

# The Christmas Story



**Sydney Catholic Schools**  
**ART EXHIBITION and COMPETITION 2022**

COVER: Khloe Cui - Year 6 - Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School, North Strathfield



Sydney  
Catholic  
Schools

# Foreword



ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP

The First Sunday of Advent this year marks the 17th year of the 'Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition'. The Season of Advent is a time of preparation, where we try, amid the busyness of our lives, to make space within our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

I am proud of all the Year 5 and 6 students in Sydney, Wollongong and Bathurst, who have participated in this competition and whose work is featured in the exhibition. I'm especially pleased that once again our student's artworks and scriptural reflections will be shared within the Catholic Weekly.

Paintings are more than the paint on canvas which gives them their form; they are the expression of beauty, and to see the face of beauty is to see the face of the God who is Eternal Beauty. This is why so the Catholic Church has always been such a patron of the arts, and our present exhibition, with each work depicting important moments in the Christmas Story, stands in this long and proud tradition.

Our student-artists all try to capture something of the face of that beauty that is God and His saints, depicting as they do important moments in the Christmas Story. I invite you all to take the time to enter into conversation with each beautiful work and to allow Christ to speak to your heart through them. And may He bless you all this Christmas!

Thank you to our teachers, parents and other who have helped our young people in this year's competition. Thank you also to everyone who has made this exhibition possible! To you all, I pray that you experience in your homes, schools and parishes that renewal that our celebration of Christ's coming signifies.

**Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP**  
Archdiocese of Sydney

# Messages



TONY FARLEY

## Archdiocese of Sydney

It is my honour to select the Executive Director's Award for *The Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition 2022*. This exhibition invites deep creative and reflective thinking as our teachers guide our students in their artistic and religious growth and engagement.

Across three dioceses, the exhibiting student artists have given life to the transformative themes of Advent and Christmas. I hope you discover, as I have, the beauty and joy expressed by these students and the hope-filled message of Christmas they convey.

The sophisticated artistic vision and reverent written reflections are a testament to the students' dedication to art and their engagement with the beauty and significance of the Christmas story. The Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition - now in its seventeenth year - has sown the seeds of faith and creativity in thousands of Catholic students.

At this time of Advent, we celebrate the talent of our students, the dedication of our teachers and the gift of faith and love. God Bless.

**Mr Tony Farley**  
Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools

# Messages



PETER HILL

## Diocese of Wollongong

The Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition, with the exceptionally high standard of artworks and reflections from such young artists, never ceases to amaze me. The depth of the connection with the scriptural story as seen through these young eyes and expressed so deeply, personally and reflectively is to be richly celebrated.

I sincerely congratulate every student who has entered and importantly thank the schools for the diversity of opportunities they provide to nurture the creative flair and expressive talents of their students.

Art provides a unique opportunity for the artist to enhance their worldly experiences, to appeal to our religious imagination and interpret the complex aspects of our lives. The rich history of the arts as an expression of our Catholic faith is critical in sharing our experiences of God in our world. In this context, art is not only inspired by awe and imagination, it is a way for all of us to reflect on the integral message of the Christmas story – God coming into being with us, in human form, as a small and vulnerable infant – the Word made flesh.

I commend each work in the exhibition and encourage you to take time to view and enjoy the artworks on the website, as well as read or listen to the personal reflections from students. While it's true a picture paints a thousand words, there is something truly special about hearing the artists express their individual encounter with their God in their own words. They demonstrate a simple joy and hope filled message of the Christmas story that is inspiring.

Again, I congratulate each and every student for their participation and involvement.

**Peter Hill**  
Director of Schools, Diocese of Wollongong



CHRISTINA TRIMBLE

## Diocese of Bathurst

It is a great privilege to be able to share with you the artwork of our students who have participated in the Christmas Art Competition in 2022.

Each year our upper primary school students in the Diocese of Bathurst engage with the scriptures through artistic expression via this competition. Our students use texture, colour, and light and shade to convey their understanding of the Advent and Christmas events through a variety of artistic forms and media.

In the students' written commentaries, they enlighten the reader by describing their purpose in communicating a particular verse of scripture through art. These are honest statements of their faith and understanding. Many students relate the passage to their own experience of life or reflect the culture and events of our time, giving a modern twist to the events of the ageless story of Jesus' incarnation.

Thank you to our wonderful young people who share their faith so openly with us through their art. Thank you to their parents and teachers who nurture this faith and help them to give expression to it through their art.

May the hope of our young people inspire us all to welcome the Christ child into our hearts this Christmas.

**Christina Trimble**  
Executive Director of Schools, Diocese of Bathurst

# Messages

## School Club Art and Craft

School Club is an Australian owned business and we are proud to continue our support and association with 'The Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition' in 2021. Christmas is strongly associated with family life, religious practice, joy and celebration.

Our 'School Club Encouragement Award' this year is given to an artwork of artistic quality and meaning. We admire the dedication of catechists that give their time and skill to guide these students in the faith.

For this year's School Club Encouragement Award, I have selected "The Herald of Majestic News" by Olive Chan, Year 5, at Baldface Public School, Blakehurst.

The artwork is atmospheric, a flood of light shining on the shepherds, and the candle light leading our eyes to the stable.

I congratulate Olive, and hope she continues her artistic journey throughout her school years and beyond.

Sophie Chen School Club Managing Director

**Sophie Chen**

School Club Managing Director

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## Mission and Identity

Once again, our artistic students have demonstrated their engagement with Sacred Scripture and the Catholic Tradition in a creative way. 'The Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition' has not only become a feature of the annual calendar of Sydney Catholic Schools, it also showcases the creative talents of our young people.

Art has long been the medium through which one communicates both beauty and truth, and for this the students are to be commended for their work.

**Anthony Cleary**

Director: Mission and Identity

## Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

### Public School Special Religious Education

We are grateful for the opportunity for our parish children in government schools to take part in "The Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition".

Thank you, students, for sharing with us your thoughtfulness and creativity. May your artwork become a 'meeting place' with God – a shared point of delighting between God and you. Well done to you all for bringing forth the truth and beauty of God-with-us.

Thank you to our volunteer Parish Catechists for your enthusiasm and planning to make the most of the half hour you have with the students each week. I thank John Charadia and Jodie Micallef especially for their dedication in organising this event and our CCD Faith Education Officers for their support of Catechists in public schools.

May all who contemplate these artworks and Gospel reflections be inspired to encounter Jesus as we prepare to celebrate his birthday with joy this Christmas.

**Doug Mawhinney**

Director CCD Sydney

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (Sydney)

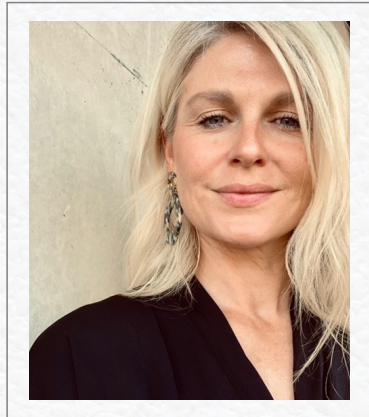
Supporting Parish Catechists





The Art of Giving, Danijela Barisic, YEAR 5, St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Sutherland

# Messages



DR KATE WINCHESTER

## University of Notre Dame Australia

### Dear Colleagues

It is wonderful that the Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition has provided a platform for the outstanding young people of the diocese to share their impressive artistic talents and meaningful reflections on the story of Christmas. This year, staff from the University of Notre Dame Australia have again had the honour of being invited to assist with judging the annual Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition.

Every young person who has entered this competition is worthy of praise. The intention to submit an artwork for this competition, in addition to the hard work and thoughtfulness that goes into the creation of such pieces, is incredibly honorable and important. Yet again, the level of professionalism and care that is evident in the vast array of submissions is genuinely impressive. The artworks that have been submitted have each, in their own unique and special way, respectfully and creatively shone a light on the power of the Christmas Story. What these young people have shown us, through their beautiful artwork, is that the medium of art can indeed be a very powerful vehicle for the academic expression of students' knowledge and understanding of the story of the birth of Jesus. The students have been able to signify the true meaning of Christmas through the themes of hope, peace, service and joy.

My colleagues and I had the very difficult task of selecting a winner for the Notre Dame Trophy award. We congratulate Alessandra Coulson, from St Ambrose Catholic Primary School, Concord West, for her sensitive and symbolic artwork, "Journey to Bethlehem" and for winning the Notre Dame Trophy award this year. Alessandra's thoughtful work invites us to think about the miracle of the birth of

Jesus from the perspective of Notre Dame, Our Lady. We are shown Mary as a young and brave woman, on a long and uncertain journey to Bethlehem, with a divine task to make manifest in service to the whole of humanity. "Journey to Bethlehem", encapsulates the hope, wonder, dedication, trepidation, faith and unconditional love that all new parents experience on the 'journey' to bringing a new baby into the world. Alessandra, like the other entrants, has communicated that the Christmas Story holds a special message for all of us - that in knowing God's gift to us all, we can be in service to the greater mission of being a gift of peace, love and service to each other.

This is the special gift of art in education – its power to inspire and engage students to think about the world within and around them. In turn, it is they who have inspired us as the audience to acknowledge the world within and around us too, for the betterment of humankind. We congratulate each and every one of the entrants, finalists and award recipients. We thank you for inspiring us to see the miracles and love that surround us always, but especially at Christmas time.

***May hope, joy and peace be yours this Christmas.***

**Dr Kate Winchester**

Senior Lecturer

University of Notre Dame Australia



# Introduction

***“What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future... It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.”***

- Agnes M Pahro

Welcome to the 2022, ‘The Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition’. In this year of continued challenges to the way we live, work and learn, I acknowledge and celebrate the skill and creativity of the teachers that has enabled the students to again produce deeply reflective, self-expressive and artistic visual imagery and written reflections. The students have shared insightful thought and personal connection to the importance of family, the intimacy and tenderness of love, the power of journey and the need for peace and hope. These students are the seeds of tomorrow’s faithful and Christ-centred families.

I compel teachers, students, parents and educators to be attentive to the beauty of creativity, depth of spiritual reflection, and uniqueness of self-expression shared in this exhibition. These students, guided and encouraged to look for the depths of meaning of the Christmas message in their lives, by their creative teachers, have in turn challenged us to see God’s Spirit of peace and hope living and alight in our hearts through their unique artworks and personal reflections.

The students have reflected on the word in the sacred scripture of Advent and Christmas through personal conversation with God in prayer and through artistic expression. They have made connections to their own and shared life experience. They have distinguished God’s voice amongst the noise of Christmas clearance sales, holiday celebrations, seasonal toys and merchandise.

The judges have recognised the students’ depth of reflection and the heightened artistic expression. This is testimony to the enduring need to nurture the imagination. The beauty and reflective thinking that we celebrate is the fruit of encouraging the creative imagination. We receive as a reward for our efforts as teachers a glimpse of the light of peace and hope, and we all kneel in humility in the presence of the Christ child who comes to transform our lives.

***“Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and to let him—whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend—be our companion.”***

- Henri Nouwen

Now in this seventeenth year, it is my hope that you as parents, teachers and facilitators of these creative gifts, look through the eyes of your children as they have engaged in the Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition.



That vision needs to be one of nurtured creativity, vivified imagination, deepened faith, and a hope filled future.

Considering the hundreds of quality artworks and writings that were judged to make up the list of works chosen for the exhibition, I would like to list some of the important criteria that guided our decision making:

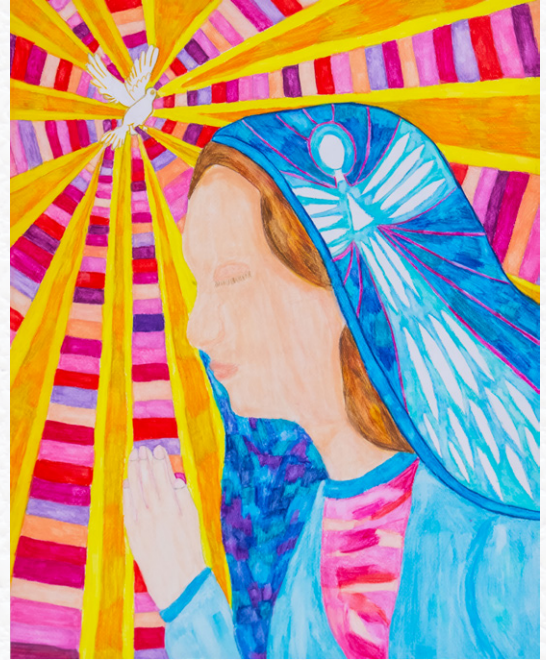
- personal expressive style and approach;
- originality of illustration and depth of personal reflection;
- relationship of illustration to chosen scripture verse;
- demonstrated understanding of relevant religious subject matter from the curriculum;
- consistency of style throughout the whole artwork;
- standards of skills and techniques; and,
- appropriate surface for the chosen media.

Those of you who are beginning this journey of self-discovery and expression with your students should always be prepared to employ strategies that release the inner mystic and artist lying dormant in every child.

In the following pages, our students share their imagining, contemplation and creative expression of the scriptures that have personal meaning to them. Experience of their art and writing invites a spiritual, artistic, historical, cultural and intellectual response. Take time to read both the visual and written literacy of these students.

**John Charadia**

Professional Officer: Gifted Education, Creativity and Critical Thinking, Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong





# Archbishop's Choice Trophy

**Khloe  
Cui  
YR6**

Our Lady of the  
Assumption  
Catholic Primary,  
North Strathfield



## Yes

My artwork depicts 'The Annunciation', where Mary accepts the white lily which is given to her from Angel Gabriel. In my artwork, Angel Gabriel has appeared to Mary proclaiming that she has found favour with God and will bear a son named Jesus. As he says this, he hands Mary a flower which she accepts with a resounding 'Yes' to God. This particular flower in Mary's hands is a white lily which symbolises purity and innocence. This white lily is scattered around my painting and is often seen in other artworks which depict Mary.



## First Place YR5

**Zoe Reeves** - St Justin's Catholic Primary School, Oran Park

### A King is Born

I have chosen the 'Birth of Christ' (Matthew 1:18-25) for my reading. My artwork 'A King is Born', is about the moment Jesus was born and was held by his mother Mary. This caring love is the same love my mother had for me when she first held me in her arms at the hospital. The same love that continues every day. The quote, 'You will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus', is an important moment that connects me to God. Just like the day I was born, that moment is special to my family. I am thankful for the love and kindness of all mothers. My artwork helps me understand the connection between Jesus and his mother Mary which opens my heart. When I pray, I feel a part of God's family. My artwork was inspired by Frida Kahlo and all the bright colours that she uses in her artworks. Even though she had a tragic life, she used bright colours in her artworks to bring joy and hope to people who admired her. The mediums that I chose were acrylic paints and some gold ribbon to highlight that moment our King was born.



## Second Place YR5

**Xavier Farag** - Regina Coeli Catholic Primary School, Beverly Hills

### Spirit of Love

I based my artwork on *Matthew* 1:18-25 when the Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." My artwork represents how I think Joseph would have felt after the Holy Spirit visited him. Joseph was planning to quietly divorce Mary because he was a good and kind man. I imagine he would have felt upset about the prospect of doing this. Then, when Joseph was told in a dream that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit he would have felt a great sense of relief and joy. He could continue to live his life with Mary and raise Jesus as his son. The dove as the symbol of the Holy Spirit and the bright colours I used in my artwork represent the great happiness of this moment and the new beginning that came about as a result of this moment. More importantly, it represents the fulfilment of the Scriptures. To create my artwork, I have embossed the image of the Holy Spirit on foil and painted it with metallic paint markers. The foil and metallic ink make my artwork shine like the many stained-glass windows I took my inspiration from.



## Third Place **YR5**

**Anne Malhiers** - St Justin's Catholic Primary School, Oran Park

### The Messiah has Arrived

My artwork is about family. Joseph is looking lovingly at both Mary and Jesus with his strong hand resting on Jesus' head. Mary looks down at her son peacefully, holding him safely in her arms. My parents show the same love and care as Mary and Joseph had for Jesus. Every night my family and I read the Bible. We reflect on the stories of God and Jesus. I am so blessed to have a loving family who puts a roof over my head and food on my plate. This story shows Mary and Joseph's pure love for God. I am inspired by the art YouTuber SuperRaeDizzle, because she taught me to use different art mediums including graphite pencil. It is a simple medium, but creates great shading and tones in my artwork. She inspired me to go out of my comfort zone and to try something new.

## Highly Commended

**Tate Bunting** - St Joseph's Primary School, Molong

**YR5**

### A Long Cold Road to Bethlehem

My bold and striking image shows Mary and Joseph forced to register for a census in a town far away. Their treacherous journey takes them along the Jordan River, over the hills surrounding Jerusalem and onto Bethlehem, a total of 90 miles. I tried to capture the feeling of uncertainty in my artwork through the use of bold colours and rugged mountains. I imagine a very grueling trip. Red signifies danger. The journey would have been full of hazards. Lions and bears lived in the woods and bandits and pirates were also common. I used blue for the mountains as it symbolises light, power and mystery and reminds us of the love Mary and Joseph felt for Jesus. The amazing pink light of the blazing moon represents the end of the journey and reminds us of God's promise to send the 'Saviour'. God had told the people what the Son of God would be like so that people would be sure to recognise him. My artwork highlights this significant moment and that Jesus was indeed the light of the world.





# Highly Commended

**Ilaria Garavaglia** - St Luke's Catholic Primary, Revesby

**YR5**

## The Greatest Gift in The World

The humble shepherd walked hesitantly towards an old stable. He had been told by angels that there he would find the 'Greatest Gift in the World'. He wondered why, he of all people, was one of the first to be told. Entering the stable, with his young companion, he was filled with hope and humility. Mary told the shepherds, "He is for all mankind, he is here to save us all". Hearing these words, the old shepherd reached out his hand and gently touched the sleeping King. The focal point of my artwork is to show that there is hope and grace waiting for everyone. Like the shepherd, I have hope for my future, which deepens my faith knowing that God is going to help me every step of the way. The atmosphere in my artwork, influenced by 'The Nativity' film, was created by using soft, warm hues and flowing line work in coloured pencil.

# Highly Commended

**Oliver Jessup** - St Columba's Catholic Primary School, Leichhardt North

**YR5**

## The Birth of the Holy One

My artwork depicts the scripture passage Matthew 1:18-25. It shows Mary as a new mother and Joseph nurturing baby Jesus. I have arranged them close together in the centre of my canvas board. I wanted to focus on that particular moment when Mary and Joseph are holding baby Jesus for the very first time. Mary and Joseph are amazed and proud of how far they have come, and are reflecting on the journey still ahead of them. I created these portraits using soft gentle skin tones to reflect their loving, caring and gentle natures. I used the colour white to show how holy Mary is, and how innocent baby Jesus is. Joseph is looking down at Jesus to show how present he is to this moment. I drew an aura of light, to show that this is a special moment.





## Highly Commended

**Maiia Kurochkina** - St Michael's  
Catholic Primary School, Meadowbank

**YR5**

### Following the Star

I created this artwork called, 'Following the Star', that depicts the Magi's visit to Mary with Jesus. In this picture, you can see the Magi in the background through the stable window. They had followed the star to the location of Jesus. Having delivered their gifts, the Magi are heading home by a different path because of the angel's warning. This shows that they were following God's word. I believe that this is what we all should do, we should listen to God as he always has a plan for us. The Magi then opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned home by another route *Matthew 2:9-12*. In this scripture, the Magi had betrayed the king, to be faithful to God. I incorporated an abstract background to give it a touch of uniqueness. I've added the gifts next to Mary as authentic objects found in Jesus' time.

## Highly Commended

**Zoe Macedone** - Villa Maria Catholic  
Primary School, Hunters Hill

**YR5**

### Peace and New Beginning

In my artwork I painted Mary and Jesus. Mary's face is not visible in the painting, but I used watercolour paints to replicate how Mary would hold Jesus, as her hands are delicate and support him with love. Mary's robes are coloured ultramarine, as in classic artworks this is a widely favoured colour used for her clothing. The gold embroideries on her sleeve signifies her holiness. Floating from Mary's hands, there is a mist indicating the morning, and therefore a new beginning. The olive branches signify peace among all, and the two additions to the artwork convey that Jesus will bring new peace to the world. The star behind Mary and Jesus is the same star that led the Shepherds and Magi to the stable where Jesus was born. It shows the light He will bring on the new day. This light inspired me to show Mary holding this precious gift for the world to see. "And they shall call him Immanuel" Mary's hands are visible in the painting depicting holiness and humility, showing that, 'God is with us.'





## First Place

**Scarlett Horne**  
- Saint Patrick's Catholic  
Primary School, Kogarah

**YR6**

### God's Gift to Us

My artwork reflects the Scripture passage Matthew 2:9-12, "The Visit of the Magi". In this passage, the wise men followed the star and presented gifts to Jesus. My artwork depicts God's loving arms gifting us all with His son, Jesus. The wise men who knew the prophecy about the birth of the Messiah brought gifts to honour Jesus. I am reminded of my family preparing gifts for each other at Christmas and sharing the joy of the birth of Jesus. My artwork was inspired by Jen Norton's depiction of angels holding the stable. I painted God's arms holding the stable. Surrounding the stable are flora representing life and creation also gifted to us by God. Subtle buildings were created using watercolour to set the scene. The swirls form a heavenly effect with God's arms. Prismacolor pencils were used for the star and the Magi as they blend easily and allow for fine detail. I chose the Magi as the main focus of my artwork, because like them, we are overjoyed by the birth of the Messiah, and we too, celebrate by giving gifts at Christmas.

## Second Place

**Chelsea Kazzi** - St Joseph's Catholic  
Primary School, Rockdale

**YR6**

### Joseph takes Mary as his Wife

My artwork was inspired by the bible passage Matthew 1:24 - 25. In this passage the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream commanding him to take Mary home as his wife. Mary eventually gave birth to a son and named him Jesus. I chose this Scripture because I believe that it was of great importance to our salvation. Joseph demonstrated great faith to take Mary as his wife, even though she was already with child. When Jesus was born, our Saviour was born and Joseph was at Mary's side. I used graphite pencils to create my artwork because it is my favourite medium to work with. Using varying degrees of pressure on the pencil, I created contrasting lines and patterns in my artwork. The patterns relate to the emotions I imagine Joseph and Mary would have experienced leading up to and at the birth of Jesus. Joseph has tears pouring from his eyes to represent the confusion and love he would have been feeling toward Mary and Jesus. Mary has the flame of the Holy Spirit beneath her, supporting her through the birth of her son. The Holy family is wrapped together to illustrate the close bond they formed immediately after Jesus was born. Mary and Joseph are gazing down with love and awe on the baby Jesus and He is looking back at them.





## Third Place

**Chloe Tran** - St Joseph's Catholic  
Primary School, Rockdale

**YR6**

### Embracing Jesus' Family

My multimedia artwork reflects on the scripture passage 'The Visit of the Magi' (*Matthew 2: 9-12*). I believe this story highlights a very significant and momentous time in the story of Jesus our saviour. My artwork has three different coloured double lines around the birth of Jesus and the Magi searching for him. I chose the colours used by the church that represent Advent/Lent, Ordinary Time and Pentecost. These lines embrace the image of the Holy Family at the birth of Jesus. I used watercolour and coloured pencils to create these lines and the patterns within. The gradation of the night sky was created with watercolour. In the sky are the stars that guide the Magi to Jesus. One of the silhouettes of the Magi is pointing to the sky to show the way. The background is painted in yellow, orange and some brown to remind us that with the birth of Jesus came not only a feeling of love but also of hope.

## Highly Commended

**Mila Hinves** - St Therese's Catholic  
Primary School, Denistone

**YR6**

### The News of Hope

My Christmas Story artwork was based on the scripture passage 'The Annunciation' (*Luke 1: 26-36*). My painting is titled, 'The News of Hope', as Mary receives the news that she will be the Mother of God. For my artwork, I used a mixed media including: ink, watercolour, paint, Fineliner on board and canvases. The Annunciation is a story that has many meaningful symbols. Mary and the Annunciation are often associated with flowers, most particularly white lilies, as they are thought to represent her purity and love for God. In the centre of my artwork is the Cross, symbolizing Jesus, with a dove on top representing the Holy Spirit. I painted Mary and the Archangel Gabriel on the sides of the Cross. Surrounding the cross is an array of Australian flowers such as banksias, bottle brushes, kangaroo paws and wattles. I wanted to show how beautiful Australia is, created by God as a unique, spiritual place and my home. Nature helps us to connect with beauty and remember how fragile and beautiful our land is.





## Highly Commended

**Keira Nguyen** - Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Mt Pritchard

**YR6**

### Love and Spite

My artwork titled 'Love and Spite' presents the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt (*Matthew 2:13-25*). I begin by highlighting an incredible love, the love of the Holy family. Joseph and Mary hold baby Jesus, protecting him and sheltering him from the evil that surrounds him. I used varied tones of red to symbolise evil, as well as purple to symbolise royalty. The Holy Family is shown inside the face of King Herod. This represents how the mind of King Herod was always on the downfall and torture of others. Herod saw Jesus as a threat and he would stop at nothing to destroy him. I used the uneven lines in the background to create a sense of extreme, powerful energy that came from the spitefulness of Herod. Thankfully, Jesus had the love of his family and their incredible determination to protect their son, represented by the heart shape that is created from their white garments. This story of love and protection is in so many ways similar to that of my family. My mother's parents risked everything to escape the evil government and war in Vietnam to bring her to safety here in Australia. I connect with this scripture as it reminds me that God is always with us and he will be there to lead us to a safe place.



## Highly Commended

**Alannah Rossetto** - St Matthew's Catholic School, Mudgee

**YR6**

### Mary's Dream

Influenced by the Annunciation from the Gospel of Luke, my artwork exemplifies the connection between Mary and Jesus, amid Mary's harmonious dream. The binding relationship between them is more than a mother-son, it is a best-friend relationship. This implies that we must continue cherishing and loving one another. My artwork allows the mind to envision memories and connections. I have experienced this through people I have shown my art to, as they start telling me their stories and feelings. My mother often tells us how much she unconditionally loves us; as a baby and still today she embraces us with hugs and tenderness. My artwork is an exhibit of Mary dreaming about her future life with Jesus, just after the Archangel Gabriel had come to announce the Good News! I have used white charcoal on Mary and Jesus' faces, symbolising holiness and purity within them. Their halos are a mixture of white pencil and brilliant gold Texta to imitate royalty and wisdom of an endearing King. The background is a creative design of repeated flowers, signifying beauty in Mary's heart. It reminds me of dreaming, an open, thought-filled mind and elation as to what is still to come.





## Highly Commended

**Isaac Stone** - Good Samaritan Catholic Primary School, Fairy Meadow

**YR6**

### Imogen's Star

I was blessed to have had a sister for only a short time. The gift of her life changed my life; just as Imogen brought me gifts of compassion, respect and kindness, the Magi presented material gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to baby Jesus. 'When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy' (Matthew 2:10). I feel that God chose our family to bring us Imogen as a gift of joy. Like the star that shone for the Magi, and continues to shine for us today as a symbol of hope, Imogen's spirit continues to shine for me. The gift of my sister inspires me to share the gifts of God with everyone around me. I was inspired by 18th Century artist Auguste Edouart because of his love of silhouettes and paper cutting. I used the technique of stenciling, using a round placemat and acrylic paint. Two of the Wise Men were placed beneath the stencil and the third added after printing to symbolise guidance. I threaded gold wire through the design to show the brilliant light shining from the mystical star. I made the star big just as my sister's heart was.

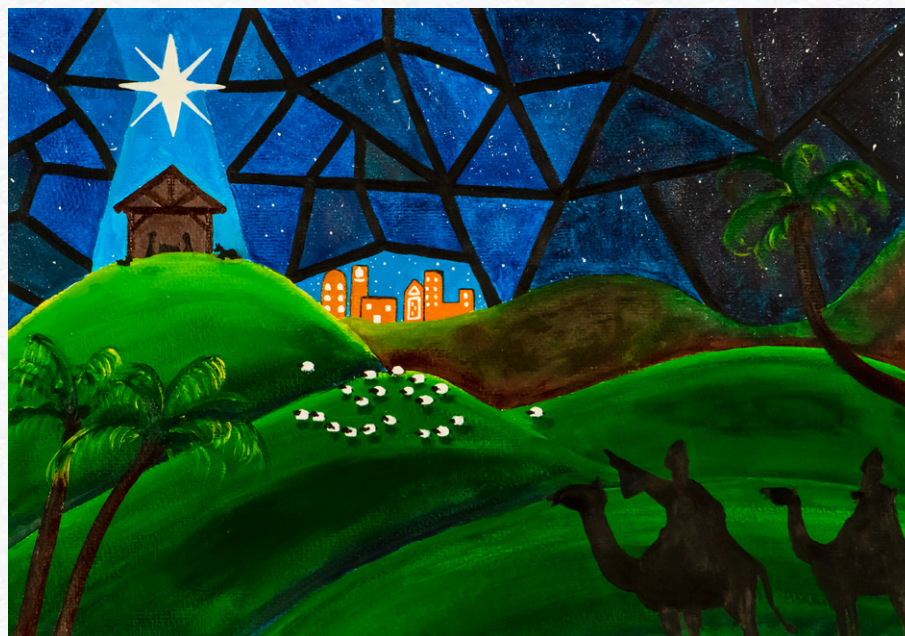
## Executive Director's Award

**Nancy Zhang** - St Mel's Catholic Primary School, Campsie

**YR6**

### Juxtaposition in a Frame

What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you look at this artwork? Is it the smooth green landscape? Or the unusually jagged night sky? I wanted to convey the meaning that evil was in the air, with King Herod hot on the heels of Mary and Joseph. However, the smooth green landscape is to convey a calm and peaceful aura, like justice had been established after Jesus' birth. As you know, Mary and Joseph were in a confused and frightening situation, but thankfully, with the power of the Holy Spirit, evil was able to be defeated. This connects to the scripture as you can see a wise man pointing at the luminous star. The stable is underneath it and the sheep curiously wonder at this special moment. I tried to bring different elements of the nativity story together into one piece of artwork, so that there could be multiple ways to interpret what you see in this. I used acrylic paint to express my ideas boldly but also to propose a different perspective through the ways I painted each stroke. I also used pencil, black ink pen, white gel pen and an A3 canvas.



# Spirit of Christmas Award

**Chloe Olima** - Good Samaritan Catholic  
Primary School, Fairy Meadow

**YR6**

## Balthasar, Gaspar & Melchior

"Then, opening their treasure chests they offered him gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh", (*Matthew 2:9-12*). There is a deep personal connection between Matthew's scripture and the Magi, that I have depicted in my artwork. The kings who presented Jesus with these precious gifts represent the three kings in my life; my father, grandfather and great grandfather. Since the day I was born they have enriched my life with precious gifts. The Magi are thought to have journeyed from three different regions; Balthasar from Ethiopia, Gaspar from India and Melchior from Persia. The deep, rich colours of their garments and extravagant headpieces signify the power and influence these wise men had at the time of Jesus' birth. My grandfather and great grandfather were both carpenters, which is why I chose to paint on timber. I joined three cutting boards together to create a triptych and used acrylic and pen. When I designed the pattern of Balthasar's robe, I wanted to honour my Dad's East African heritage as well as his artistic influence on me - he is passionate about painting, just as I have become.



# Artistic Achievement

**Lola Dominguez** - Villa Maria Catholic  
Primary School, Hunters Hill

**YR5**

## The Star Ahead

This scripture fascinated me, three very powerful men followed a star and travelled to see a small baby because of their faith and devotion to God. It resonated with me because it represents my journey in life and the way I want to live my faith to follow God's footsteps and guidance to find peace. It is important to have faith, something bigger than ourselves to follow. I was inspired to create a sculpture because of the bronze reliefs on the exterior of the NSW Art Gallery. I like the art form of relief sculpture because it combines drawing and sculpting with clay, a timeless material that was around in Jesus' day. The powerful star is the central feature, each frame traces the Magi's journey from following the star, over hills, finding the stable and presenting the gifts to Jesus. My favourite parts are the way Mary is resting her hand on Joseph's shoulder looking at their new baby. The different layers and depths of the clay is like all the different layers and depths of the Christmas message. As I worked, it was like a prayer or meditation because it involved deep reflective thought.



# Artistic Achievement

**Madeleine Gaden** - St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Dunedoo

**YR6**



## Trust Faith Love

I have chosen the medium of lino printing because lino printing takes time and you need to have trust and faith in your artistic skills. I chose the passage about the Annunciation. The first lino print is the Angel Gabriel. The Angel brought the good news to Mary. The news was that Mary was going to have a son who would be named Jesus. The Angel also brought Mary the gifts of trust, faith and love because Mary needed these gifts with the special job she had to do, as the mother of Jesus. I have chosen the three special words because these are the emotions that Mary would have needed. Mary always had trust in God and his choices. When the times got rough for Mary, she had faith in God and knew no matter what, God would always be there to love her. I know that if I show trust, faith, and love like Mary did, I will be alright. In the last Lino print, Mary is very brave. I am inspired to be like her because she always tried to show trust, faith and love even when she felt scared.

# School Club Encouragement Award

**Olive Chan** - Baldface Public School, Blakehurst

**YR5**

## The Herald of Majestic News

My artwork is based on the scripture of St Luke. I chose this scripture because I love the story. The experience of receiving Good News reminded me of a time when I received the news of my youngest cousin being born. In my artwork, I used watercolours and also coloured pencils to highlight details. I blended in the sky around the angel to emphasise the herald of majestic news.



# Journey Award



Grace Wood - St Joseph's Primary School, Molong

**YR5**

## Fear and Adventure

Terror struck! The Magi looked to the heavens for guidance and were drawn to Bethlehem by the sensational star that shone brightly over Jesus. To capture the rough terrain the Magi would face on their intriguing journey, I created a landscape painting set in an ancient time. The beaming blue and yellow sky with the divine white star represent the light of Jesus coming into this world and is a sign to all that Jesus is the light of the world. Aqua hills in the foreground symbolise the beginning of the adventure where they may have felt anxious. The dark, jagged hills signify difficult moments of the journey. The smooth purple mountains in the background show the bravery of the Magi and the feeling of peace they would have at the end of their journey as they praise Jesus. I believe we need to have courage like the Magi; courage to dream and always have hope. The Magi were fearless which inspires me to never give up on my goals. Fear and adventure go hand in hand when you are following your dreams!

# Journey Award

Sophia Pham - Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Mt Pritchard

**YR6**

## Pathway to the Lord

My expressive drawing titled "Pathway to the Lord" is my interpretation of the passage from the Gospel of Matthew - Escape to Egypt (*Matthew 2:13-15*). This is the story of a journey. A journey that lasted many days and nights, hence that background representing the day and night. Mary would have experienced much pain and sorrow, as well as fear knowing that her and Joseph had to escape to protect Jesus. The tears flowing from the eyes of Mary embody the emotion she was feeling at the time. I used a range of tonal colour and different shades to create visual texture. The amazing thing about tears is that they also come from joy and happiness. Jesus was the 'Joy' of the world. The three paths are symbolism of my three siblings. They, like Mary to Jesus, would do anything for me. They protect and love me. They laugh and cry with me. They also bring comfort to me in difficult times. My faith is a journey. It may lead me in many directions throughout my life but ultimately my faith is my pathway to the Lord.





# Notre Dame Award

**YR6**

**Alessandra Couslon** - St Ambrose  
Catholic Primary School, Concord West

## Journey to Bethlehem

The Biblical passage I chose was from the Gospel of Luke (*Luke 2: 1-5*). It signifies the beginning of our Christian faith with the journey to Bethlehem and is also why I titled my artwork (Journey to Bethlehem). One of the symbols that I have included in my artwork is the Star of Bethlehem in the night sky announcing the coming of Christ to the world. I also have Mary carrying flowers which symbolises she is 'carrying' the baby Jesus in her womb as she makes her way on a donkey to Bethlehem. My research about women of that time of Mary, led me to give Mary a darker complexion. I drew her in cultural clothes with the accessories of that time also which contrasts with the standard images created of her throughout history. In my artwork I used bright and soft tones. The brightness demonstrates the importance of the event and the soft delicate tones illustrate the gentleness of Mary and the situation she was in. The materials I used were graphite pencil, aquarelles, pastels, Polychromos pencils, acrylic paint, gold and silver pens and crystals.

# 2022

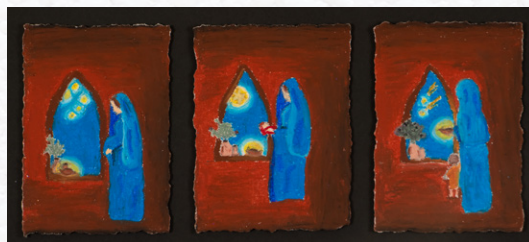
## Exhibitors

In 2022, over 600 entries for The Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition were received from Years 5 and 6 students from the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Dioceses of Wollongong and Bathurst. Following are the 86 students and their artworks that constitute this year's exhibition.



### 1. *The Redeemer of Faith*

**Taim Aldayoub**  
YEAR 6  
St Felix Catholic Primary  
School, Bankstown



### 2. *Moments in Time*

**Eva Alvarado**  
YEAR 6  
St Paul's Catholic Primary  
School, Camden



### 3. *The Angel Visits Joseph*

**Temperance Antunovich-Powers**  
YEAR 5  
St John's Catholic Primary  
School, Dapto



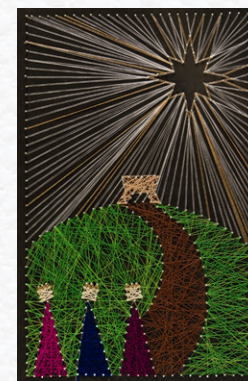
### 4. *The Art of Giving*

**Danijela Barisic**  
YEAR 5  
St. Patrick's Catholic Primary  
School, Sutherland



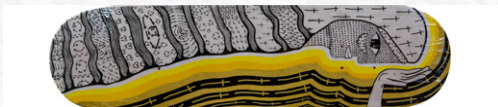
### 5. *One Special Night*

**Mia Berberian**  
YEAR 6  
St Luke's Catholic Primary  
School, Revesby



### 6. *The King's Star*

**Georgie Berry**  
YEAR 5  
St Michael's Catholic Primary  
School, Dunedoo



**7. Skating through Emotion**

**Knox Boyd**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Aloysius Catholic Primary  
 School, Cronulla



**8. Gentle Creatures, Glorious Night**

**Audrey Buda**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Paul's Catholic Primary  
 School, Camden



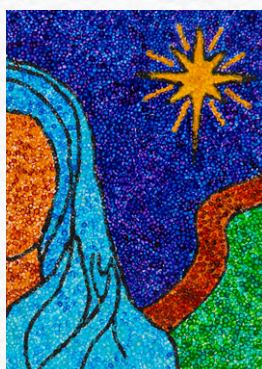
**9. A Long Cold Road to Bethlehem**

**Tate Bunting**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Joseph's Primary  
 School, Molong



**10. Escape to Egypt**

**Edward Bunting**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Joseph's Primary  
 School, Molong



**11. The Chosen One**

**London Campbell**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Joseph's Catholic Parish  
 Primary School, Bulli



**12. The King Will Return**

**Patrick Carberry**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Mary's Catholic School,  
 Wellington



**13. The Herald of Majestic News**

**Olive Chan**  
 YEAR 5  
 Baldface Public School,  
 Blakehurst



**14. City of David**

**Emilio Circelli**  
 YEAR 5  
 Regina Coeli Catholic Primary  
 School, Beverly Hills



**15. Angel's Wings**

**Taylor Colt**  
 YEAR 6  
 Waterfall Public School,  
 Waterfall



**16. A King is Going to be Born**

**Lauren Condie**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Andrew's Catholic Primary  
 School, Malabar



**17. The Amazing Star**

**Abigail Costa**  
 YEAR 6  
 Clemton Park Public School,  
 Clemton Park



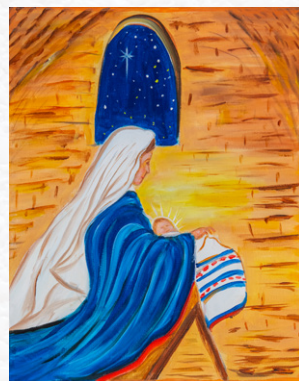
**18. A Christmas Miracle**

**Mia Couani**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Therese's Catholic Primary  
 School, Mascot



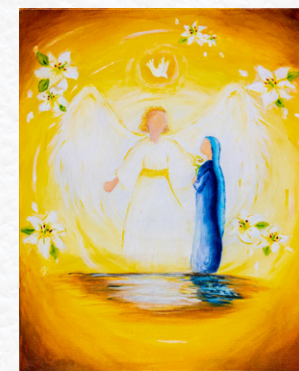
**19. Journey to Bethlehem**

**Alessandra Coulson**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Ambrose Catholic Primary  
 School, Concord West



**20. The Emotions of Motherhood**

**Arabella Crone**  
 YEAR 5  
 Sacred Heart Catholic Primary  
 School, Mosman



**21. Yes**

**Khloe Cui**  
 YEAR 6  
 Our Lady of the Assumption,  
 North Strathfield



**22. The Star Ahead**

**Lola Dominguez**  
 YEAR 5  
 Villa Maria Catholic Primary  
 School, Hunters Hill



**23. A Wise Journey**

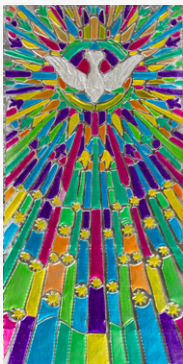
**Hermione Miguel Dos Santos**  
 YEAR 6  
 Carlingford Public School,  
 Carlingford



**24. The Miracle that Changed the World**

**Serena El Drouby**  
 YEAR 6  
 St John Vianney Catholic  
 Primary, Greenacre





**25. Spirit of Love**

**Xavier Farag**  
YEAR 5

Regina Coeli Catholic Primary  
School, Beverly Hills



**26. Sound the Trumpets**

**Aurora Feng**  
YEAR 6

Regina Coeli Catholic Primary  
School, Beverly Hills



**27. Overwhelmed with Joy**

**Mia Filipovic**  
YEAR 6

Regina Coeli Catholic Primary  
School, Beverly Hills



**28. Behold, the Handmaid of the Lord**

**Chloe Forester**  
YEAR 6

St Thomas More Catholic  
Primary School, Ruse



**29. Trust Faith Love**

**Madeleine Gaden**  
YEAR 6

St Michael's Catholic Primary  
School, Dunedoo



**30. The Greatest Gift in the World**

**Ilaria Garavaglia**  
YEAR 5

St Luke's Catholic Primary,  
Revesby



**31. The Journey of a Mother's Love**

**Ashlynn Garnica**  
YEAR 6

St Christopher's Catholic  
Primary, Panania



**32. Blessed Mary's Love**

**Scarlet Haddad**  
YEAR 5

Regina Coeli Catholic Primary  
School, Beverly Hills



**33. Through the Sands of Time**

**Hiruka Hapuarachchi**  
YEAR 5

St John's Catholic Primary  
School, Dubbo



**34. Message from Above**

**Lilly Hawke**  
YEAR 6  
St Joseph's Primary  
School, Molong



**35. The Star of Hope**

**Darcy Haynes**  
YEAR 5  
St Michael's Catholic Primary  
School, Mittagong



**36. The News of Hope**

**Mila Hivnes**  
YEAR 6  
St Therese's Catholic Primary  
School, Denistone



**37. Do Not be Afraid**

**Charley Ho**  
YEAR 6  
St Joseph's Primary  
School, Rockdale



**38. God's Gift to us**

**Scarlett Horne**  
YEAR 6  
St Patrick's Catholic Primary  
School, Kogarah



**39. The Birth of the Holy One**

**Oliver Jessup**  
YEAR 5  
St Columba's Catholic Primary  
School, Leichhardt North



**40. The Annunciation**

**Peyton Johnson**  
YEAR 6  
St Brigid's Catholic Primary  
School, Coonamble



**41. The Annunciation**

**Eva Johnstone**  
YEAR 6  
St Therese's Catholic Primary  
School, Denistone



**42. Joseph takes Mary as his Wife**

**Chelsea Kazzi**  
YEAR 6  
St Joseph's Primary  
School, Rockdale



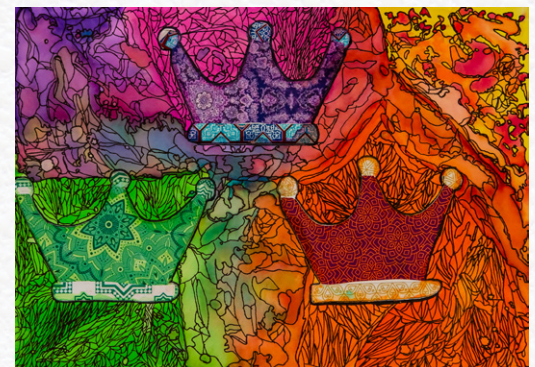
**43. Journey, a Story of Faith**

**Chloe Kovac**  
 YEAR 6  
 Mary Immaculate Catholic  
 Primary School, Eagle Vale



**44. Following the Star**

**Maiia Kurochkina**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Michael's Catholic Primary  
 School, Meadowbank



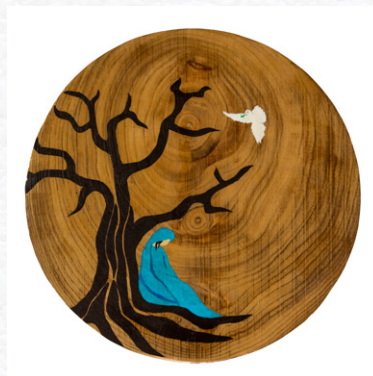
**45. Three Crowns from Three Countries**

**Mikaela Lam**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Ambrose Catholic Primary School,  
 Concord West



**46. The Guiding Star Lights the Way**

**Jayden Lattouf**  
 YEAR 6  
 St John Vianney Catholic  
 Primary School, Greenacre



**47. New Beginnings**

**Danniella Leuzzi**  
 YEAR 6  
 Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary  
 School, Eagle Vale



**48. From First Glance**

**Evelyn Li**  
 YEAR 6  
 Villa Maria Catholic Primary  
 School, Hunters Hill



**49. Wonder**

**Sienna Livermore**  
 YEAR 5  
 Sacred Heart Catholic Primary  
 School, Mosman



**50. Remembering the most Precious Gift of All**

**Sophia Lombardo**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Joseph's Primary School, Como



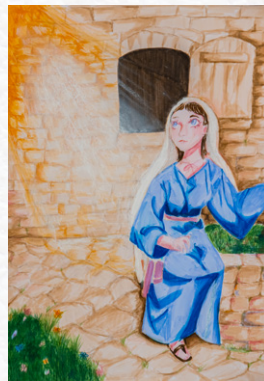
**51. Peace and New Beginning**

**Zoe Macedone**  
 YEAR 5  
 Villa Maria Catholic Primary  
 School, Hunters Hill



**52. The Messiah has Arrived**

**Anne Malhiers**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Justin's Catholic Primary  
 School, Oran Park



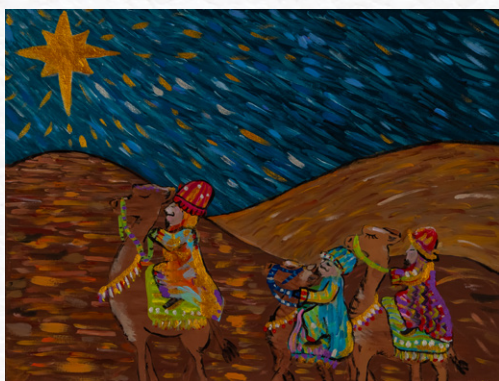
**53. Journey into the Light**

**Isabelle Mansfield**  
 YEAR 6  
 Sacred Heart Catholic Primary  
 School, Mosman



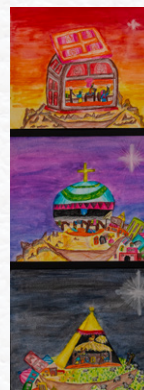
**54. The Chosen One**

**Charlotte Meadley**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Joseph's Catholic Primary  
 School, Oatley



**55. The Journey to the Star**

**Matilda Miskell**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Joseph's Catholic  
 School, Blayney



**56. The Journey**

**Alice Monckton**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Joseph's Catholic Primary  
 School, Como



**57. Love and Spite**

**Keira Nguyen**  
 YEAR 6  
 Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic  
 Primary, Mt Pritchard



**58. The Three Kings from Down Under**

**John Nguyen**  
 YEAR 6  
 Sacred Heart Catholic Primary  
 School, Villawood



**59. Balthasar, Gaspar & Melchior**

**Chloe Olima**  
 YEAR 6  
 Good Samaritan Catholic Primary  
 School, Fairy Meadow



**60. A Journey to a New Life**

**Evan Paras**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Christopher's Catholic Primary  
 School, Panania



**61. Pathway to the Lord**

**Sophia Pham**  
YEAR 6  
Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Primary  
School, Mt Pritchard



**62. Through the Vision of these Eyes**

**Evelyn Poppleton**  
YEAR 6  
St Clare's Catholic Primary  
School, Narellan Vale



**63. God's View**

**Tilly Ray**  
YEAR 5  
St John's Catholic Primary  
School, Dubbo



**64. A King is Born**

**Zoe Reeves**  
YEAR 5  
St Justin's Catholic Primary  
School, Oran Park



**65. A Mother's Love**

**Evelyn Renju**  
YEAR 5  
Carlingford Public School,  
Carlingford



**66. Mary's Gift and Blessing**

**Lana Rivadulla**  
YEAR 6  
St Michael's Catholic  
Primary, Meadowbank



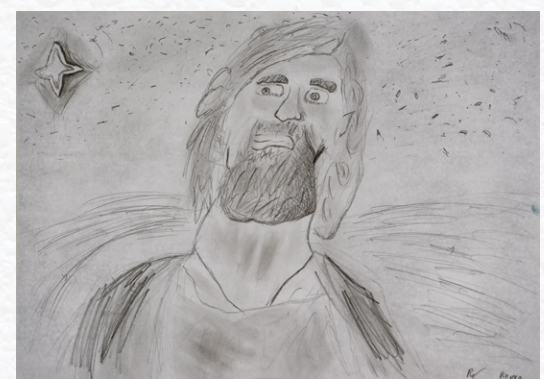
**67. Mary's Dream**

**Alannah Rossetto**  
YEAR 6  
St Matthew's Catholic  
School, Mudgee



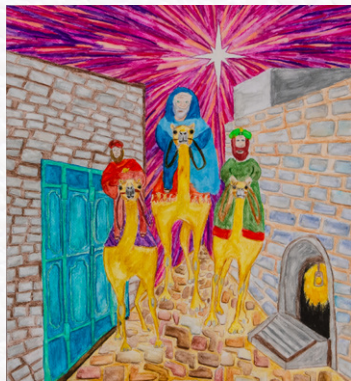
**68. Enveloped**

**Keira Rudder**  
YEAR 6  
Holy Family Catholic Primary  
School, Menai



**69. Joseph's Dream**

**Rocco Russo**  
YEAR 6  
Clemton Park Public  
School, Clemton park



**70. The Momentous Quest**

**Ralph Shannon**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Joseph's Primary  
 School, Molong



**71. Imogen's Star**

**Isaac Stone**  
 YEAR 6  
 Good Samaritan Catholic Primary  
 School, Fairy Meadow



**72. Glory of the Lord**

**Willow Tennant**  
 YEAR 5  
 Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic  
 Primary School, Miranda



**73. The Birth of Jesus**

**Madeline Rose Timbs**  
 YEAR 5  
 Greenway Park Public  
 School, Greenway Park



**74. Bright**

**Emilia Tommasello**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Michael's Catholic Primary  
 School, Meadowbank



**75. Angel's Message**

**Tiffany Touma**  
 YEAR 5  
 Villa Maria Catholic Primary  
 School, Hunters Hill



**76. Embracing Jesus' Family**

**Chloe Tran**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Joseph's Catholic Primary  
 School, Rockdale



**77. Flee to Egypt**

**Falekakala Uepi**  
 YEAR 6  
 Holy Innocents' Catholic Primary  
 School, Croydon



**78. Reflection of the Annunciation**

**Zoey Van Moolenbroek**  
 YEAR 6  
 St John's Catholic Primary  
 School, Dapto



**79. Animals Watching Over**

**Anja Wegrzyn**  
 YEAR 6  
 Earlwood Public School,  
 Earlwood



**80. Fear and Adventure**

**Grace Wood**  
 YEAR 5  
 St Joseph's Catholic Primary  
 School, Molong



**81. The Star of Destiny**

**Angela Wu**  
 YEAR 6  
 Clemton Park Public School,  
 Clemton Park



**82. The Ingress of Our Saviour**

**Vivian Yang**  
 YEAR 6  
 St John's Catholic Primary  
 School, Auburn



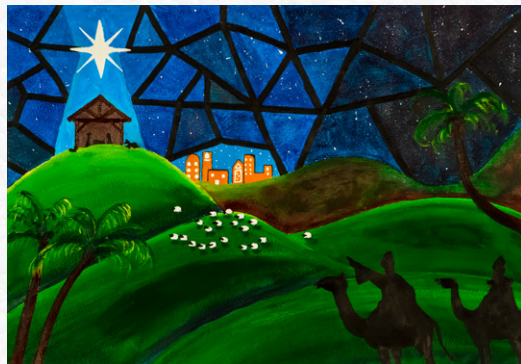
**83. Treasures**

**Sienna Yepes**  
 YEAR 5  
 Holy Family Catholic Primary  
 School, Menau



**84. The New King is Born**

**Mayah Yeung**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Francis Xavier Catholic  
 Primary, Ashbury



**85. Juxtaposition in a Frame**

**Nancy Zhang**  
 YEAR 6  
 St Mel's Catholic Primary  
 School, Campsie



**86. The First Christmas**

**Summer Zhu**  
 YEAR 5  
 Eastwood Public School,  
 Eastwood



*The Christmas Story*