



# CHRISTMAS TIME



- **After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestations, and this takes place in Christmas Time. (Norms #32)**

# Is Christmas one day?



- **Christmas Time runs from First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany or after 6 January.**
- **On the day of the Nativity of the Lord, following ancient Roman tradition, Mass may be celebrated three times, that is, in the night, at dawn and during the day.**

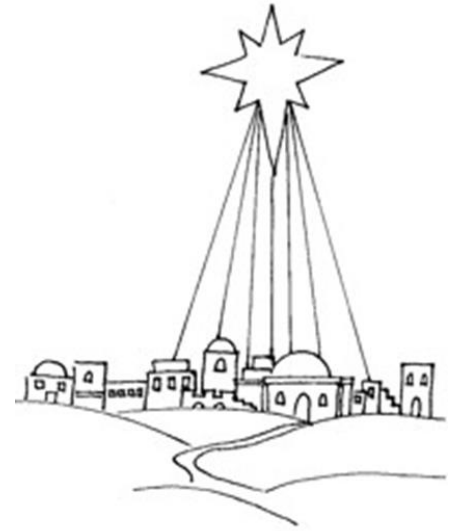
# Is Christmas one day?



The Nativity of the Lord has its own Octave, arranged thus:

- a) Sunday within the Octave or, if there is no Sunday, 30 December, is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph;
- b) 26 December is the Feast of Saint Stephen, the First Martyr;
- c) 27 December is the Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist;
- d) 28 December is the Feast of the Holy Innocents;
- e) 29, 30, and 31 December are days within the Octave;
- f) 1 January, the Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and also the commemoration of the conferral of the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

# Symbols of Christmas Time



# The Christmas Crib



- The tradition of displaying a crèche did not arise until the mid-12th century; it is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, who wanted to emphasize the poor and humble circumstances in which Jesus was born.
- ◦The use and design of crèches reflects a wide variety of artistic and cultural traditions. Some people set up a simple crèche long before Christmas, add more figures as Christmas approaches, with the baby Jesus not placed in the manger until Christmas Eve, and the wise men not arriving until Jan. 6.

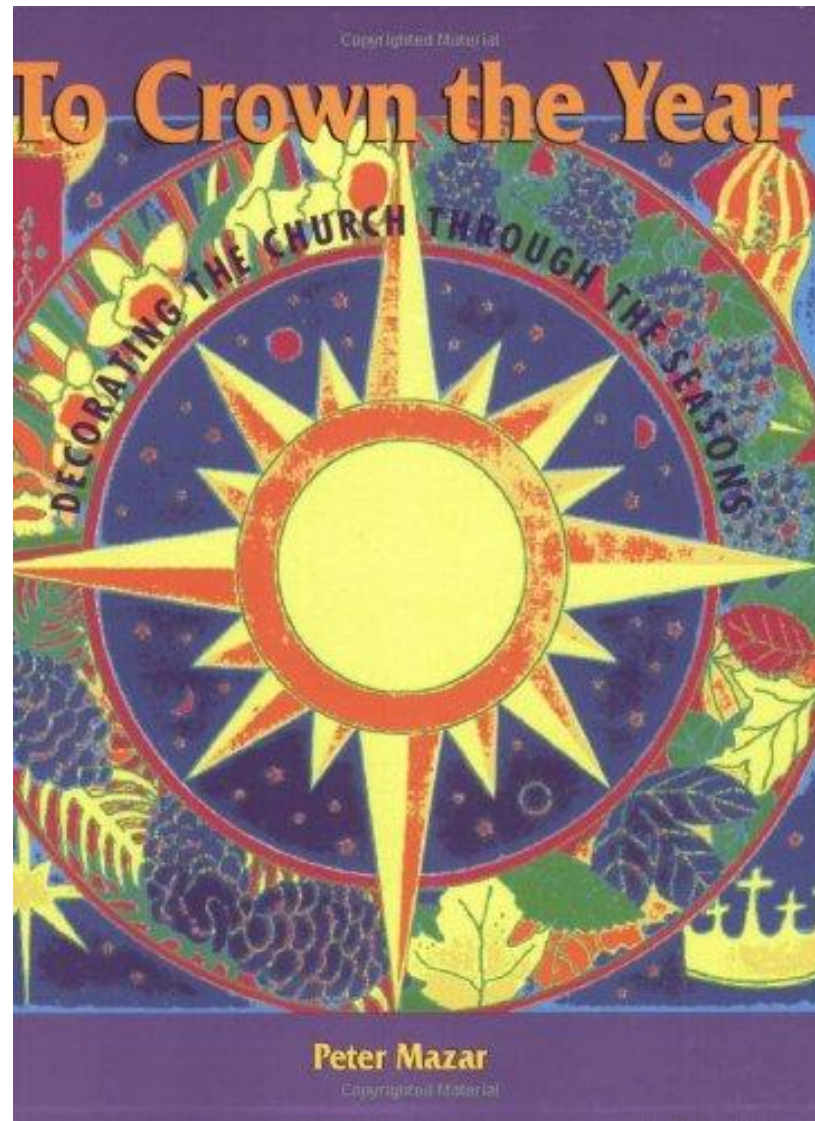
# Colours of Christmas?



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# Sounds of Christmas



- **Sing those carols!**
- **Look for local carols...**
- **careful of balance with choir pieces...**
- **Gloria – after Advent lapse**
- **Psalms...**
- **Sing, even without music, through till Epiphany!**

# Movement in Christmas



- **Procession with baby Jesus**
- **Genuflection during the Creed - At the words of the Incarnation...**
- **Venerating the Crib**
- **Dramas**
- **Other?**

# How do we welcome traditions new to us?



- **Las Posadas (re-enacting the Journey of Mary & Joseph) Nine Day novena from Dec 16-24**
- **Simbang Gabi (tradn. pre-dawn Novena of Masses from Dec 16-24. In NZ evening)**

# Let us stand to sing



**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.**