



A star is rising



Some wise men came to
Jerusalem

Herod was worried and asked
where the Christ was to be born.

“Where is the infant King?”

The prophet wrote, “From you will
come a leader who will shepherd my
people.”

“We saw his star as it rose.”





“We saw the star as it rose”





Written in the Stars

**Tonight, I look up at the stars in the sky
And remember another star, from days long gone
by.**

**That shone Oh so brightly, to show men the way
To a small baby laid in a manger of hay.**

**This baby was sweet, all shiny and new,
But he means so much more to me and to you
We know him as Jesus Christ, or Emmanuel
And his story is one we have long loved to tell.**

**Because it is a story of the best of man
Of mercy and sacrifice and God's all-knowing plan
It is a story of love beyond measure
Of a Father who gave us His most precious treasure.**

**I think of all this, as I look at the stars
I think about the love of this God of ours
And I close my eyes and cross myself, and I pray
That I will remember this love every day.**



Protect and Restore Nature
KHEYTI

Of the world's 570 million farms, over 80% cover less than the size of three football pitches.

Together, these small-hold farms produce a third of our food, but those who farm them are amongst the poorest people on the planet and the most affected by climate change.

Kheyti, an Indian startup, has developed a simple solution that is already having a considerable impact.

India is home to 100 million small-hold farmers and the nation is one of the most climate-affected in the world.

Its Greenhouse-in-a-Box is designed for small-hold farmers and the crops they grow, offering shelter from unpredictable elements and destructive insects.





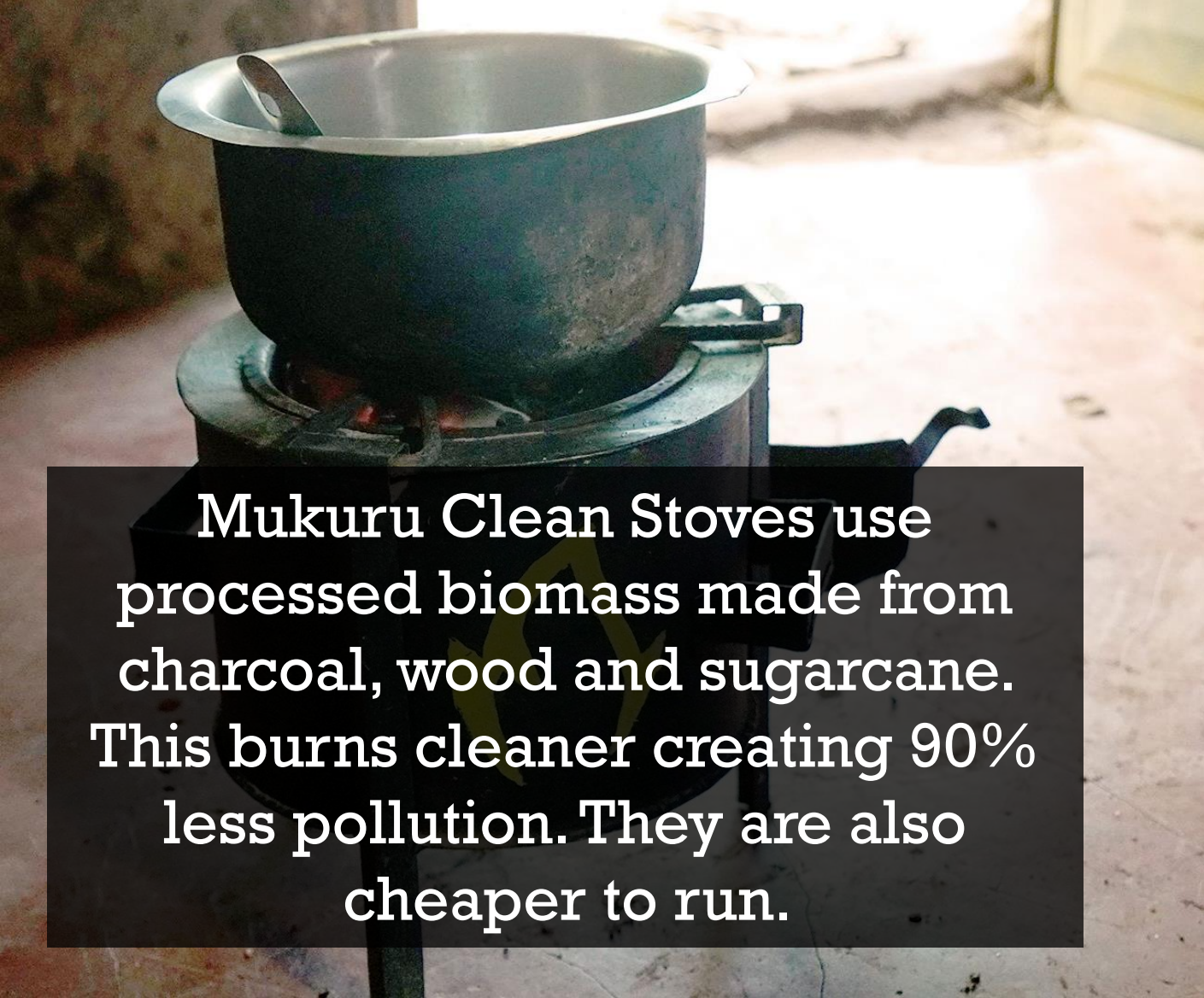
Plants in the greenhouse require 98% less water than outdoors and crops produced are seven times higher than before.

Today 1000 farms have a Kheyti greenhouse but by 2027, Kheyti wants 50,000 to have a Greenhouse-in-a-Box.

MUKURU CLEAN STOVES



Across Africa, 700 million people use traditional cook stoves, which emit harmful chemicals and lack safeguards.



Mukuru Clean Stoves use processed biomass made from charcoal, wood and sugarcane. This burns cleaner creating 90% less pollution. They are also cheaper to run.



In rural areas, where young girls often spend three hours a day collecting firewood, they also save precious time.

Mukuru is a female-founded business with mostly female staff. They work to empower women to make a living by making a difference.



INDIGENOUS WOMEN OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



The Great Barrier Reef lies in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland in Australia and is under constant threat.



The region's indigenous rangers are vital to its defence. Their work brings ancient knowledge, passed down the generations together with modern tools.



Over 60 women have been trained encouraging new conservation approaches by sharing knowledge and telling stories.



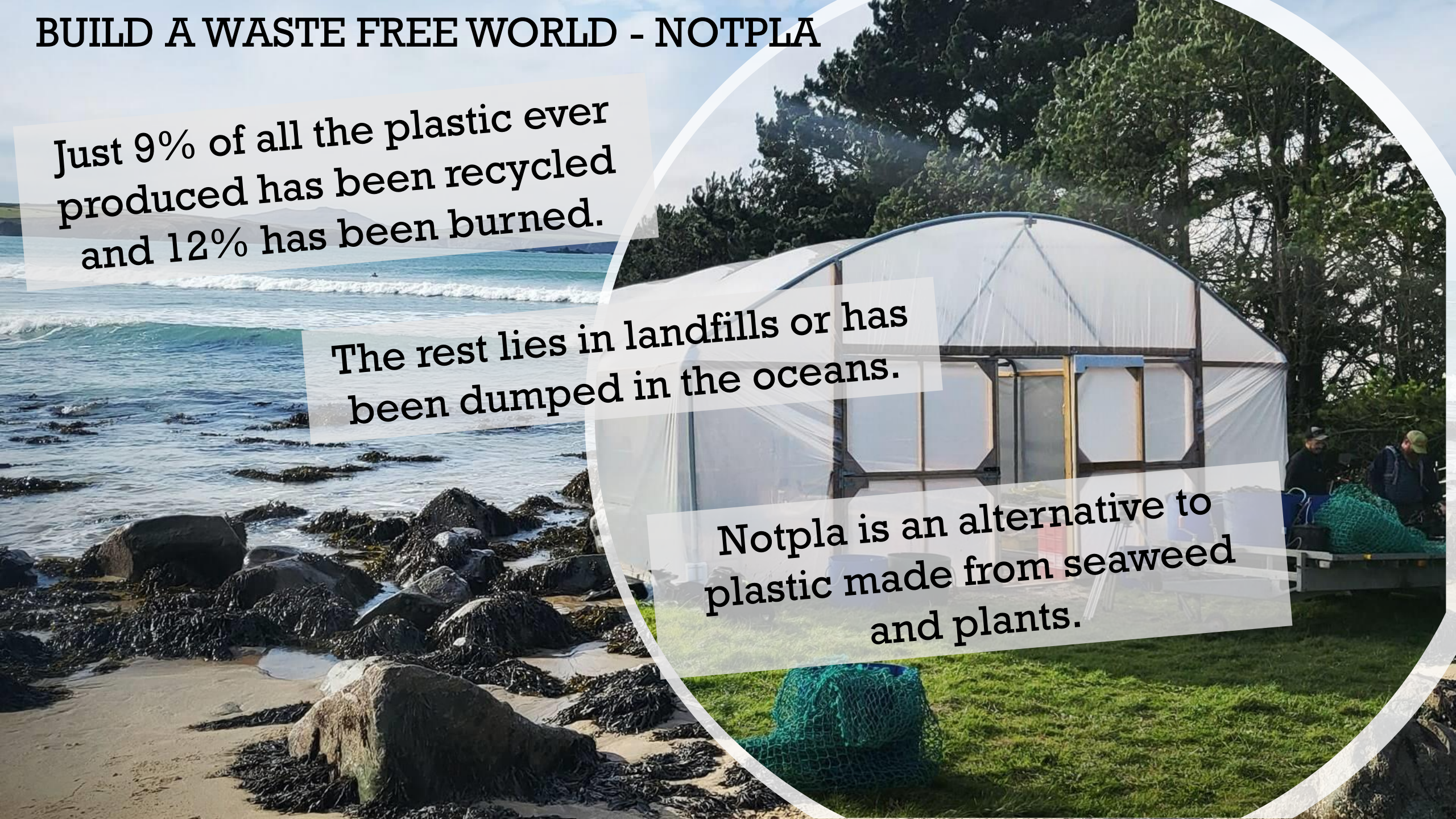
As custodians of the land, the rangers have also protected sites of great cultural and spiritual significance.

BUILD A WASTE FREE WORLD - NOTPLA

Just 9% of all the plastic ever produced has been recycled and 12% has been burned.

The rest lies in landfills or has been dumped in the oceans.

Notpla is an alternative to plastic made from seaweed and plants.





It is totally natural and biodegradable. It can be used to create a range of packaging products, such as bubble to hold liquids, a coating for food containers and a paper for the fashion industry.



Pope Francis has a message for you.

You are in my heart.

God spoke to Abraham saying, “Go from your country and your family to a land that I will show you.” (*Gen 12.1*).

These words are now also addressed to you.

They are words of a Father who invites you to “go”, to set out towards a future which is unknown but one which will surely lead to fulfilment, a future towards which He Himself accompanies you.

I invite you to hear God's voice resounding in your heart through the breath of the Holy Spirit.




When God said to Abram, “Go!”, what did he want to say?

He certainly did not say to distance himself from his family or withdraw from the world.

Abram received a compelling invitation, a challenge, to leave everything and go to a new land. What is this “new land” for us today, if not a more just and friendly society which you, young people, deeply desire and wish to build to the very ends of the earth?

You will learn how to undertake a journey of discernment to discover God's plan in your life. Even when the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up.

A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices.

A photograph of St. Mary's Catholic School. The building is a single-story structure with light-colored siding and a dark roof. A sign on the building reads "St. Mary's Catholic School" next to a shield-shaped logo. In the foreground, there is a large green tree on the left and a smaller tree on the right. A blue sign is visible near the entrance of the building. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

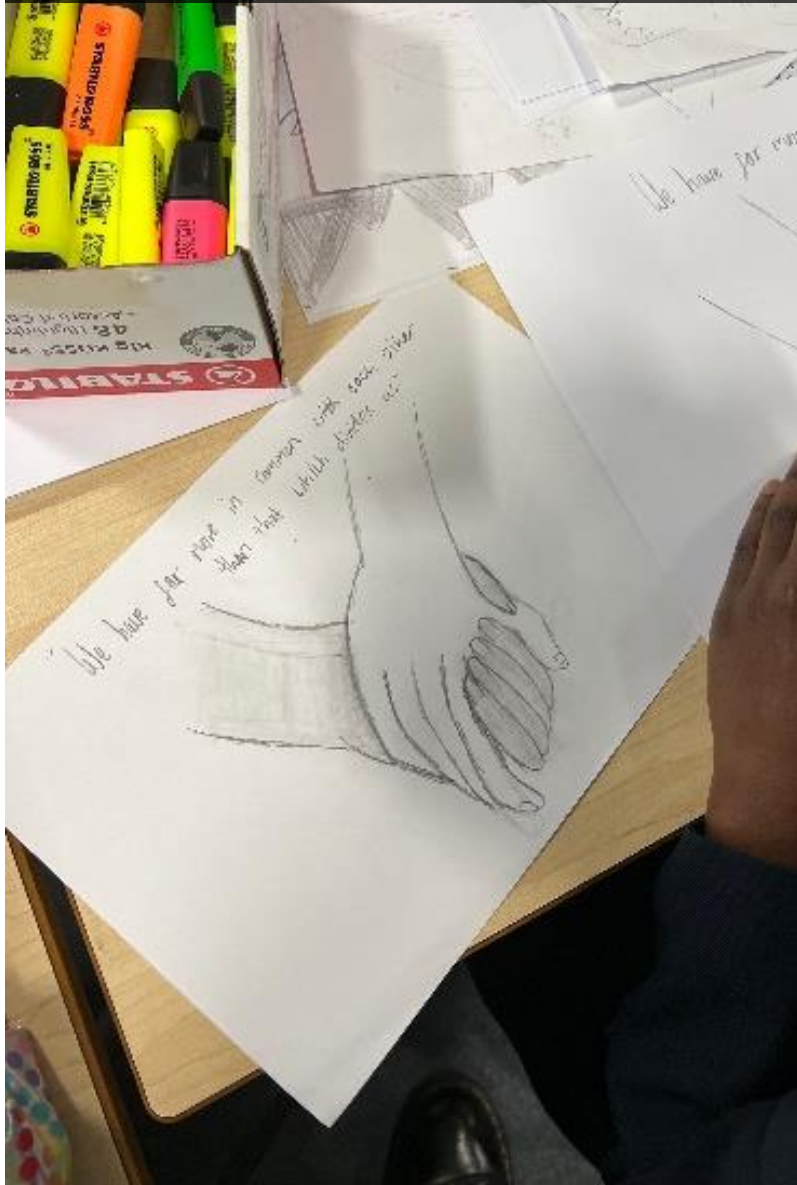
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And you are making a difference!

A Shoebox Collection took place to share gifts with children in need around the world.



You have been reflecting on the environment and how we can be more sustainable.



2. Can you find... (from Aardvarks to earth)
... But the climate crisis deepens...
... Can we save it - and...
... explore ideas and beliefs about the...
... human responsibility...
... Great...
... will Challenge pupils to use scripture quotations thoughtfully...
... but also the methods of scientific enquiry and moral study to...
... develop deep answers and good writing to go with stunning...
... images:
... We need to help...
... Animals

Through your Advent Fayres and other activities, we have been able to help these charities.



THANK YOU.



**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

Community of Padua
Community
Association

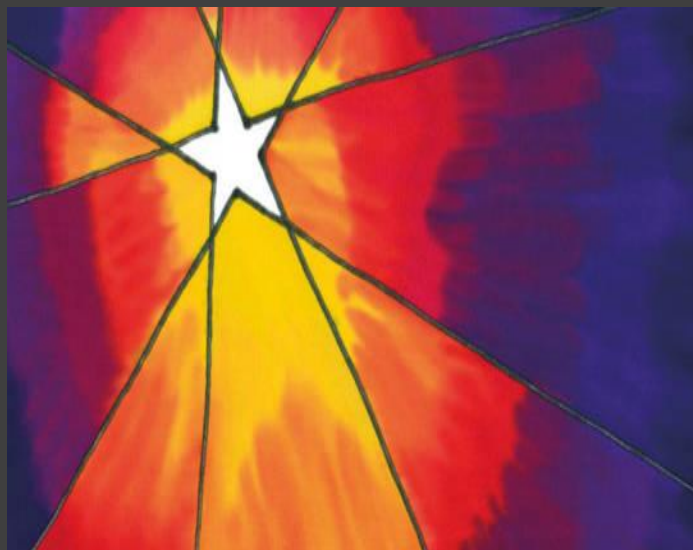




Lord, may we be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi and the peace of the Christ child.

Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer



Lord, the sight of the guiding star, brought hope, courage and joy to those who had journeyed to find you.

When our journey seems long, fill us with faith and trust; shine your light on our fears and lift our hearts with joy.

Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer



Lord Jesus,
Send your Holy Spirit upon
our preparations for
Christmas.

May we seek quiet spaces to
hear your voice each day and
seek the joy of your presence.

Looking forward to your
coming among us.

We are your people, seeking
the light.

Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer



In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in unity.

In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in mission.

In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in service.

May we do these things bringing
the light to others this Advent.

Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer

