

# Advent and Christmas

## FOCUS

1. The Scriptures present Mary as the one who listened and responded fully and faithfully to the call of God.
2. Mary has perfect trust in God. She became the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.
3. The Christmas story tells of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God.
4. The angels are messengers of Good News. They point to the signs of God's presence: the baby, swaddling clothes, manger.

*During these lessons your child may have:*

- *listened and responded to the story of the Annunciation;*
- *listened and responded to the story of the first Christmas;*
- *learned that when Mary said "Yes" she became the mother of Jesus who is the Son of God;*
- *explored Christmas as a time when we reach out to others*
- *identified ways the community celebrates the birth of Jesus.*

### Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to . . . Mary. The angel went in and said to her, "Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what the greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, "Mary, be not afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to bear a son and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High . . ." "I am the handmaiden of the Lord," said Mary, "Let what you said be done to me." And the angel left her.

### Luke 2:6-20

Mary gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger because there was no room at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who watched their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened." So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; it was exactly as they had been told.

## SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

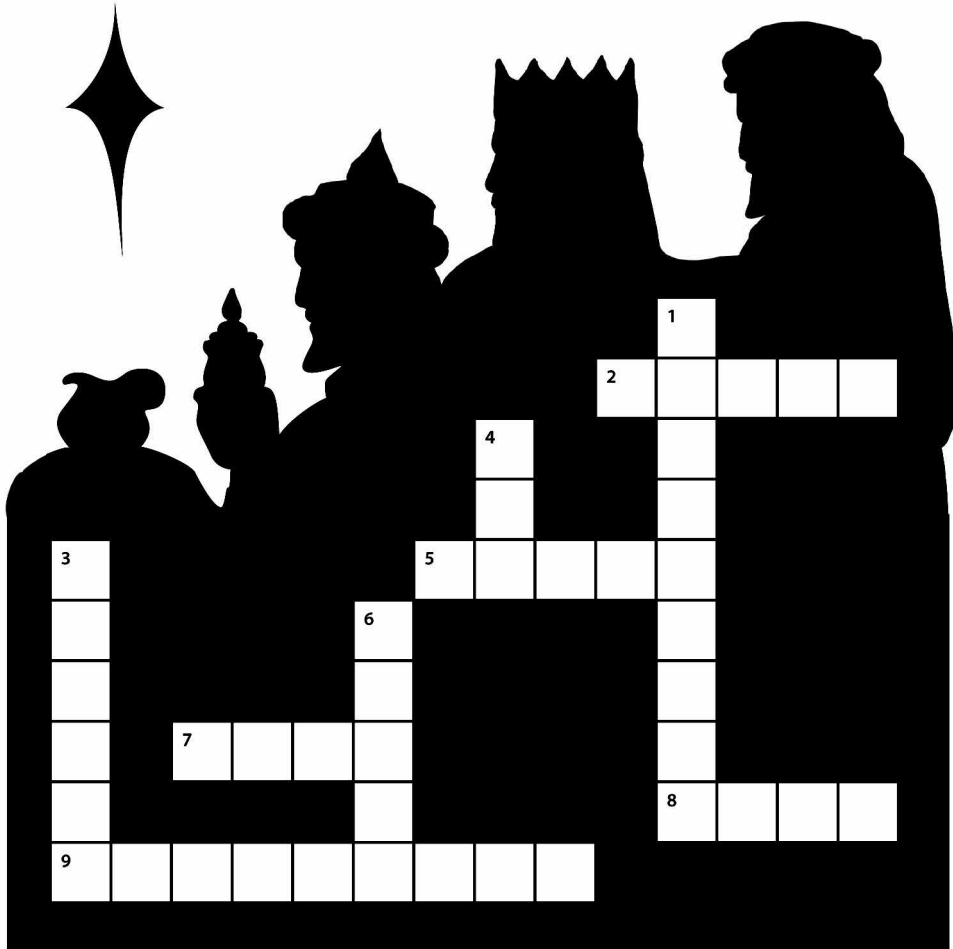
These are some suggested activities to do at home with your child.

1. Read and discuss the Christmas story with your child.
2. Talk to your child about how you prepared for Christmas when you were a child, highlighting particular family traditions.
3. Sing Christmas carols together as a family.
4. Encourage your child to design Christmas cards using the different events of the Christmas story as the basis of their design.
5. Display a Nativity Set in your home.
6. Encourage your child to complete the exercise on the activity page.
7. More activities can be found at [www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au) Click on **Home Activities**.

**To Remember :**

**Jesus is God's gift to us.**

# Christmas Crossword Puzzle

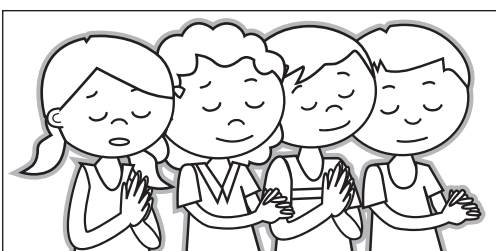


## ACROSS

2. The baby born in a manger in Bethlehem.
5. An \_\_\_\_\_ told the shepherds to fear not.
7. The wise men saw the \_\_\_\_\_ in the east.
8. The mother of Jesus.
9. The new baby's first visitor.

## DOWN

1. The city where Jesus was born.
3. The shepherds were keeping watch over their \_\_\_\_\_.
4. There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Wise-men gave \_\_\_\_\_ gifts to the Christ child.



Dear God, at Christmas we give each other many gifts but you gave us the best gift of all, your Son, Jesus.  
Amen.