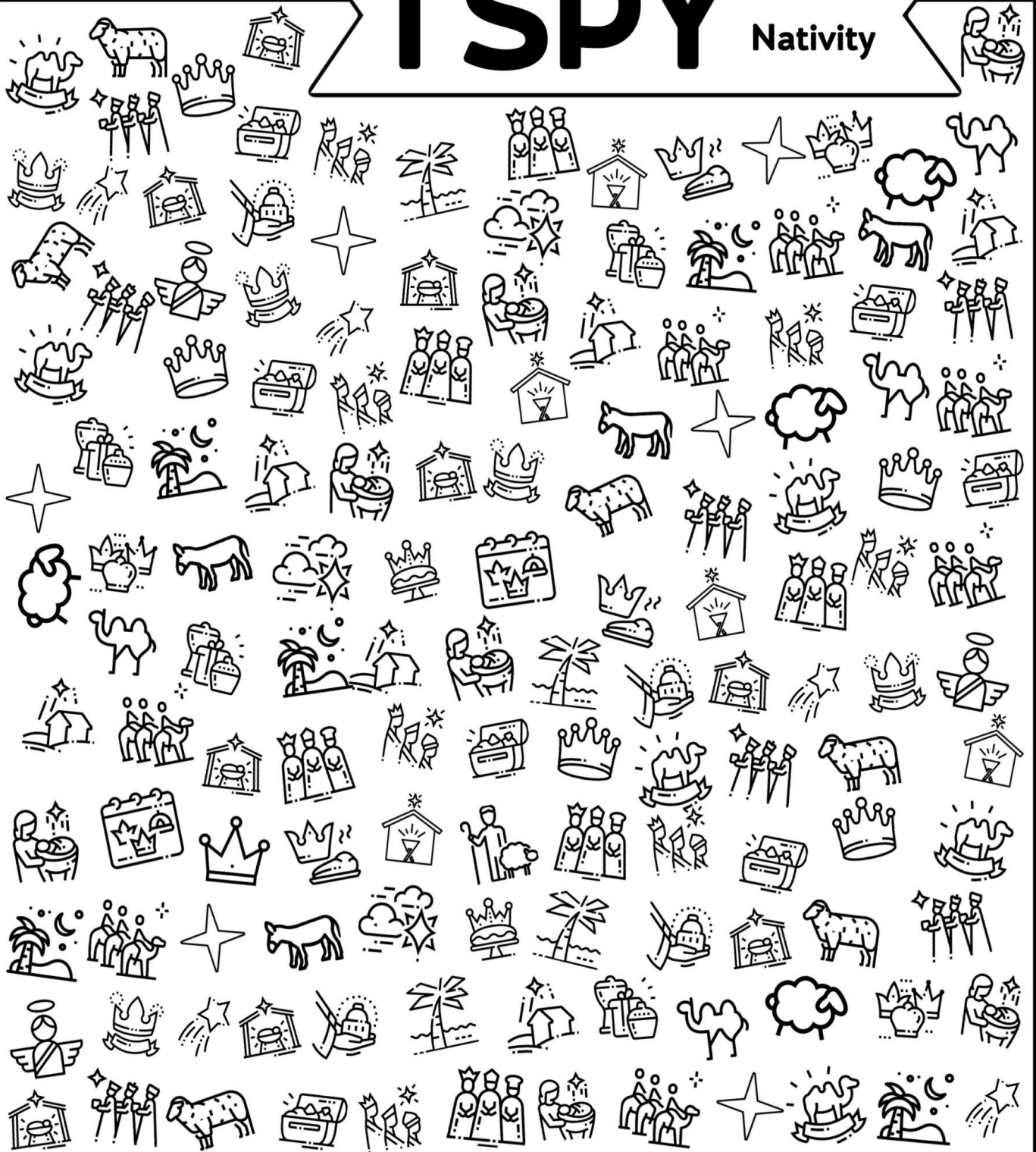
With every good
Wish... FOR THE
Christmas Season

<http://Nubiagroup.blogspot.com/>



I SPY

Nativity



- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2 | | 4 | | 4 | | 5 | | 4 | | 5 | | 7 | | 4 | | 6 | | 5 | |
| 1 | | 6 | | 7 | | 1 | | 3 | | 6 | | 7 | | 4 | | 7 | | 5 | |
| 3 | | 3 | | 4 | | 6 | | 2 | | 7 | | 5 | | 9 | | 6 | | 3 | |



Nativity Wordsearch



angel

donkey

Jesus

Joseph

kings

manger

Mary

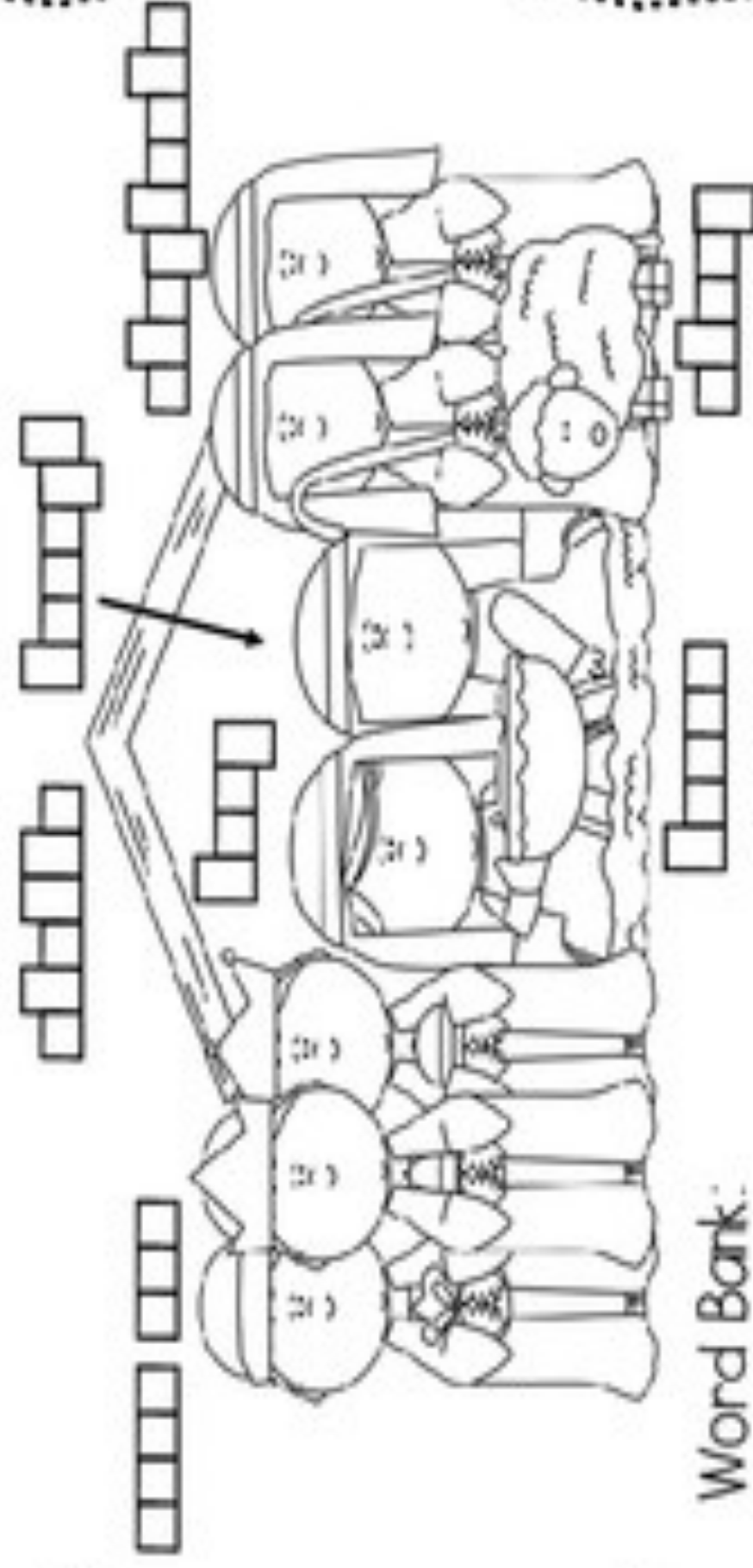
shepherd

stable

star



Label the Nativity



Word Bank:

Jesus

Mary

Joseph

wise men

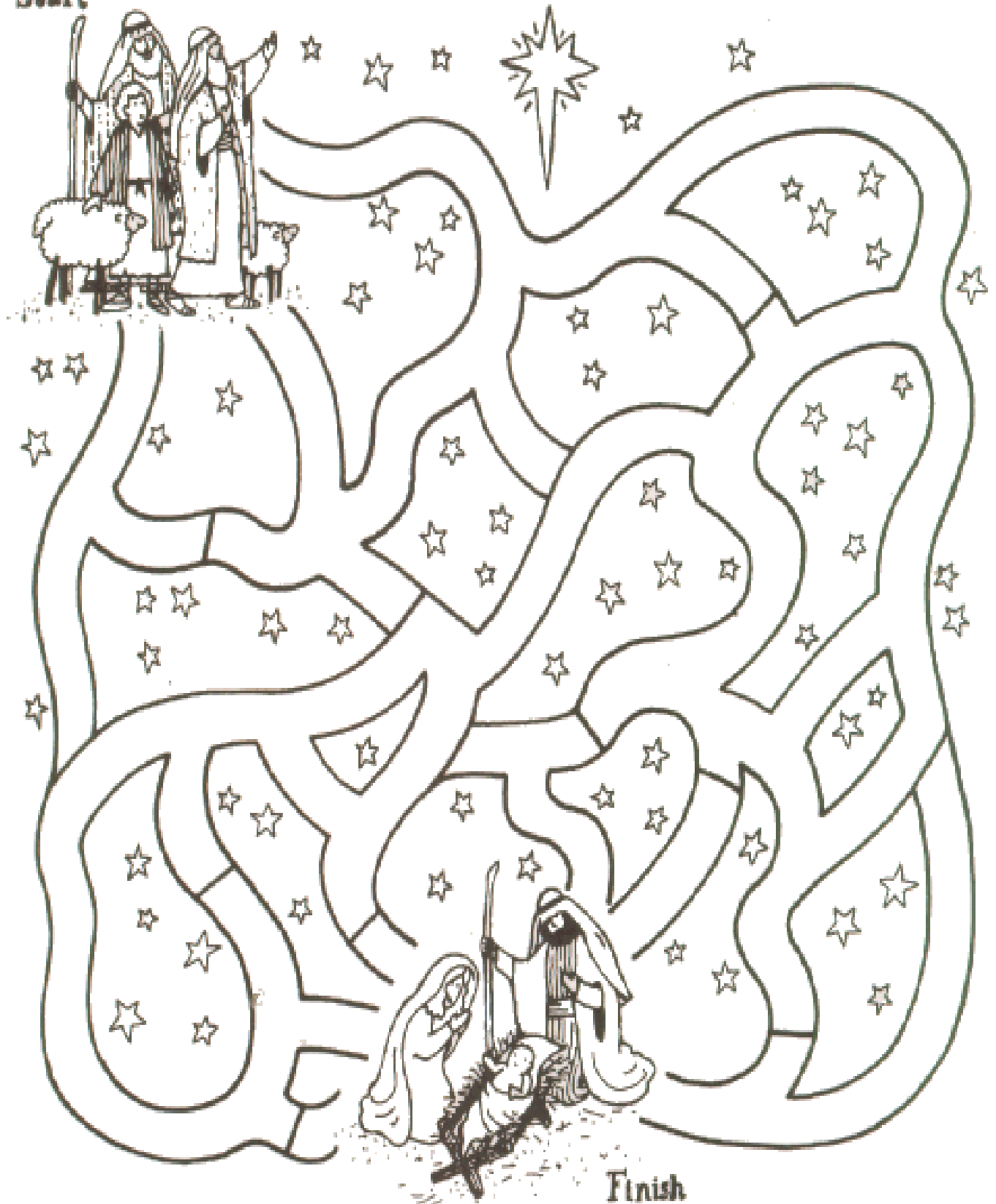
sheep

shepherds

stable

Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.

Start



Finish

JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



Merry Christmas

