

**St John the Divine Croydon**  
*Christmas Carols and Crib Service*  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
21 December 2025



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**THE ADVENT WREATH**

*[The fourth advent candle is lit while singing TiS 286 – Light one candle]*

**Light one candle for hope,  
one bright candle for hope.  
He brings hope to every heart.  
He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for peace  
one bright candle for peace.  
He brings peace to every heart.  
He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for joy  
one bright candle for joy.  
Every nation will find salvation  
Bethl'em's baby boy**

**Light one candle for love  
one bright candle for love  
He brings love to every heart  
He come! He comes!  
He brings love to every heart.  
He comes! He comes!**

[C] Come, O Wisdom of God most high,  
O Giver of the Law,  
O Flower of Jesse's root,  
O Key of David,  
O Radiant Dawn,  
O King of the Nations,  
O Emmanuel.  
Give us peace and allow us to celebrate your presence with joy,  
that we may some day share your glory.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**



## **Hymn : TiS 304 – O come, all ye faithful**

- 1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the king of angels:**

**[Refrain:] O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

- 2. True God of true God,  
Light of Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father,  
begotten, not created: [Refrain]**

- 3. See how the shepherds  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps: [Refrain]**

- 4. Lo! star-led chieftains,  
wise men, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christchild  
bring our hearts' oblations: [Refrain]**

- 5. Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly? [Refrain]**

- 6. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God,  
glory in the highest': [Refrain]**

We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. We have made room in our busy lives to travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, to sing with the angels of the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through bible stories, and action, prayer and song, let us tell again the wonderful story of our redemption, and rejoice and respond with lively faith.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ Child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Mary**

Luke 1:26-38

God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman. Her name was Mary.

She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David.

The angel came to her and said,

“Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you.”

But Mary was very confused by what the angel said.

Mary wondered, “What does this mean?”

The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. His kingdom will never end.”

Mary said, “I am the servant girl of the Lord.

Let this happen to me as you say!”

### ***[Mary is placed in the stable]***

Singing group : **Mary did you know**

*Words & Music by Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene*

Mary, did you know

That your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know

That your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know

That your Baby Boy has come to make you new?

This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know

That your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know

That your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?

Did you know

That your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?

When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?

The blind will see  
The deaf will hear  
The dead will live again  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of The Lamb

Mary, did you know  
That your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know  
That your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?  
Did you know  
That your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?  
And the sleeping Child you're holding is the great "I AM"

Let us pray:  
Lord Jesus, your birth turned the world upside down.  
We pray for those facing change, and coming to terms with unexpected news. Bless us  
in the opportunities we are given and in the challenges we face.  
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

### **The Journey to Bethlehem**

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Luke 2: 1-5

Augustus Caesar the Roman Emperor sent an order to all people in the countries that he controlled.  
Everyone must list their names in a register.  
Everyone went to their own towns to be registered.  
So Joseph left Nazareth.  
He went to the town of Bethlehem, the town of King David.  
Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him.

***[Joseph and Donkey placed in the stable]***

**Hymn: TiS 316 – O little town of Bethlehem**

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet, in your dark streets shining  
the everlasting light,  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

[continue on next page]

2. **For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth.**
3. **How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**
4. **O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
their great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.**

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who cannot stop, whose journey of life is hard and long, who have heavy burdens to carry. Give strength for each next step, and light to show the way.

In your name we pray. **Amen**

***[Animals are brought into the stable]***

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### **The Birth of Jesus**

Luke 2:6-7

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

***[Jesus is placed in the crib]***

## **Hymn: TiS 318 – Away in a Manger**

- 1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from on high,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth. Accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our Eternal God.  
**Amen.**

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## **The Shepherds**

Luke 2:8

That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep.

***[The Shepherd comes to the outside of the stable]***

## **Hymn: TiS 299 – While shepherds watched their flocks by night**

- 1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
an angel of the Lord came down  
and glory shone around.**
- 2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind),  
'glad tidings of great joy I bring  
you and all humankind.**
- 3. 'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:**

[continue on next page]

4. 'the heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes  
and in a manger laid.'
5. Thus spoke the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels, praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:
6. 'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the world be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to earth  
begin and never cease.

### **The Angel and the Shepherds**

Luke 2:9-12

An angel of the Lord stood before them. They became very frightened. The angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.' Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:

**All: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'**

***[The angel is brought to the stable]***

**Hymn: TiS 303 – Hark, the herald-angels sing**

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.  
[Refrain:] Hark! the herald angels sing,  
glory to the new-born King.

[continue on next page]

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased in human flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.  
[Refrain:] Hark! the herald angels sing,  
glory to the new-born King.**

**3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings:  
mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more need die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]**

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, the angels were glad to share the good news of your birth.

Help us to tell the world the good news that you are still with us, and will never leave us.

In your name we pray. **Amen.**

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### **The Shepherds go to Bethlehem**

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Luke 2:15-19

The shepherds said to each other,

“Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about.” So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everything was just as the angel had told them.

### **Hymn: TiS 311 – Silent night**

**1. Silent night, holy night:  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child,  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.**

[continue on next page]



**2. Silent night!, holy night:  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born.'**

**3. Silent night, holy night:!  
Wondrous star, lend your light;  
with the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ our Saviour is born,  
Christ our Saviour is born.**

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you came in the silence of the night, an extraordinary gift to ordinary people. Help us to see the wonderful things you are doing in the ordinary experiences of our lives. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

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### **The Wise Men follow the star**

Matthew 2: 1-11

After Jesus was born, some wise men from the East came to Jerusalem  
They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled.

He asked his chief priests where the Christ would be born.

They said, "In Bethlehem."

The wise men left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary.

They bowed down and worshipped the child.

They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

***[The Wise Men are brought to the stable]***

**Hymn: We three kings**

**We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star**

[continue on next page]

*O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to Your perfect light*

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.**

*O Star of wonder....*

**Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense tells of Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising, voices raising  
Worship Him, God most high**

*O Star of wonder....*

**Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb**

*O Star of wonder...*

**Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and sacrifice!  
Heaven sings, 'Alleluia!'  
'Alleluia!' the Earth replies**

*O Star of wonder...*

Let us pray:

The kings, Lord, brought myrrh, frankincense and gold.

Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring; we bring you what you have given: our lives for your life. **Amen.**

We have shared in the wonderful story of Mary and Joseph, of the Angel, the Shepherds and the Magi, and of Jesus himself: God with us.

This Christmas, in the midst of our busy lives, we are invited to make room for the manger, and kneel in wonder at the miracle of heaven touching earth. Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as Jesus himself has taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Hymn: Little Drummer Boy**

**Come, they told me, pa rum pum pum pum  
A newborn King to see, pa rum pum pum pum  
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum  
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum  
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.  
So to honour Him, pa rum pum pum pum  
When we come.**

**Baby Jesus, pa rum pum pum pum  
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum  
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum  
That's fit to give a King, pa rum pum pum pum  
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.  
Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum  
On my drum?**

**Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum  
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my drum for Him, pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my best for Him, pa rum pum pum pum  
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.  
Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum,  
Me and my drum**

### **The Blessing**

**May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ---child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God  
Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you  
always. Amen.**

## Worship Roster for today

9.00am

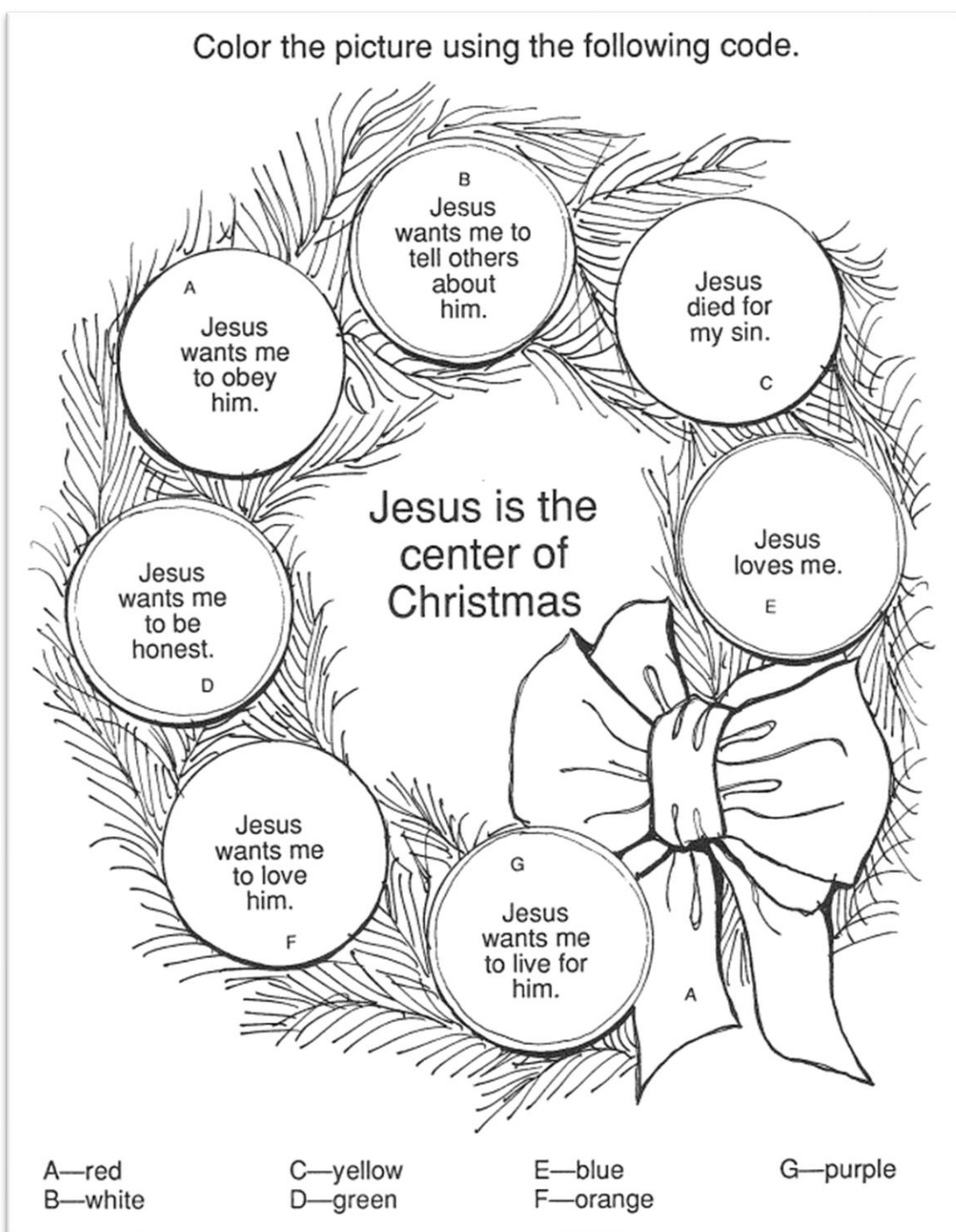
**W.** Jenny Harris & Helen Duncan, **Counters.** Jim Moore & Mark Duncan

**E.A.:** Eucharistic Assistant, **C.M.:** Communion Minister, **Cr.** Crucifer, **R:** Reader, **W:** Welcomers



*Thank you for joining in our worship today. We offer an after-service 'cuppa' in our meeting room next to the foyer after Sunday Services – you are invited to join us.*

Color the picture using the following code.



## NOTICES

### **SJD Christmas Services**

Please note St John the Divine Christmas Services as below:

|        |      |                   |
|--------|------|-------------------|
| 24 Dec | 11PM | Midnight Service  |
| 25 Dec | 9AM  | Christmas Service |

Please also note

- All Sunday services from 28 December and January 2026 are COMBINED SERVICE at 9AM
- NO Wednesday service in January 2026.

#### **Rosters for coming services : 24-Dec**

##### **24Dec, 11PM**

**E.A.** Helen Duncan, **R1.** Wendy Pullin, **R2.** Joel Shambrook; **Intercessor.** Jenny Harris, **Cr.** Andrew Bell, **C.M.** Jim Moore, **W.** Eileen Moore & Jenny Harris, **Counters.** Mark Duncan & Eileen Moore

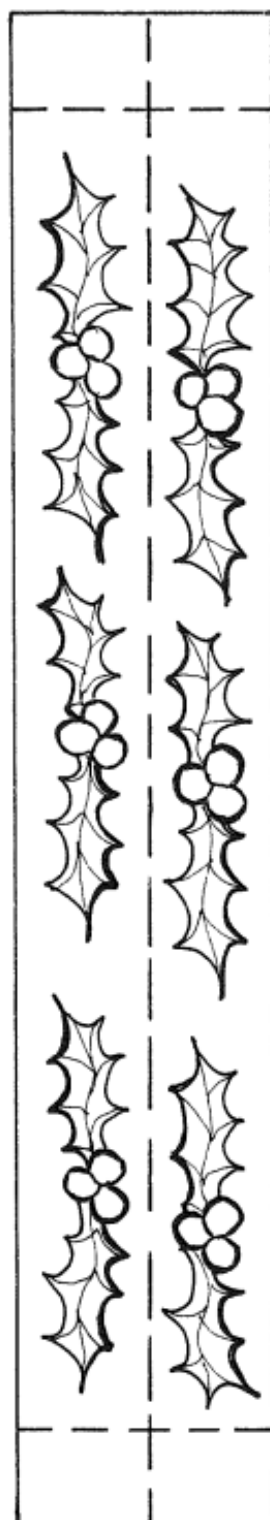
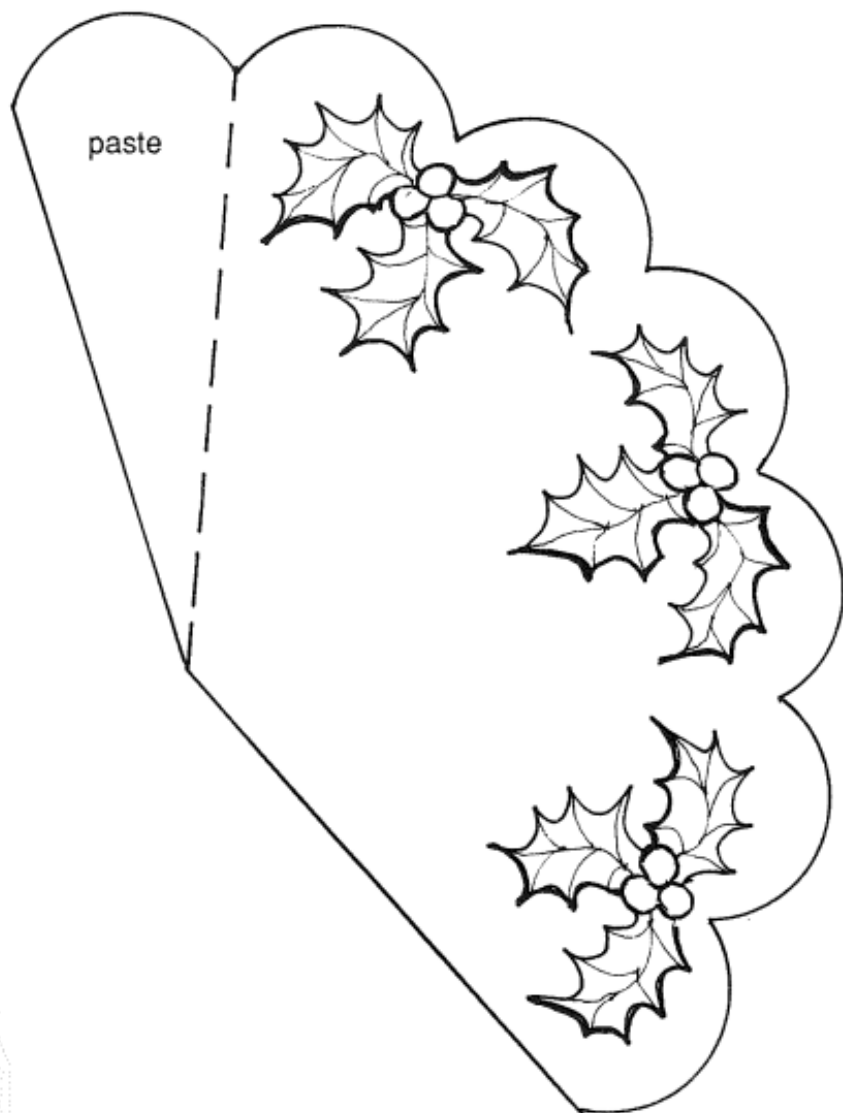
##### **25-Dec, 9AM**

**E.A.** Rosemary Callow, **R1.** Deborah Guess; **R2.** Deborah Guess, **Intercessor.** Ailsa Wakeley, **Cr.** Clive Mattingley, **C.M.** Clive Mattingley, **W.** Elizabeth Sanderson & Lyn Lynch; **Counters.** Gecille Hindson

##### **28-Dec, 9AM (Sunday COMBINED SERVICE)**

**E.A.** Steven Sim, **R1.** Judy Carter; **R2.** Carol Dorian, **Intercessor.** Ailsa Wakeley, **Cr.** Jim Moore, **C.M.** Helen Duncan, **W.** Cheryl Yon & Carol Dorian; **Counters.** Pei Lee & Eileen Moore

Color the basket and handle and cut out on solid lines. Fold handle lengthwise on the dotted line, with holly leaves on the outside, and glue together. Form the basket into a cone and paste or tape. Attach the handle. Fill with small candy or other goodies and hang on the Christmas tree.



## PARISH DIRECTORY

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Address | 5 Toorak Ave, Croydon VIC 3136   |
| Office  | 03 9723 5099<br>Tues, Wed, 9am -12pm   |
| Email   | <a href="mailto:office@stjohndivine.org.au">office@stjohndivine.org.au</a>   |
| Website | <a href="http://www.stjohndivine.org.au">www.stjohndivine.org.au</a> - also on<br>Facebook   |
| Vicar   | Fr. Sathi (Sam) Anthony (BD, MTh)<br>0400 248 347<br>please leave a message when calling<br>Email: <b>sathianthony@optusnet.com.au</b> |

*Banking details for those who wish to make a direct deposit to support our programs and for your regular offering:*

**Westpac: BSB # 033-044, St. John's General Account # 251582**

**Please email notices to Parish Office by Wednesday 9AM**

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent |        |          |   |
|----------------------------------|--------|----------|---|
| Sun                              | 21-Dec | 9:00 am  | Carol and lessons, including Crib Service         |
| Mon                              | 22-Dec | 10:30 am | <i>Al Anon (fellowship room)</i>                  |
|                                  |        | 2:00 pm  | Funeral service for Roger Heath                   |
| Tue                              | 23-Dec | 5:30 pm  | Community meal: TDRM                              |
|                                  |        | 7:30 pm  | <i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>             |
| Wed                              | 24-Dec | 10:00 am | Said Eucharist                                    |
|                                  |        | 7:00 pm  | <i>N.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>             |
|                                  |        | 11:00 Pm | The Birth of Our Lord: Christmas Midnight Service |
| Thu                              | 25-Dec | 9:00 am  | The Birth of Our Lord: Christmas Service          |
| Fri                              | 26-Dec |          |   |
| Sat                              | 27-Dec | 7:00 am  | <i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>             |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent |        |          |   |
| Sun                              | 28-Dec | 9:00 am  | Said/Sung Eucharist, Combined Service             |

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