

SPECIAL EDITION

THE STAR FLASH

CHRISTMAS | 2025

THE WORLD GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY



World President's Message



"The star ... went before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was"

- Matthew 2:9 -

Dear friends:

The star guided the wise men directly to the place where the Christ Child lay so they could worship Him and offer Him their gifts.

Where does that star lead us today? Are we merely dazzled by its brightness, forgetting its true meaning of pointing the way to Jesus?

Are we prepared, with our gifts, talents and skills, to follow where the star may lead? Are we willing to step out in faith to take risks for the sake of the Gospel?

What does the star call us to do? Perhaps it is to care for the hurting and the sorrowful, to bind up the wounds of the sick, to show kindness to strangers and to love our neighbours. It may also call us to stand against injustice, dispel violence and proclaim the truth. Most importantly, it calls us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

And just as the star led the wise men to Christ, each of us must also be a star, a light in the darkness, guiding others to discover Him and the love and hope He offers. That is our divine calling – and may God give us opportunities to lead many to Christ through the Ministry of the GFS.

Rooted in faith, let us reach for the stars – and become stars ourselves – shining brightly for Jesus, the Light of the World.

Christmas joy and blessings to all!

Jeanne Withanage



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FELLOWSHIP! CHECK YOUR EMAILS REGULARLY

World Chaplain's Christmas Wish



Warm greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may His light bring peace to your hearts, joy to your homes and hope to your communities.

May this holy season renew our faith and strengthen us to love and serve, as we remain rooted in faith and reaching for the stars.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Christmas, and God's peace in the year ahead.

In Christ's service,
Rev. Niroshan de Mel

From the World Team, with Christmas joy...



We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

**VICE PRESIDENT - THEMBEKA PAMA
SOUTH AFRICA**



Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests." -Luke 2:14 - Wishing you and your family a Christmas filled with joy and peace that only Christ can give. A very merry and blessed Christmas!

**SECRETARY - LYDIA KUGLER
USA**



Let the magic of the season be focused on our dear and near families as that is the best gift we have received from our Almighty Father. Let us be grateful, create memories and cherish bonds with hearts full of forgiveness! I wish that the Prince of Peace will bring you joy, laughter and contentment in everything you do! Love and Peace be with you!

**TREASURER - NIMALEE GAJASINGHE
SRI LANKA**



Amidst the turmoil of our fractured world, may this Christmas tide bring joy and love as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord. Pray for all those who are suffering from war, from hunger, great uncertainty and from the trauma of the many climatic events. "He shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace." (Isaiah 9)

**ASST. TREASURER - CANON VAL GRIBBLE, ML
AUSTRALIA**



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas full of joy and laughter with family and friends!

**PROJECT COORDINATOR - LOIS FRANKFORTER
USA**





May your Christmas be wrapped in joyful moments and tied with the ribbon of peace. May the scent of cookies and pine fill your home, and your heart be brightened by the season's magic. Wishing everyone a holiday filled with warmth, wonder and lasting happiness. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

PROJECT COORDINATOR - ROHINI RATNAM
SRI LANKA

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy year ahead! May Christ's humility inspire your choices, His patience guide and steady your way and His joy be evident to everyone you meet!

PROJECT COORDINATOR - ALISON JACKSON
IRELAND



Merry Christmas GFS Family,
May the Christmas Star shine bringing us Hope & Joy.
Jesus, teach our hands to serve and our hearts to rejoice.
May God open new doors no one can shut and close what isn't good,
as we step into the New Year.
Grateful to belong here with you.



MEMBER - ROSHAN PERERA
SRI LANKA

Here's to a season filled with gratitude for the year past and excitement for the new one to come!

Wishing you a blessed Christmas!

MEMBER - DAPHNE JEBAMANI
SRI LANKA



A gentle whisper cleaves my yearning for peace in a world shattered at its core:

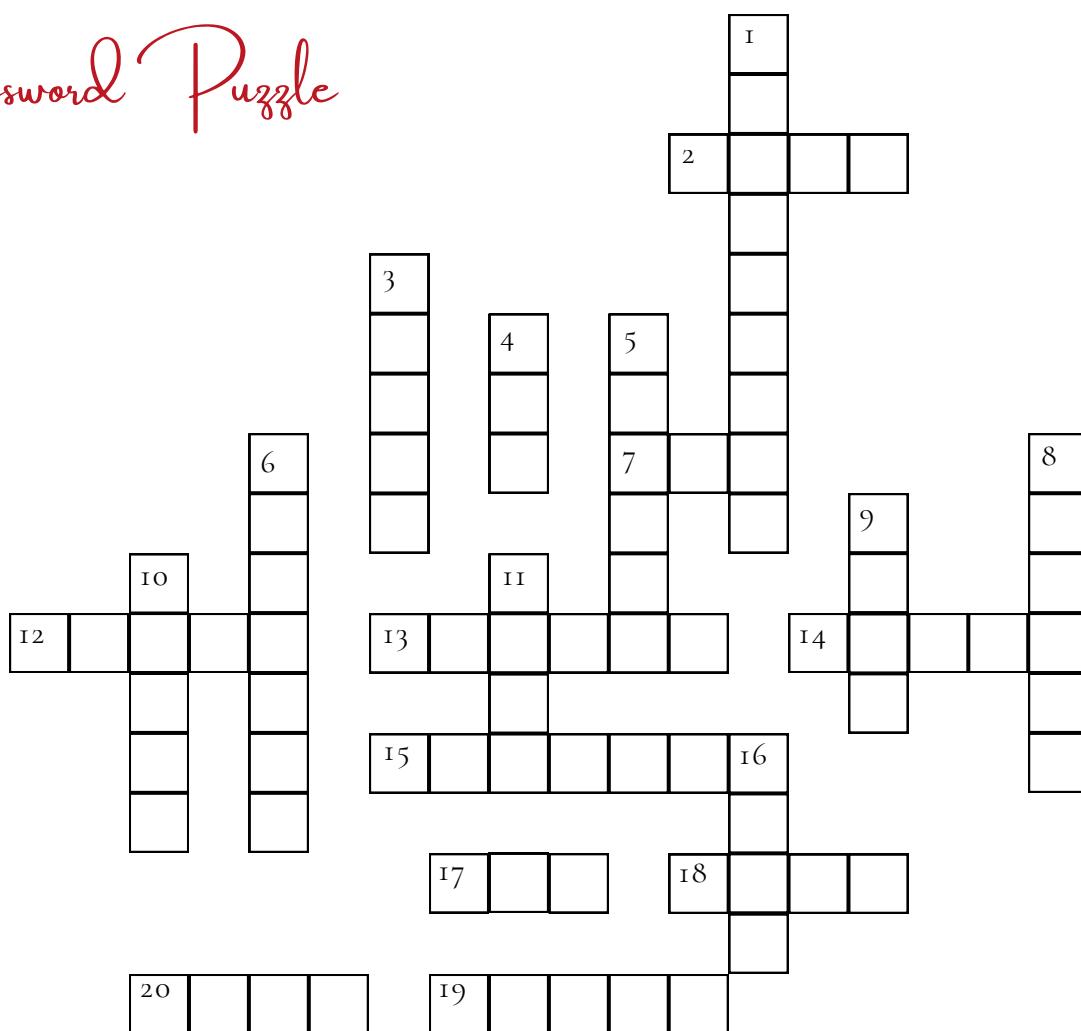
"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
-John 14:27

Unfurl your hearts for the Prince of Peace to reign within!



WORLD COORDINATOR - HEPHZIBAH DAVID
SRI LANKA

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. Led the wise men to baby Jesus
- 7. The first woman
- 12. The queen of _____ came to see Solomon
- 13. Talking to God
- 14. Writer of 23rd Psalm
- 15. Wisest man in the world
- 17. God created the world in _____ days
- 18. Two ladies argued about this
- 19. _____ parted the Red Sea
- 20. Noah sent a _____ to see if the land was dry

DOWN

- 1. The town Jesus was born in
- 3. Long sharp weapon
- 4. _____ created the world
- 5. Jesus had _____ disciples
- 6. The first Jew
- 8. Solomon asked God for _____
- 9. The first man
- 10. Descendant of Abraham and King David
- 11. The first king of Israel
- 16. _____ built an ark

WORD BANK

Dove	Star	Bethlehem	Twelve	Adam	Wisdom	Saul
David	Prayer	Sheba	Jesus	Moses	Noah	Baby
Sword	Abraham	Six	God	Eve	Solomon	

A Christmas Carol by Mary E Townsend

Christmas night! Holiest night!
Now the skies are glittering bright:
Like a star come down from heaven
Christ to human hopes is given.

Christmas night! Stillest night!
Angel wings are gleaming white:
Now to bless each earthly home,
Christ the Lord of peace is come.

Christmas night! Happiest night!
Earth is filled with heavenly light.
Jesus now to lowly hearts,
Joy and rest and love imparts.

Christmas night! Holiest night!
Kneeling in Thy blessed sight.
Lord before thy manger throne,
Make us evermore Thine own.

Extracted from So Tired & Other verses
by Mary Elizabeth Townsend MET 1882.
Published by Muir Paterson & Brodie Printers, Edinburgh.

Credits: GFS IRELAND CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2024

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

An excerpt from “4 Beloved Christmas Carols and the True Stories behind Them” by Amy Green, Crosswalk.com (2020):

“Silent Night”

The most recorded carol of all time had humble origins: it was written in a tiny village in Austria by Franz Xaver Gruber and Joseph Mohr, churchmen who wanted a simple song to perform for Christmas, since the organ had been damaged by flooding. It was performed with accompaniment by the guitar and was later performed by groups of traveling folk singers, spreading it around the world.

But perhaps the most famous place the carol has been sung was also the most unusual: the trenches of WWI. In December 1914, hostilities had died down between battles, as tense English, French, and German soldiers waited for the next bout of gunfire.

But on Christmas Eve, what they got instead was an unexpected ceasefire. In certain places along the line, enemy soldiers ventured into no-man's land to play games, exchange gifts, smoke cigarettes, and celebrate together as best they could, knowing that in a few days they would resume fighting against each other again.

Many men recounted the beauty of the familiar Christmas carols that were sung among the soldiers: the Englishmen's “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,” the French with their boisterous “Cantique de Noel,” and “Silent Night” in its original German.

Stille Nacht! Heil'ge Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht.
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.
Holder Knab' im lockigen Haar,
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!

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.

It was a song from a simpler time, first performed at a midnight mass on Christmas Eve in a small village church, sung a century later over the bloodied, disease-ridden trenches, in hopes that there would be another silent night again soon.

Green, A. (2020, December 7). 4 beloved Christmas carols and the true stories behind them. Crosswalk.com. <https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/christmas-and-advent/beloved-christmas-carols-and-the-true-stories-behind-them.html>

Christmas Craft

Materials Needed

- Plastic transparent cup
- Brown paper
- White paper
- Black Marker
- Color sketch pens
- Glue
- Scissors
- Salt

Instructions

Step 1: Place the plastic transparent cup upside down on the brown paper. Use a black marker to trace the outline and draw a circle. This will be the base.

Step 2: Remove the cup and cut out the circle carefully.

Step 3: On white paper, draw a snowman and a Christmas tree about the same height as the cup.

Step 4: Use sketch pens to color the snowman and the tree.

Step 5: Cut out the snowman, the tree, and the circle.

Step 6: At the bottom of the snowman and tree, make a small cut at the center. Fold the two small parts backwards so they can stand upright.

Step 7: Apply glue to the folded tabs of the snowman and stick it onto the brown circle, keeping it upright.

Step 8: Repeat the same step for the Christmas tree. Stick it slightly behind the snowman and tilt it a little for a nice look.

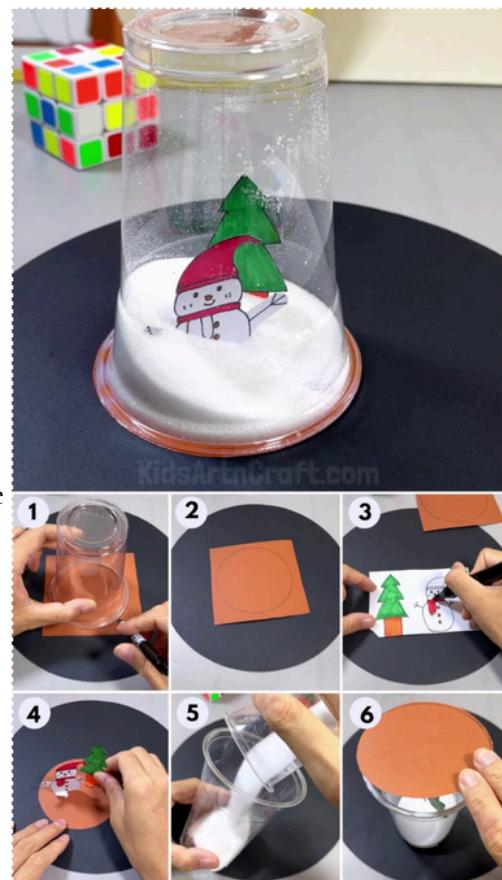
Step 9: Pour a small amount of salt (about 1/8 of the cup) into the cup to look like snow.

Step 10: Put glue around the rim of the plastic cup.

Step 11: Place the brown circle (with the snowman and tree attached) on top of the cup so the figures are inside.

Your Craft Is Ready!

Tip: You can replace the snowman and tree with any other Christmas characters or Christmas ornaments such as Santa, reindeer, bells, stars, candy canes or mini angels to create different festive scenes!





Christmas Love

Love came down at Christmas,
Seeking a place to stay,
Come, let's open our hearts,
And let Love find its way.

A Love so warm, so true,
Just for me and just for you.
Share the joy, proclaim the Love
On the earth and way above.

May Christ reign in your heart,
This Christmas and forever more!

-Jeanne

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1. Bethlehem	5. Twelve	9. Adam	13. Prayer	17. Six
2. Star	6. Abraham	10. Jesus	14. David	18. Baby
3. Sword	7. Eve	11. Saul	15. Solomon	19. Moses
4. God	8. Wisdom	12. Sheba	16. Noah	20. Dove

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