

# Advent prayer sheet 2023

Josephite Companions Aotearoa

## Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son



<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"<sup>Ⓜ</sup> (which means "God with us").

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Matthew 1:18-24  
New International Version

“  
**Christmas is built  
upon a beautiful  
and intentional  
paradox; that the  
birth of the  
homeless should  
be celebrated in  
every home.**

**G.K. CHESTERTON**

*For us a child is born.*

*Isaiah 9:6*



God, source of life,

Be with all parents in the joy and the struggles of pregnancy and birth.

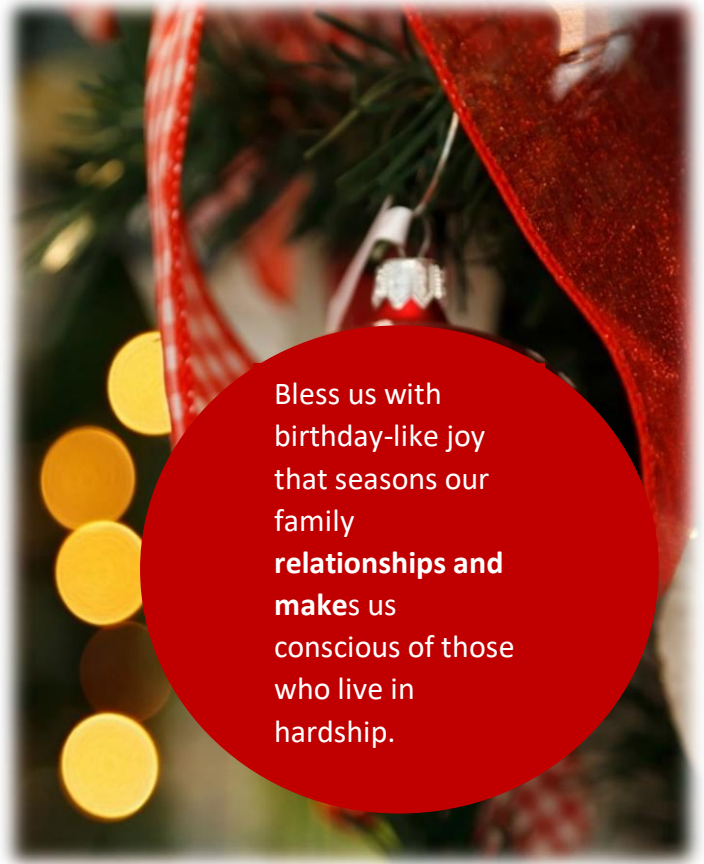
Comfort and sustain those whose hopes for a live birth are dashed.

Encourage us as a community to celebrate the children in our midst, support families in bringing up their children in love and press the government to safeguard the well-being of all children and their families.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen

Anne Gilroy rsj  
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Bless us with birthday-like joy that seasons our family relationships and makes us conscious of those who live in hardship.

It is easy to become immune to the Christmas message, after all, we hear the same thing every year!

In the midst of all the predictions of economic downturn, rising costs of living, war in Ukraine and escalating tension in the Middle East, make some time to reflect what is most important in our lives; our families and friends, both near and far, here or departed. Give thanks for the peaceful country in which we live and the beauty we have in our lives.

**This Christmas allow some of Mary MacKillop's words to inspire you:**

*Let us show this love in our acts bearing with one another, forgiving and forgetting.*

*If disappointed, don't say hard things. Only think a little, pray a little, and try to remember that God will bring about what is best in God's own time.*

*Put kind constructions where you can, and where you cannot: be silent.*

*Be a gift of love and compassion for one another.*

*Find happiness in making others happy.*

*A little patience will in the end be rewarded.*

*Cling to God's love and grace.*

*"Let us send forth into our world the gift of peace and joy."*

