

WELCOME TO

ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH



St Brendan's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

3 December 2023

First Reading **Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8**

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens
open and come down

– at your Presence the mountains
would melt.

No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy
clothing.

We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the
wind.

No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our
sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see
your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim
throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we
implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has
planted. (R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you
have chosen,
the man you have given your
strength.
And we shall never forsake you
again:
give us life that we may call upon
your name. (R.)

Second Reading **1 Cor 1:3-9**

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the
graces you have received through Jesus
Christ. I thank him that you have been
enriched in so many ways, especially
in your teachers and preachers; the
witness to Christ has indeed been
strong among you so that you will not
be without any of the gifts of the Spirit
while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus
Christ to be revealed; and he will keep
you steady and without blame until
the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ, because God by calling you has
joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and
God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation **Ps 84:8**

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.*

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mk 13:33-37**

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your
guard, stay awake, because you never
know when the time will come. It is like
a man travelling abroad: he has gone
from home, and left his servants in
charge, each with his own task; and he
has told the doorkeeper to stay awake.
So stay awake, because you do not
know when the master of the house is
coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow,
dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he
must not find you asleep. And what I say
to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

PARISH NAME BADGES

A friendly reminder to those
who have ordered one: please
collect your name badges
from the back of the Church.

Diane Teitzel

**St Brendan's
Parish**

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus
cautions his disciples to be constantly
vigilant and to be alert to the return of
the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin
the season of Advent. Advent has
traditionally been observed as a time of
preparation and waiting. It culminates in
the Christmas season and so the waiting
and preparation is related to the
celebration of the coming of Christ into
the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this
Advent is also a call to stay awake and
stay alert in faith. One of the great
challenges to faith today is the
complacency that has taken hold of
many in our society. When life is
comfortable, the perceived need for faith
appears to diminish. Many young people
in our society cannot see the value of
religious belief or religious practice. In a
world of instant communication and
instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and
slow work of faith can seem too much
effort for some people. The gospel call to
stay awake in preparation for the coming
of the Lord is a call to continue the work
of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel
passages from Matthew 25 were
reminders about continuing to prepare
for the coming of the Kingdom. This
week, with the beginning of Advent, it is
the gospel of Mark that also reminds us
that we cannot take the Kingdom for
granted and must remain vigilant in
working to realise the Kingdom. This
vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing
our own faith life as well as making a
difference in the lives of those around us
and the needy in society. Rather than
'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to
be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to
pay closer attention to faith and perhaps
this Advent is an ideal time to do that.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1983 by the Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.

ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



121 Knight Street, Shepparton
Phone: 5821 2633 | Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au
Facebook: sheppartoncatholic
Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor
Priest in Residence: Fr Joseph Kunnackattu
Associate Priest: Fr Jackson Saunders
Deacon: Francois Baguma
Office Manager: Diane Teitzel
Child Safe Officer: Jason Giuliani Ph: 5821 2633
Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm



*Christ in community ...
the heart of our faith*

Recently Deceased: Anne Sutherland, Laura Polwarth, Veronica Griffiths, Fr Gerard Dowling

Anniversary: Jim Cummins

Readers & Commentators December 9 & 10, 2023

6pm	M. Keyte	D. Tarquini
8am	B. Sullivan	P. Guthrie
11am	P. Richardson	L. Richardson



We congratulate **Dorcas Tendilonge** and **Mulebing Bazunga** who are celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at our 11.00am Mass this Sunday.

We welcome Jason Collier this weekend at our 11am Sunday Mass. Jason is part of our RCIA process.

This is the first stage of his commitment.

We have 5 more people on the RCIA journey. We will welcome them in the coming months. Please keep them in your prayers.



Vale Fr Gerard Dowling Born August 30, 1932, he entered life eternal on Sunday, November 26.

A faithful priest of the Melbourne Archdiocese for 65 years. He died with his boots on after 50 years of broadcasting on the radio. He was on-air just two weeks ago on Radio Sport National in Melbourne. I often joined him. He was a dear friend and mentor. He attended both of my ordinations as a deacon and priest in Bendigo. Fr Gerard is well-known to many of us through his radio work and columns in various Catholic media over decades. He taught Fr Joe and many seminarians counselling. He is Dean Emeritus of St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, was a key figure of CatholicCare in Victoria and is a former club historian and chaplain of the North Melbourne Football Club. **His funeral will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Thursday, December 7, at 10am.** Live-stream is available on the Tobin Brothers Funeral website.

Fr Jackson Saunders.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.



Men's Group: Our last meeting for 2023 will be **Saturday December 9, in the MPJC at 7.30am.**

We do things a little different for our Christmas meeting. The men are invited to bring food to share that represents their family Christmas celebrations. The year that has past has held many special moments at our breakfast gatherings. We are very grateful for this time together. Our meetings provide a space where we can ask questions, share and offer our thoughts on a lot of different topics. If you feel like developing and growing your faith with a group of men from this area, then please come along and join us.

All enquiries to Anthony on:
anthonypastoral@bigpond.com.



'It's Not Fair'

It's easy to be overwhelmed by the state of the world and to feel helpless. There's not much any single individual can do. A starting point is to see how the world works through the eyes of the disadvantaged, the poor, the marginalised and those most impacted by climate change. When leading sixth year Quo Vadis pilgrims on a three-day hike over the mountains, there was an implicit understanding. 'I' am not there yet until 'we' are all there. No matter how fast or athletic a person was, the pace had to accommodate the weakest. We would often stop to wait for the stragglers who were finding it difficult to climb the steep sections and then continue only after they had recovered. While the stronger may have been frustrated from time to time, there was an invaluable lesson. We walked as a community where people watched out for one another. We weren't in competition. We were in empathetic solidarity. This experience mirrors our better nature.

Excerpted from *Reimagining Religion* by Jim Maher SJ (p.116)



Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am **PRAYING WITH CHILDREN**
SUNDAY LITURGY

Syro Malabar Rite: Wednesday 6.00pm, Saturday 8.30am, Sunday 5.30pm

Rosary— The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday Masses and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays 7pm to 8pm and Fridays 5pm to 6pm

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

“Take an Advent moment..... Let us experience the Light.”

St Brendan’s parishioners are invited to join us for a Day of Reflection at St Mary’s Dookie, facilitated by the Sandhurst Retreat and Accompaniment Team.

When: Monday, December 4

Where: St. Mary’s Church, Dookie

Time: 10am (Gathering from 9:30am) until 4pm

Cost: \$20.00

BYO: Contribution to a shared lunch.



Amidst the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations, the true essence of Advent can be overlooked.

This reflection day offers an opportunity to pause reflect and share our Advent experiences with others in sacred conversation.

Come and join us as we embrace this Advent season.

Registrations: Paul White: sapwhite@hotmail.com or 0437 290 950

(leave a msg) or Kate McKinlay: 0431 114 278

The team of four local Spiritual Directors is endorsed by Bishop Shane to provide reflection days, retreats and spiritual accompaniment.

Fr Joe’s Meditation Group

Wednesday, December 6

Wednesday, December 13

7.15am—7.45am in the Parish Centre.

All Welcome (Only running over 2 weeks instead of the usual 4 weeks)



A BIG THANK YOU from Voice For Silent People. Your generous donations and support of our fundraising stall helped us raise \$1961.65. This allows us to cover the costs of running the household and educating the Congolese orphans for the next 12 months. Thank you so much!



POP UP CHRISTMAS MARKET

16 FRASER STREET, SHEPPARTON

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8, 9AM—4.30PM
SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 10AM—1.00PM

CHRISTMAS GOODIES, PRE LOVED CLOTHING, HOME MADE GOODIES, LOTS OF STOCKING FILLERS, WELL ESTABLISHED PLANTS.

THE ST BRENDAN'S FAITH & LIGHT COMMUNITY ARE RAISING FUNDS TO ENABLE THOSE WITH DISABILITIES TO GO AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND.

CASH ONLY.

Anointing Mass: 11.00am, Tuesday December 19, followed by the:

SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

St Brendan’s MPJC, 12 noon, Tuesday December 19

2 course lunch, raffles and Lucky Door Prizes

RSVP IS A MUST by December 14 to the Parish office on: 5821 2633.

Advent
hope, peace, joy and love

Join us for a night of prayer and reflection with Fr. Jackson

12 December, Tuesday, 7:30PM start
University of Melbourne - Shepparton Campus
Conference Rooms 1 & 2

Free event and open for all!

For more information, contact Vanessa 0481783400

To Know Him is to Love Him: Catechesis for Today's Catholic

READERS/COMMENTATOR FORMATION

Thank you to those who have already attended a Reader/Commentator Formation Session.

We are delighted to see that more and more NEW people are coming forward to embrace such a wonderful Ministry.

Our next formation sessions are:
Tuesday, December 12, 5pm— 6pm
OR
Saturday, December 16, 3pm— 4pm

Look forward to seeing you there.

Fr Jackson Saunders



Altar Servers Christmas Party

4PM—5.30PM
ST BRENDAN'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER


All altar servers are invited.
We also invite children to join us, who have received their Sacraments and not yet been trained for ministry.

We will also prepare for our Christmas Masses during this session.
Please RSVP to Fr Jackson on 5821 2633 or email
jackson.saunders@sandhurst.catholic.org.au



Thank you from St Brendan’s Conference of St Vincent de Paul

Grateful thanks to Brendan Lindsay, Zoe Hamilton, Callum McGrath and the students of Notre Dame College who donated food for Christmas hampers for St. Vincent de Paul. Thanks also to those that attended the Youth Mass and after Mass packed the hampers and made Christmas cards for each hamper. They will be distributed to the needy in our community.



**Community of the
Sons and
Daughters of God**

11am Mass
Saturday,
December 9,
Celebrated by
Mons Peter Jeffrey at
St Mary's,
Mooroopna
Adoration 3-4pm
ALL WELCOME



SANDHURST ADVENT 2023 LEAFLETS

'The Way of Trust and Love' is the theme for the 2023 Sandhurst Diocese Advent leaflets. With Scripture readings, and passages from the writings of Pope Francis and St Therese of Lisieux, in honour of the Jubilee Year of St Therese of Lisieux, highlighting the simple way of trust and love St Therese implemented in her life leading to her Sainthood. Available online at www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au.



Locally owned business
servicing Shepparton for 35
years. For all your eye care
needs, you can contact
Ashley and Vanessa
Madeira at The Eye Shop.

Phone 5821 0311

enquiries@eyeshopshepparton.com.au



ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH 121 KNIGHT ST SHEPPARTON. PH 5821 2633 2023 Christmas Mass Times

RECONCILIATION

- **Thursday 21 December, 5.00-6.00 pm**
- **Saturday 23 December, 9.45-10.30 am**

WEEKEND MASS TIMES (4th Sunday of Advent)

- **Saturday 23 December, 6.00 pm**
- **Sunday 24 December, 6.00 am - Misa de Gallo**
- **Sunday 24 December, NO 8.00 am Mass**
- **Sunday 24 December, 11.00 am**

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

(in St Brendan's Church)

- **5.00 pm - Children's Mass**
- **6.30 pm - Family Mass**
- **St Mary's Church Dookie - 7.00 pm**
- **8.00 pm - Syro-Malabar Mass**
- **11.00 pm - Late Mass**

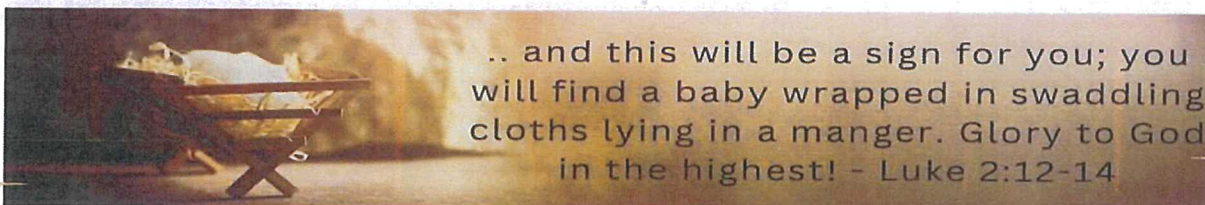
MONDAY 25 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

- **8.00 am & 11.00 am**

MONDAY 1 JANUARY 2024 - NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

- **10.00 am**

The parish office is closed Monday December 25 - Monday January 1



.. and this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest! - Luke 2:12-14

St Mary's, Mooroopna Monthly Devotions

Ph 03 5825 2034

Office Hours

9.00am — 3.00pm

Tues and Fri



First Friday Adoration:

(1st Fri of every month) following the 10am Mass. Concluding with Benediction at 6:45pm.

At 12noon, 2pm, 4pm and 6pm the **Mysteries of the Rosary** will be recited.

Next date: 1 Dec

First Saturday Adoration:

9am to 10am

Mass 10am to 10:30am

followed by Reconciliation as per normal

10:30am to 11am

Next date: 2 Dec

Eucharistic Adoration in Advent Season

We will be having adoration every Friday during advent

Dates: 8 Dec, 15 Dec and 22 Dec.

Along the track

As Time Goes By

Sometimes we wonder where the time went. It just seems to disappear, perhaps not in the down times when it just seems to drag on and on but in general we wonder, where did it go?

Songs can strike a chord (pardon the pun) and they sometimes capture how we feel. *I Dreamed the Dream* is one.

I dreamed a dream in time gone by,
When hope was high and life, worth living.
I dreamed that love would never die,
I dreamed that God would be forgiving.
Then I was young and unafraid.....

But when I was young we were afraid. I grew up in a time of rules and regulations, a time of people seeking stability and certainty because we had just been through a devastating World War and we were in another conflict in Korea. Communism, we were told, threatened our very way of life. The church I grew up in reflected that - it was about rules and regulations, about earning our place in heaven out of this 'vale of tears'. Dogma and certainty and soldier-like obedience gave us security, a sense of 'rightness'. Pope Pius XII had been there forever and we assumed he would continue for that long too. Then John XXIII threw open the windows and began the process of revitalising a rather moribund church. Many struggle with that today and look to the past as a Golden Era but I firmly believe, in the words of Pope John XXIII, Divine Providence is leading us to a new order of human relations which is beyond what we can even imagine! At that time, hope was high and full of promise. It was, after all, "The Sixties".

There are still signs of that everywhere. Isn't it wonderful to see the mix of people who call Australia home now - those who have inhabited this land for fifty thousand years, others from Europe, India and Asia, the Americas and Africa. It is a joy and a challenge to be part of this emerging nation and an emerging church too, to be one with those who have a dream of what life might be, what they might create. Signs of hope are everywhere.

For many years I was a teacher. Teaching is primarily about hope, about enabling students to see that life is worth living, that God is forgiving, that real love never dies. It is a wonderful profession. I remember an interview with President Clinton. Andrew Denton asked him "What was the best part of being President?" He thought for a while and then said, "When I went to bed at night, I knew I made a difference to someone's life today". A teacher can say that every day. There are

tough days and tough classes but that adds to the richness of the experience. Despite the fact that sometimes life may have, in the words of the song 'killed the dream' in a particular teacher or a student, love, forgiveness, hope and dedication can help them find a way forward. That's part of the role of a good leader - restoring hope.

John XXIII's 'new order of human relations' also includes how we are finally coming to understand and appreciate the beauty and complexity of the world we live in and how creation is so interconnected. It is a pity that it took a climate crisis to bring us to such a realisation but at least we have begun. Pope Francis encourages "a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet" (Laudate Si No. 14), about "our care for our common home" The Pope says:

"Disregard for the duty to cultivate and maintain a proper relationship with my neighbour, for whose care and custody I am responsible, ruins my relationship with my own self, with others, with God and with the earth" (No. 70).

So where to from here? When I was young, people who were in their forties were old! Those in their fifties were ancient and sixties - well, that defied description. My great grandfather lived until he was a hundred and eight, the oldest man in the colony at that time but we never really believed that. We thought it was just another one of Dad's stories. It wasn't. His brother back in Ireland died at 111.

So what? Well, I am eighty today! Yes, I have been around for that long, or that short really. I can't believe it myself! It was touch and go once or twice - my wife revived me in a restaurant in Block Arcade once and the nurses did the same in Emergency in Townsville, but here I am. We always think other people are getting older, not ourselves.

So thank you for your part in my eighty years, for being loyal readers who have kept me thinking and dreaming, for helping to make life worth living and thank you that you continue to give me hope.

To quote 94 year old Val Fell, Australia's oldest university student: I might be beyond my "Best Before" date, but I'm nowhere near my "Use By" date.

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY

1st Sunday in Advent Year B - 3 December 2023



“Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.”

Something to Think About

Today we celebrate the beginning of the Church’s liturgical year. Advent is a season of joy and expectation. It is a time of preparing and getting ready for the birth of Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas.

The Story

The gospel warns us to be on our guard and to be ready for when Jesus comes again. Nobody knows exactly when that will be, so we need to try and be ready all the time. Jesus asks us to keep our eyes open to see what is happening around us so that we can do good in the world. What do you think Jesus wants us to see in the world as we look around us?

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Watch out and be ready!

You don't know when the time will come.

It is like what happens when a man goes away for a while and places his servants in charge of everything.

He tells each of them what to do, and he orders the watchmen to be on their guard.

"So be on your guard!

You don't know when the master of the house will come back.

It could be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or in the morning.

But if he comes suddenly, don't let him find you asleep.

I tell everyone just what I have told you.

Be on your guard!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video.

[Catholic Kids Advent Week 1 Cycle B](#)



Group Discussion

When Advent comes, we know that Christmas and the holidays are not very far away! It is an exciting time as we eagerly await the joy of Christmas. Christmas is a time for gift-giving. What can you do to prepare for this wonderful celebration?

Imagine for a moment that you are Jesus. What sorts of gifts would you (as Jesus) want to give to people?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray for the people of every country in the world. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for those who need some restful sleep. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for all who must travel far from home. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will be filled with joy as we wait for Jesus. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will always be ready to hear about God's great love for us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



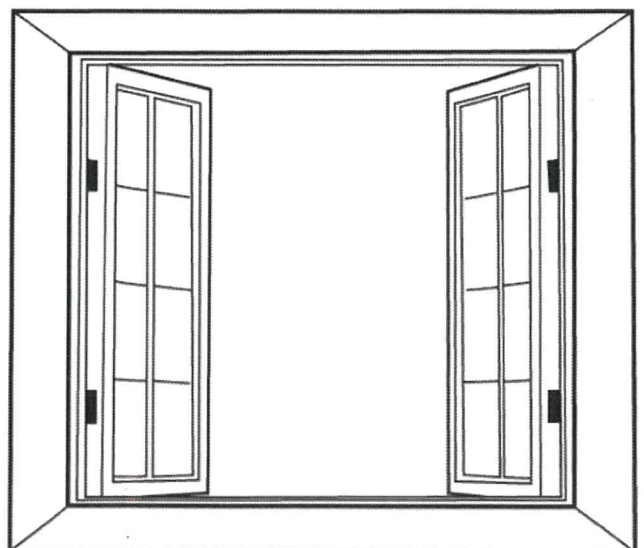
Dear Jesus,
Help us to see the needs of others in
the world.
Walk with us as we spread your hope
and love to all we meet.
Amen.

Group Activity

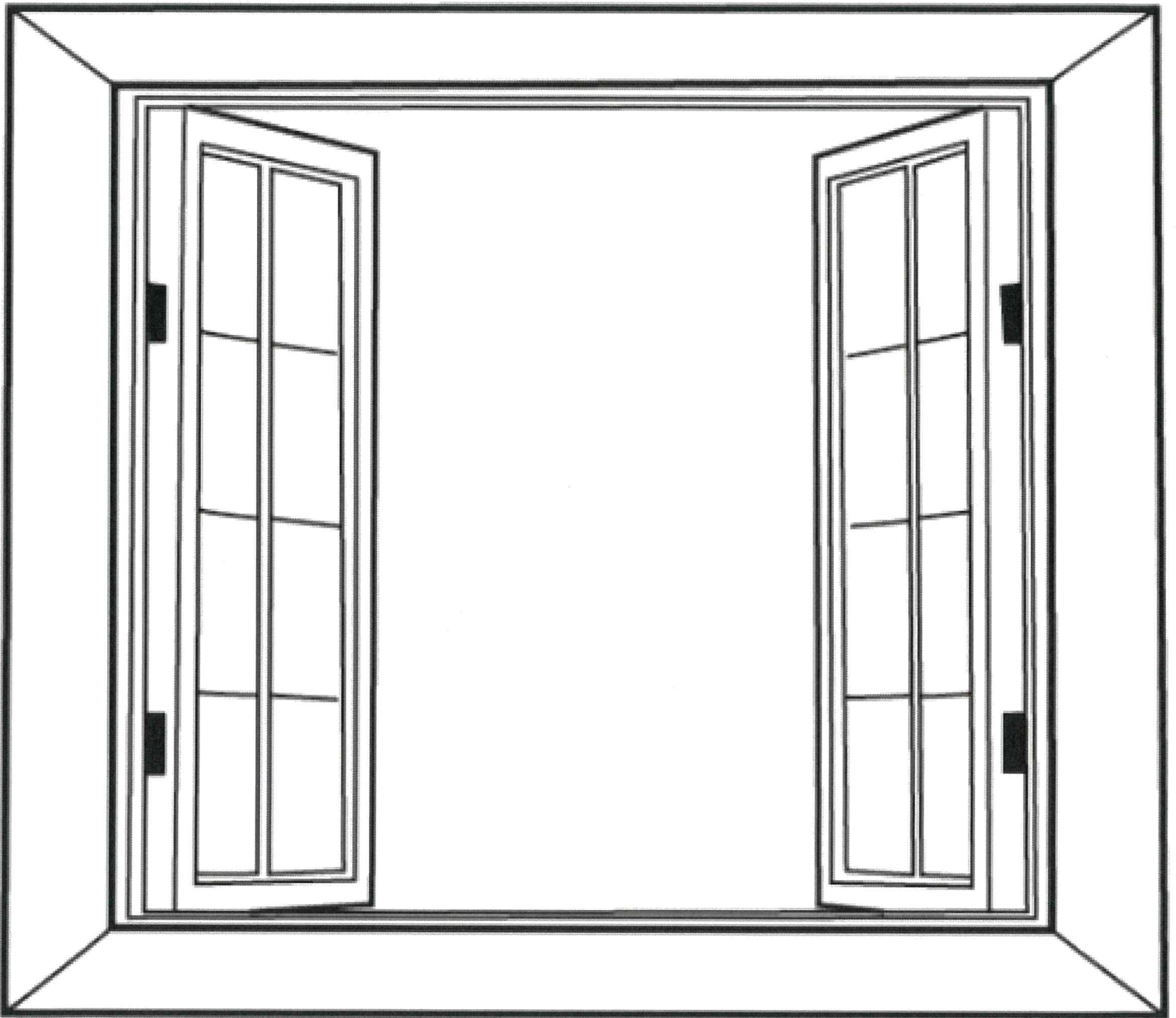
What do you think Jesus would like us to do when we see people who are sad, lonely, poor or sick? Jesus asks us to keep our eyes open and be his helpers in the world. Who might need help? Who might need a friend? What are we ready to do?

Print out the template of a window frame (next page). Imagine that you are looking out through the window. What do you see? Draw someone who needs help and then draw what you would do to help them.

Older children may like to write a short prayer for all the people in the world who need our help.



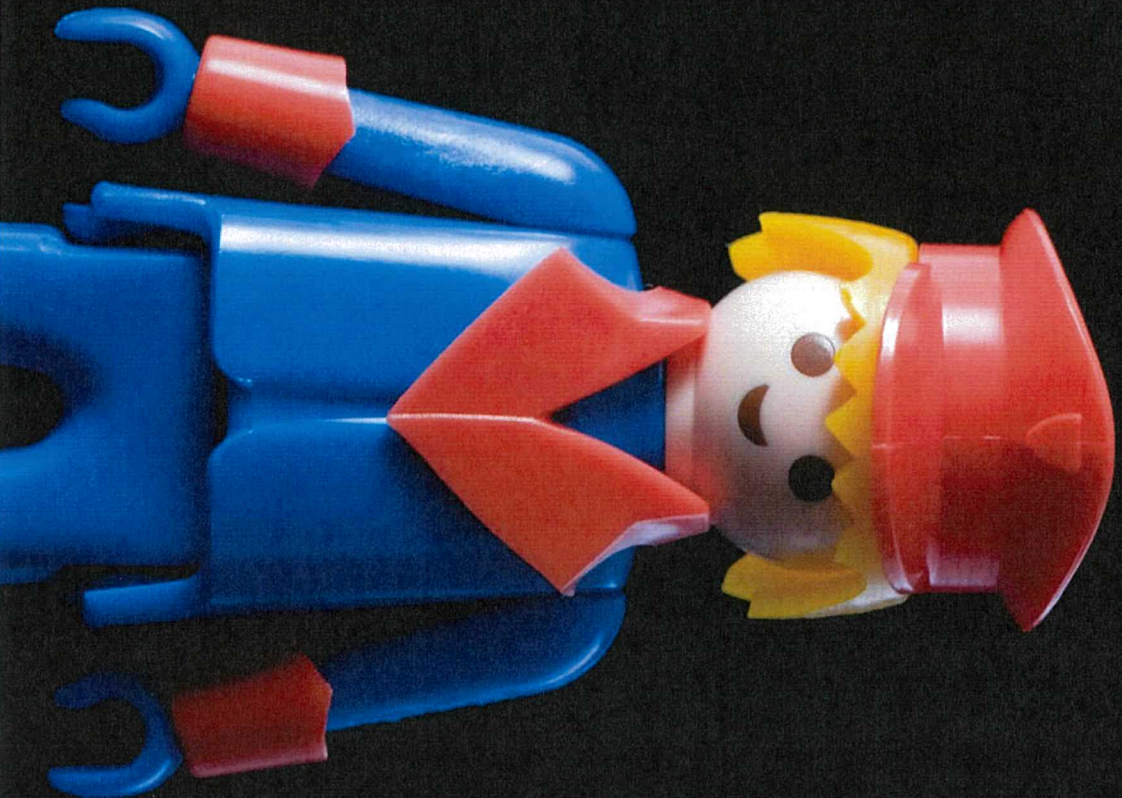
Through My Window



Imagine that you are looking out through the window.

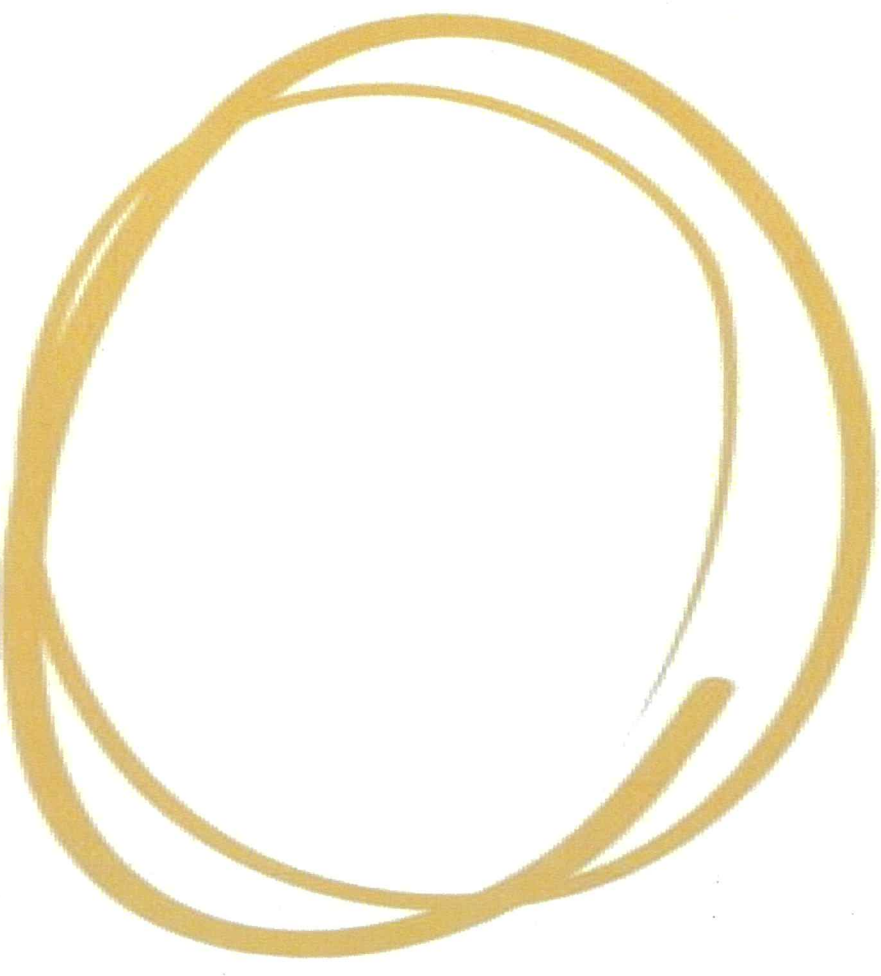
Draw someone who needs help and then draw what you would do to help them.

WATCH OUT AND BE READY!



ADVENT MEANS 'COMING'

In Advent, we watch out for
the **COMING OF CHRIST** at
Christmas and we get ready.



How can you get ready for Christ at Christmas?