



Dear Children

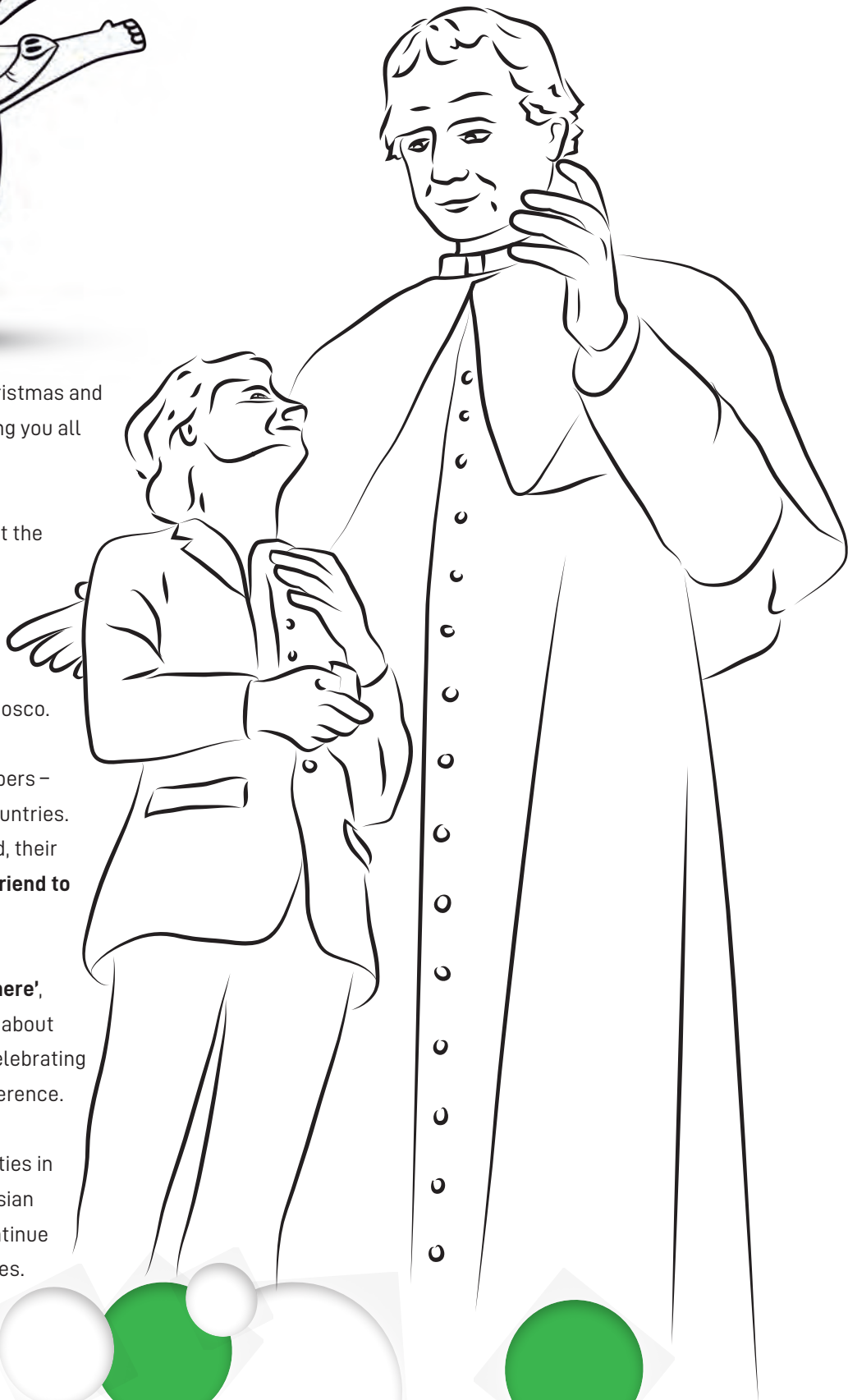
I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a positive start to the New Year. Wishing you all God's blessings for 2023.

In this edition, we are learning all about the founder of our Salesian order. He was called **Don Bosco**, and so you might that Salesian names have 'SDB' after their names so that everyone will know that they are a Salesian of Don Bosco.

Worldwide, there are over 15,000 members – brothers and priests, working in 134 countries. Wherever the Salesians go in the world, their mission and goal is the same: **to be a friend to all young people and to God.**

The Salesian Mission is about **'being there'**, with understanding, faith and love. It's about making time, listening with respect, celebrating giftedness and learning to make a difference.

In Ireland there are Salesian communities in Limerick, Kildare and Dublin. The Salesian priests and brothers live there and continue the work of Don Bosco in their daily lives. Now let's find out how it all began....



Saint JOHN BOSCO

1815 - 1888

Born: 16 August 1815

Died: 31 January 1888

Feast day: 31 January

He is the patron saint of schoolchildren, apprentices, boys, editors, publishers, youth, and magicians. He earned the title **Father and Teacher of Youth.**

Here is his life story: John Bosco was born into a poor family. He was the youngest of 3 boys. John had many dreams as a child but in one dream he was asked by Jesus to do a special job. John began putting on shows, reciting homilies he heard at Mass, and inviting those in attendance to pray with him.

Then he studied to become a priest, and became known as Don Bosco (which means Father Bosco). Don Bosco put his focus on instilling a sense of duty and virtue in the boys. He encouraged and guided children in a fatherly way. He united spirituality with work, study, and play. Don Bosco's mother came to help him and she became known as 'Mama Margaret'. One of Don Bosco's boys is a Saint whom you may know: Saint Dominic Savio.

"It is not enough that you love the young; they must know that they are loved."

In 1859, Don Bosco founded the Salesians, under the patronage of Saint Francis de Sales. Their focus was on education and mission work. He also founded the Salesian Sisters to work with girls. The Salesian motto is *Give me souls, take away the rest.*

God bless,

Toby

