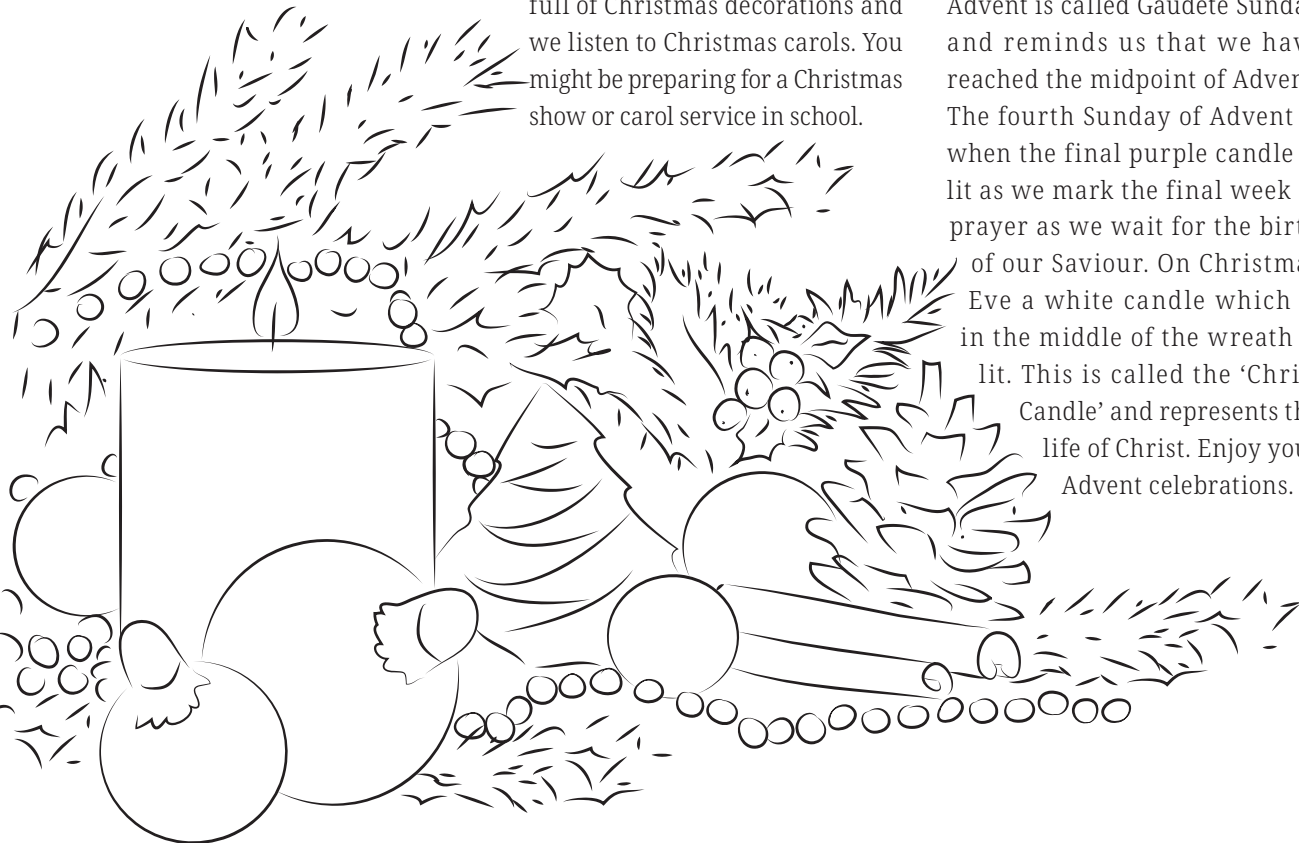


Hello
children

This month we are celebrating the season of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. Advent is a good time for us all to slow down, to pause and reflect on what is going on for us. We remember the times we felt happy and the times we felt sad. We know that God is always with us. Now during the season of Advent, we are preparing our hearts and our minds. We prepare in different ways. The shops are full of Christmas decorations and we listen to Christmas carols. You might be preparing for a Christmas show or carol service in school.

In the church we will see some changes during the season of Advent. The priest will wear purple vestments. It is the start of a new liturgical (church) year, we are now in Year A. There will be an Advent wreath on the altar. Each Sunday in Advent a candle is lit. The first candle is purple and it is a symbol of hope. The second candle is also purple and represents faith. The third candle is pink and is a symbol of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday and reminds us that we have reached the midpoint of Advent. The fourth Sunday of Advent is when the final purple candle is lit as we mark the final week of prayer as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. On Christmas Eve a white candle which is in the middle of the wreath is lit. This is called the 'Christ Candle' and represents the life of Christ. Enjoy your Advent celebrations.

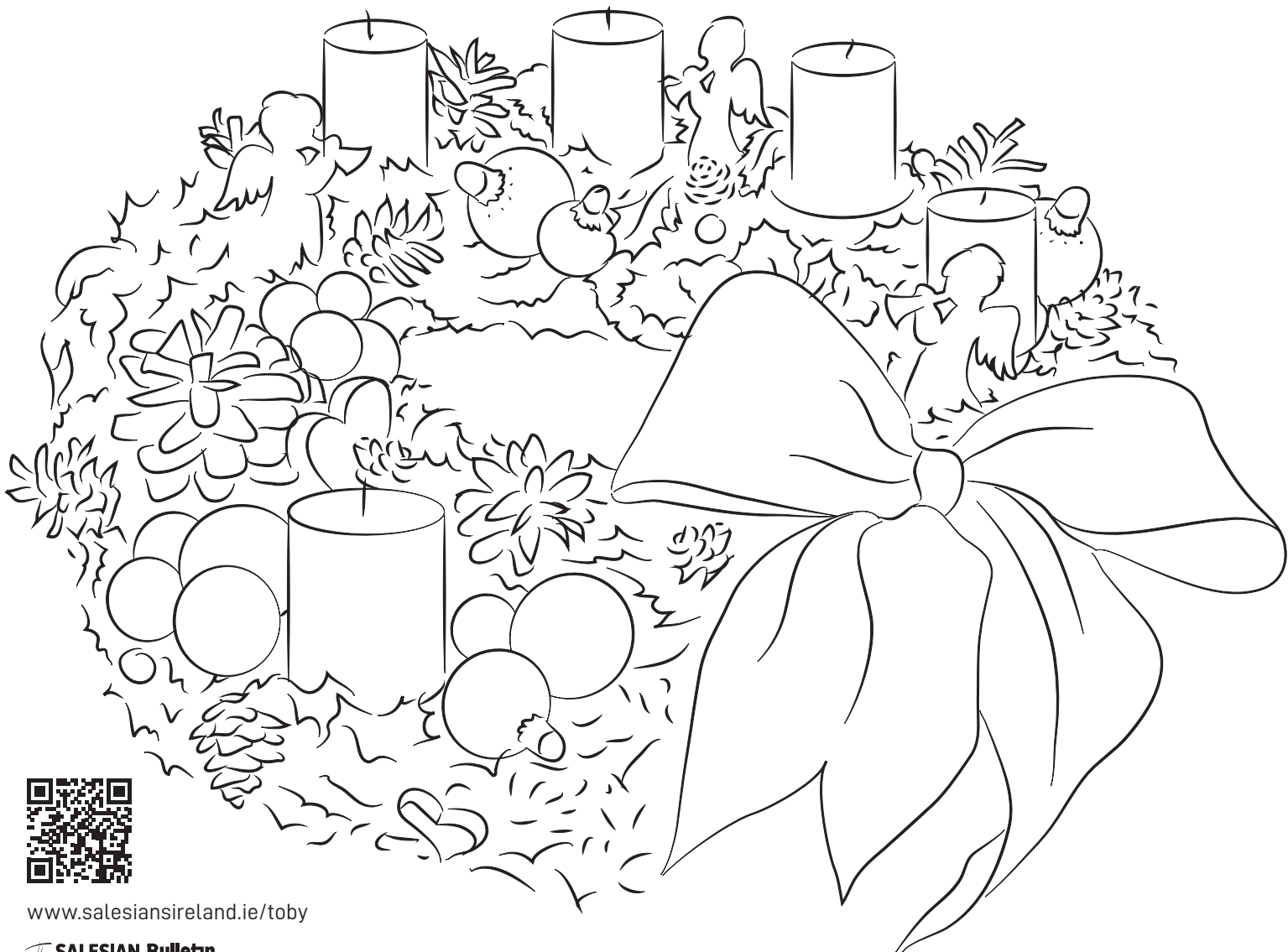




*I wish you and your families and friends a very happy Christmas
and I look forward to journeying with you again in 2023.*

God bless,

Toby



www.salesiansireland.ie/toby

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