

Celebrating the Christmas

O The O Antiphons

C Christmas

T Thanksgiving

A Adoration

V Victory

E Emmanuel



The Christmas Octave!



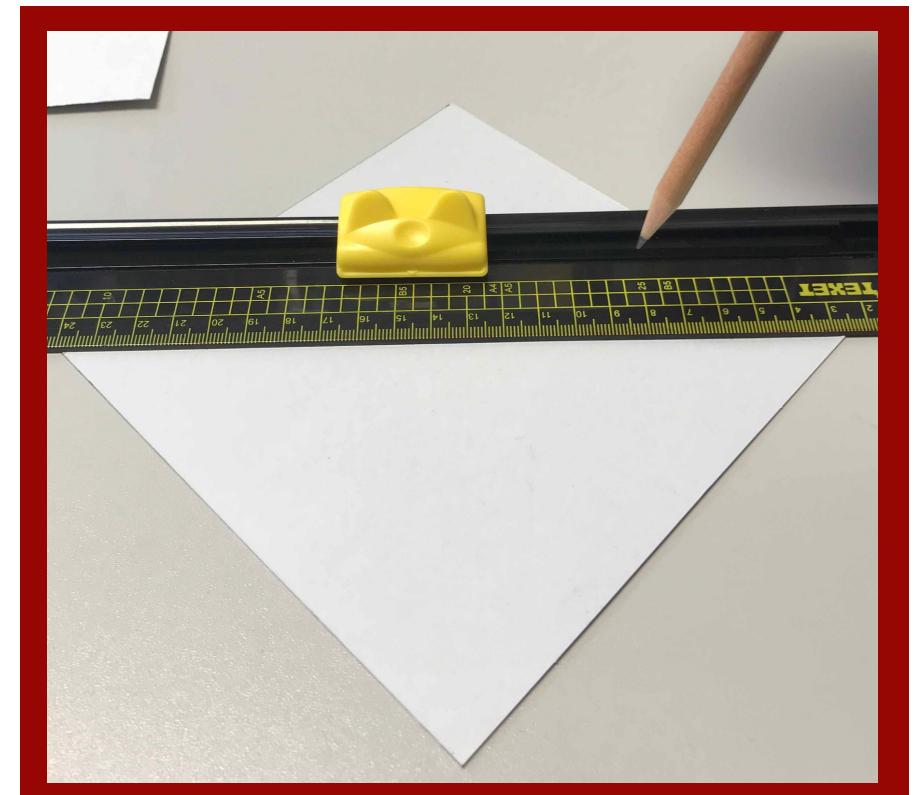
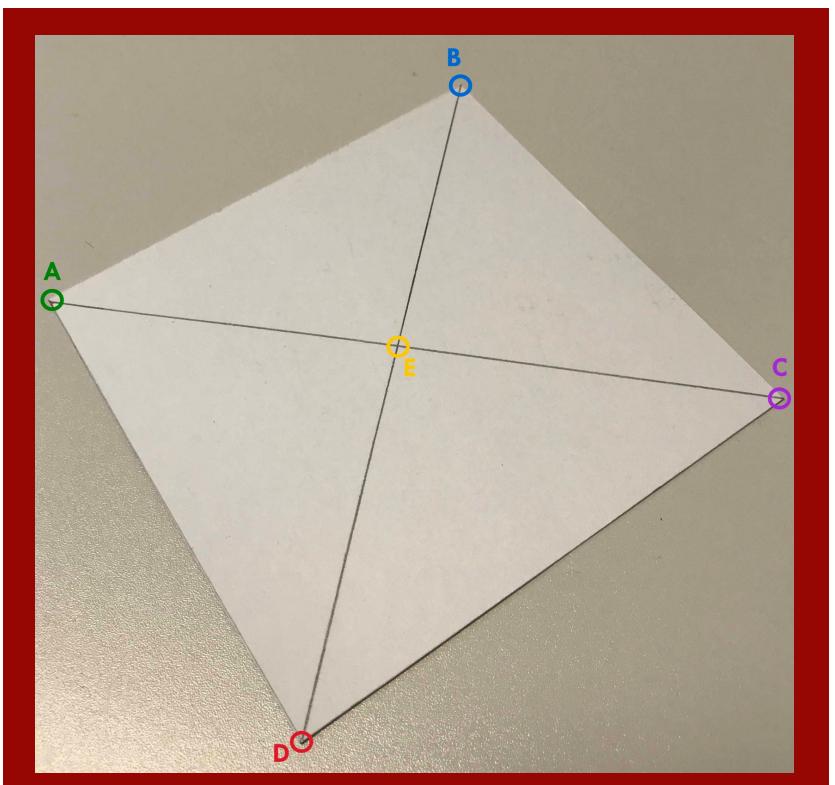
HOW TO MAKE
Christmas Card
Gift Boxes



Before you start, you need to make sure the cards you are using a square. You can always cut down a rectangular card. You need to separate the front of the card from the back and then cut the back square so that it is approximately 0.5cm smaller on each side.

Step 1: Making the Lid

With the card facing down, draw a diagonal line from corner to corner using a ruler.

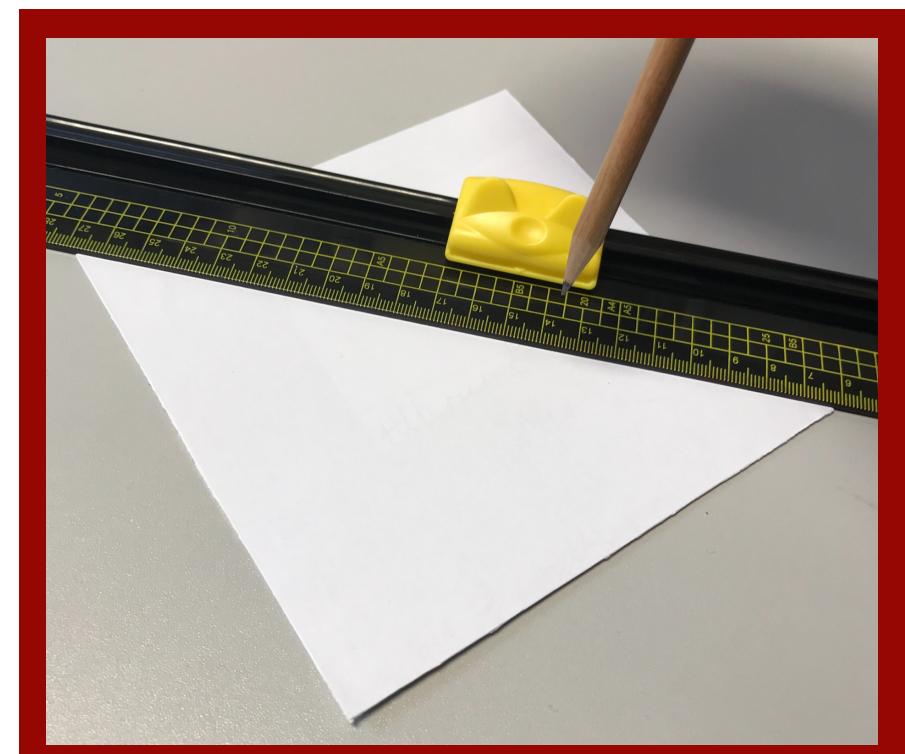
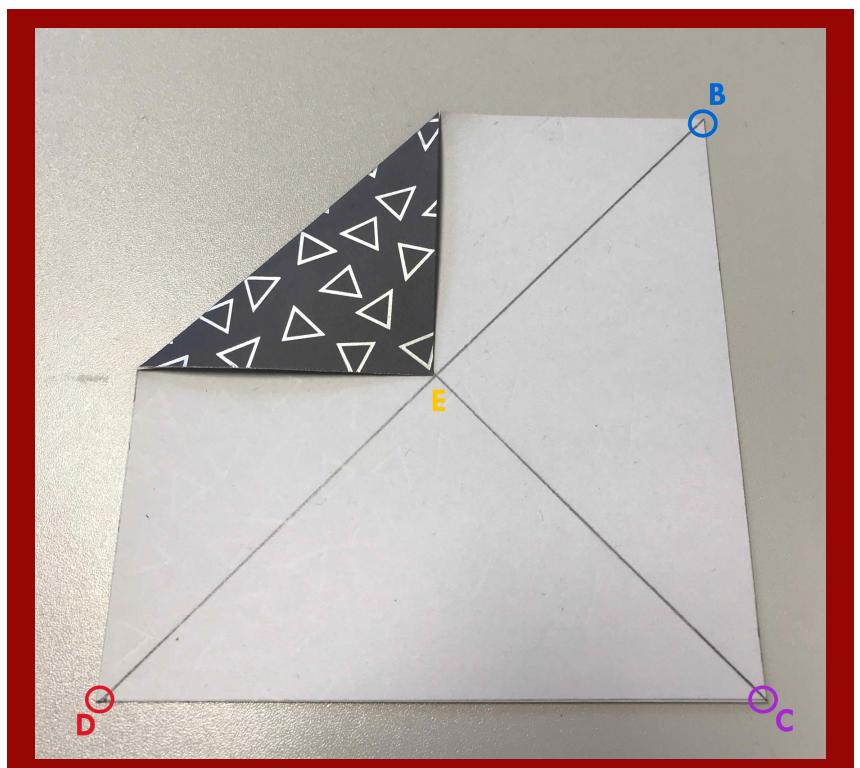


Step 2: Making the Lid

Repeat Step 1 for the other two corners.
This will make a cross on the card.

Step 3: Making the Bottom

To start the bottom of the box, repeat Steps 1 and 2. Draw the lines on the inside of the card/the side where the message is.



Step 4: Making the Lid

Fold Corner A into the centre to Point E.
Make sure that the corner lines up on the line.

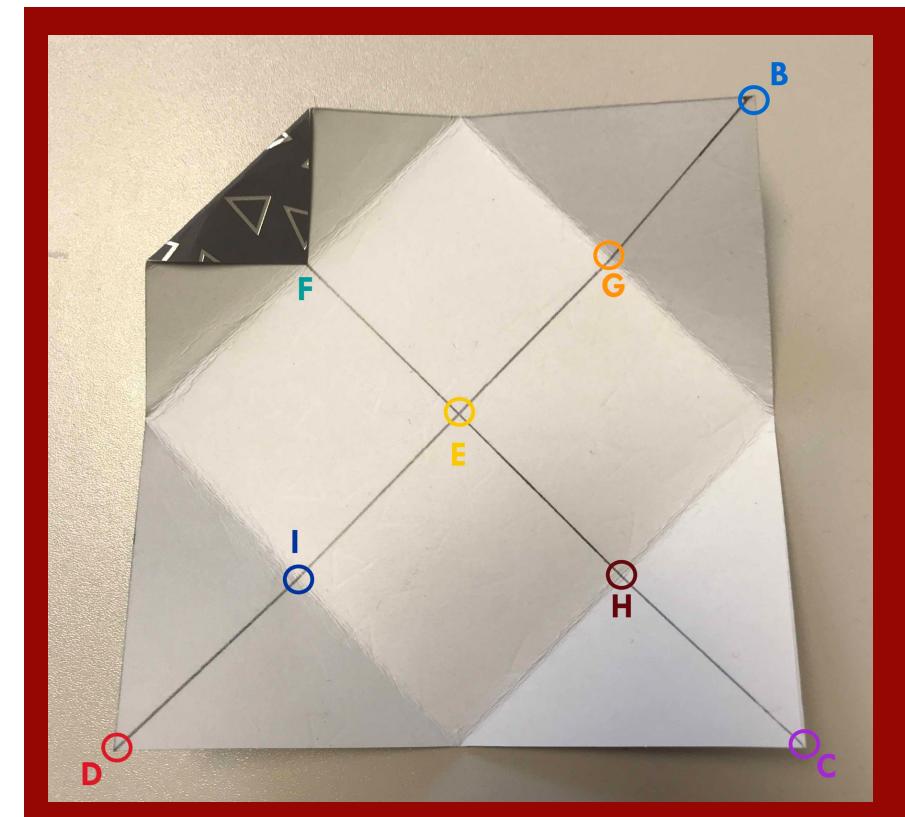
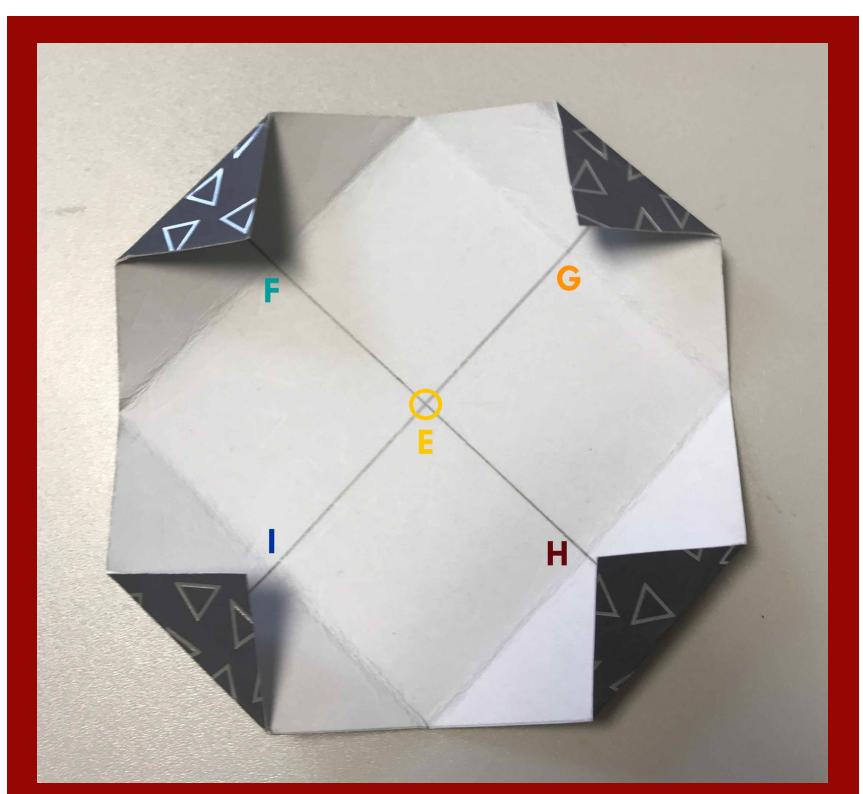
Step 5: Making the Lid

Repeat Step 4 for Corners B, C and D. You will end up with a smaller square. Now unfold the corners ready for the next step.



Step 6: Making the Lid

With the square unfolded, fold Corner A to Point F which is on the crease which was made earlier.

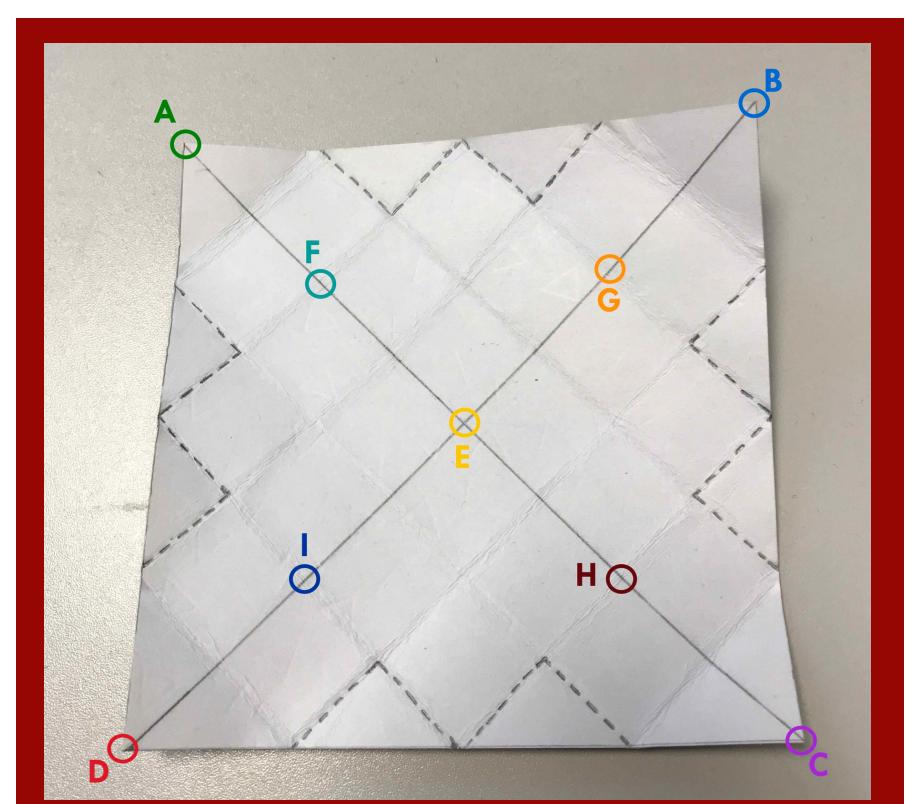
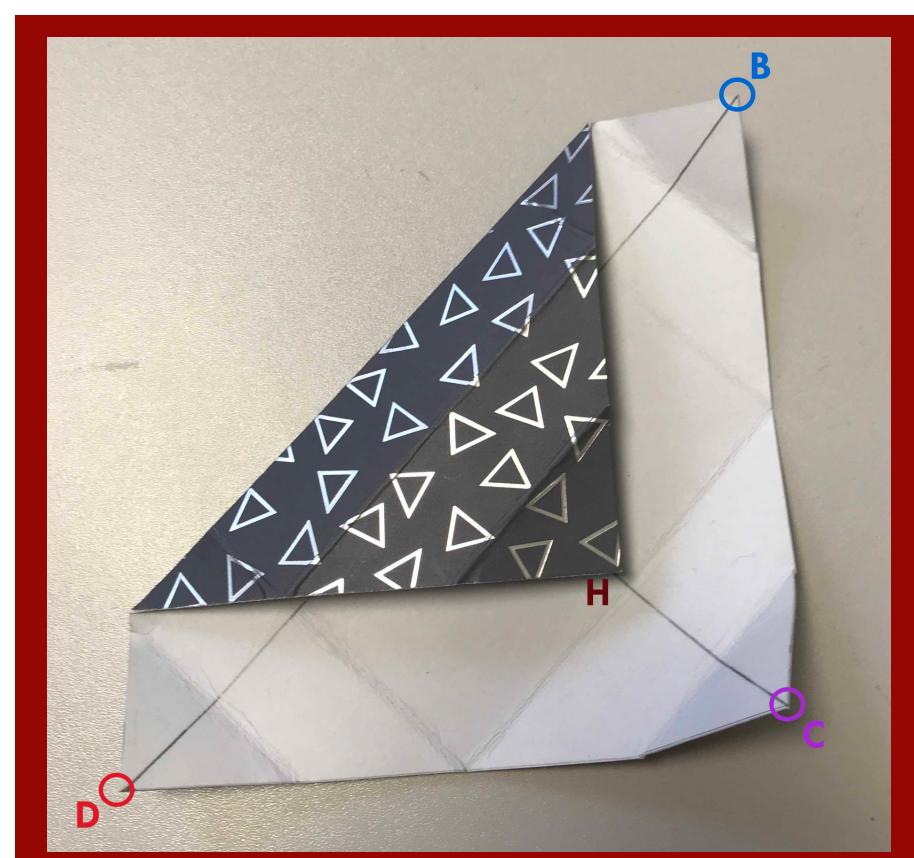


Step 7: Making the Lid

Repeat Step 6 for Corners B, C and D folding them to Points G, H and I respectively.

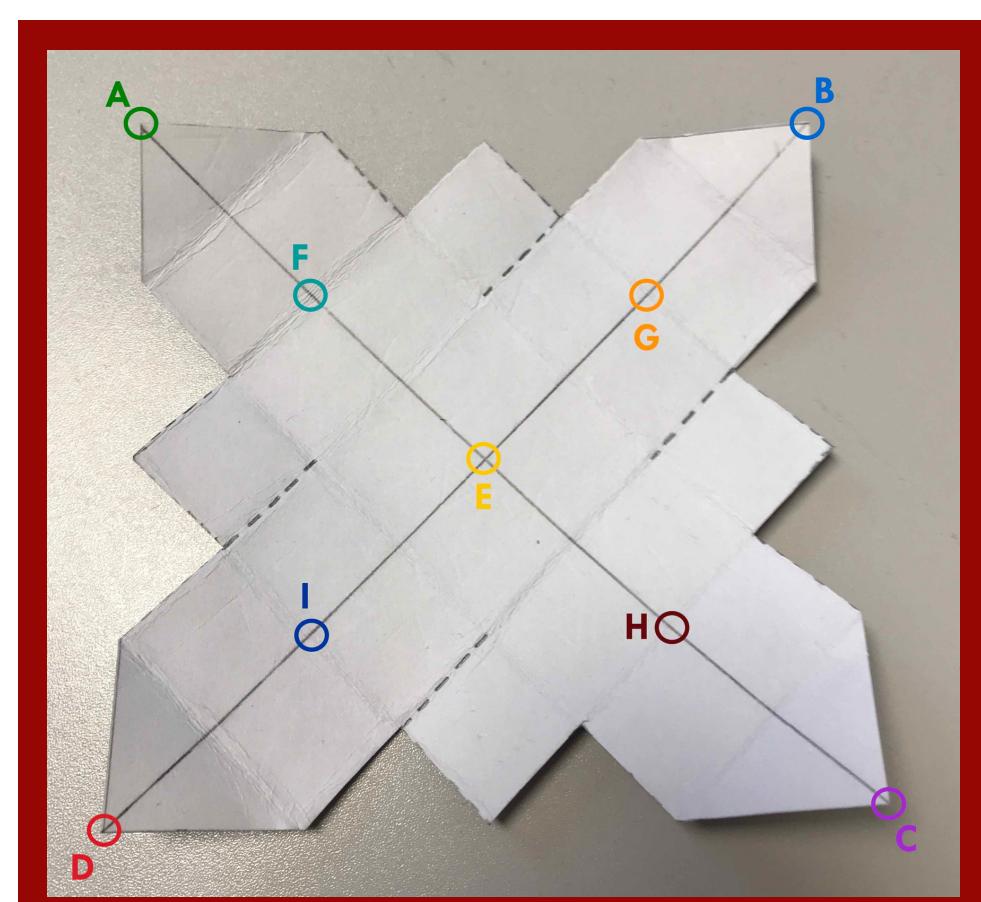
Step 8: Making the Lid

With all the square unfolded, fold Corner A to Point H. Repeat this for all remaining corners, folding Corners B, C and D to Points I, F and G respectively.



Step 9: Making the Lid

Open up the square and you will now see a grid pattern. Cut along the dotted lines on the picture to cut out the little triangles.

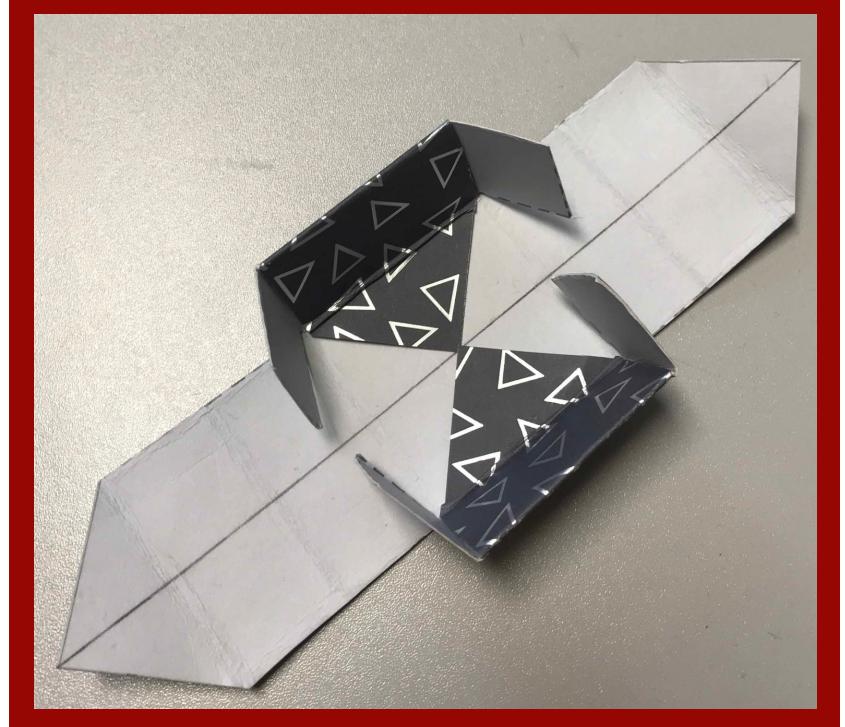
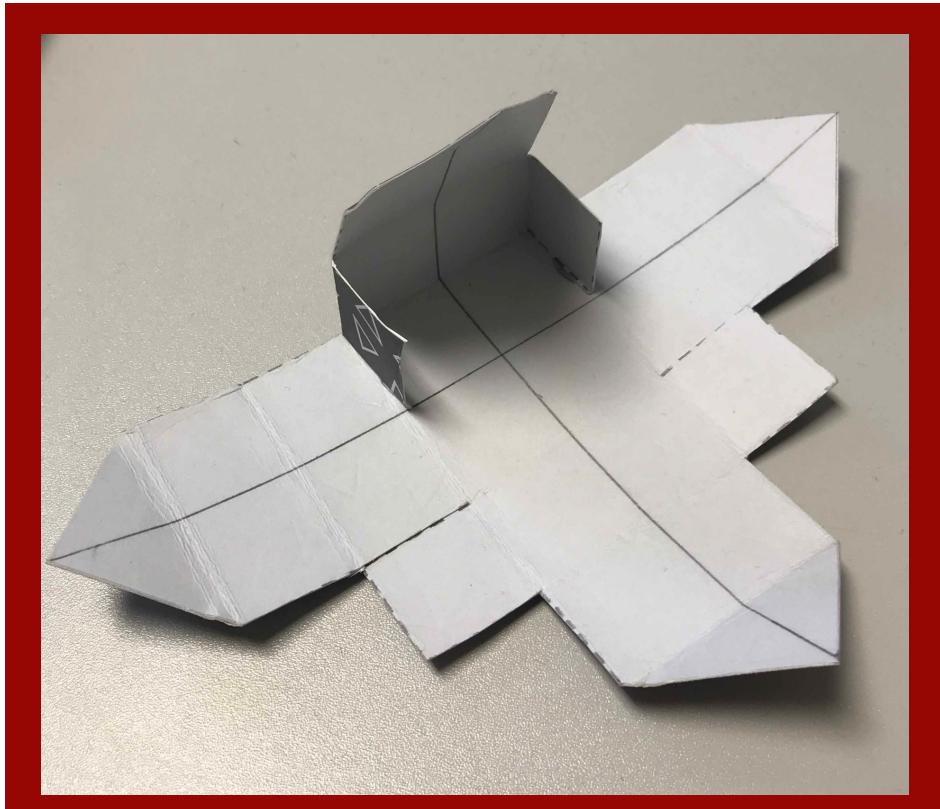


Step 10: Making the Lid

Now the triangles have been cut out you will have a star type shape. Cut along the new dotted lines to create four small flaps. You are now ready to fold the lid together.

Step 11: Making the Lid

Fold the flaps inwards and fold the tab upwards so that one of the sides is up. Then fold down the tab above the flaps so that it is inverted as seen in the next picture.

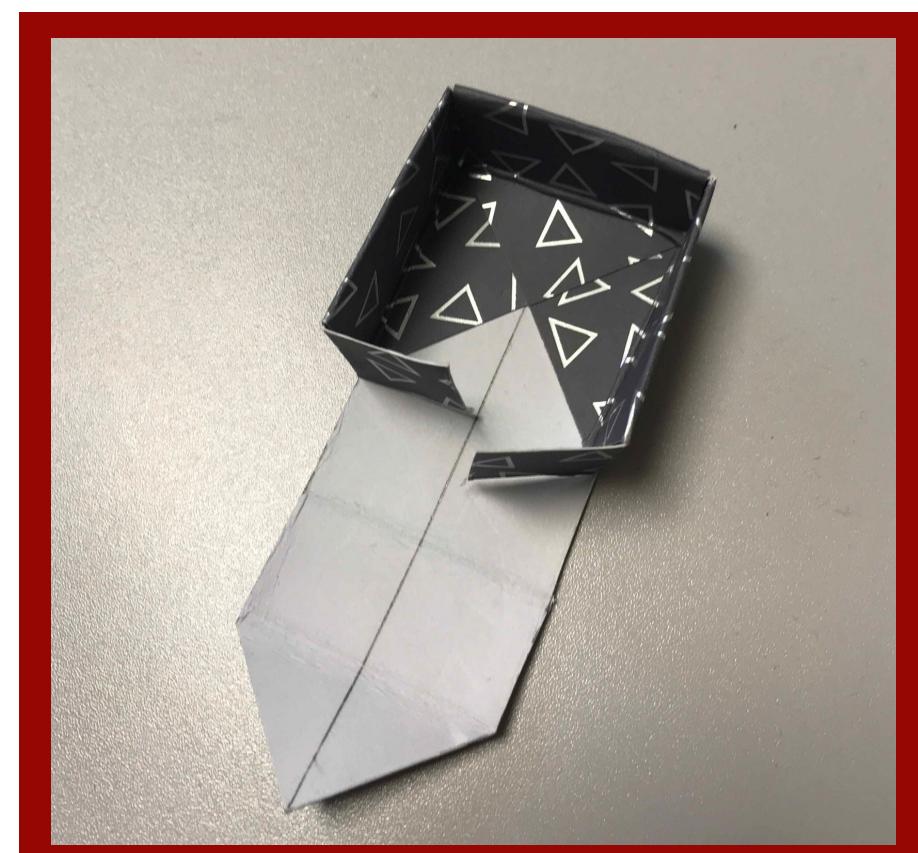


Step 12: Making the Lid

Repeat Step 11 for the opposite side so that you now have two sides folded up and the four flaps are folded inwards, starting the other sides.

Step 13: Making the Lid

Next, fold the next side up and over the flaps so that they are secure and the sides stay up. The sides will begin to become tight. Then repeat this for the remaining side.



Step 14: Making the Bottom

Now that the lid is complete, repeat Steps 4-13 for the bottom card. Remember, this should be smaller by approximately 0.5cm on each side.

Step 15: Finishing the Box

Once both the top and the bottom are complete, they should fit together. The aim is for it to be a snug fit but you shouldn't need to force the two halves together.



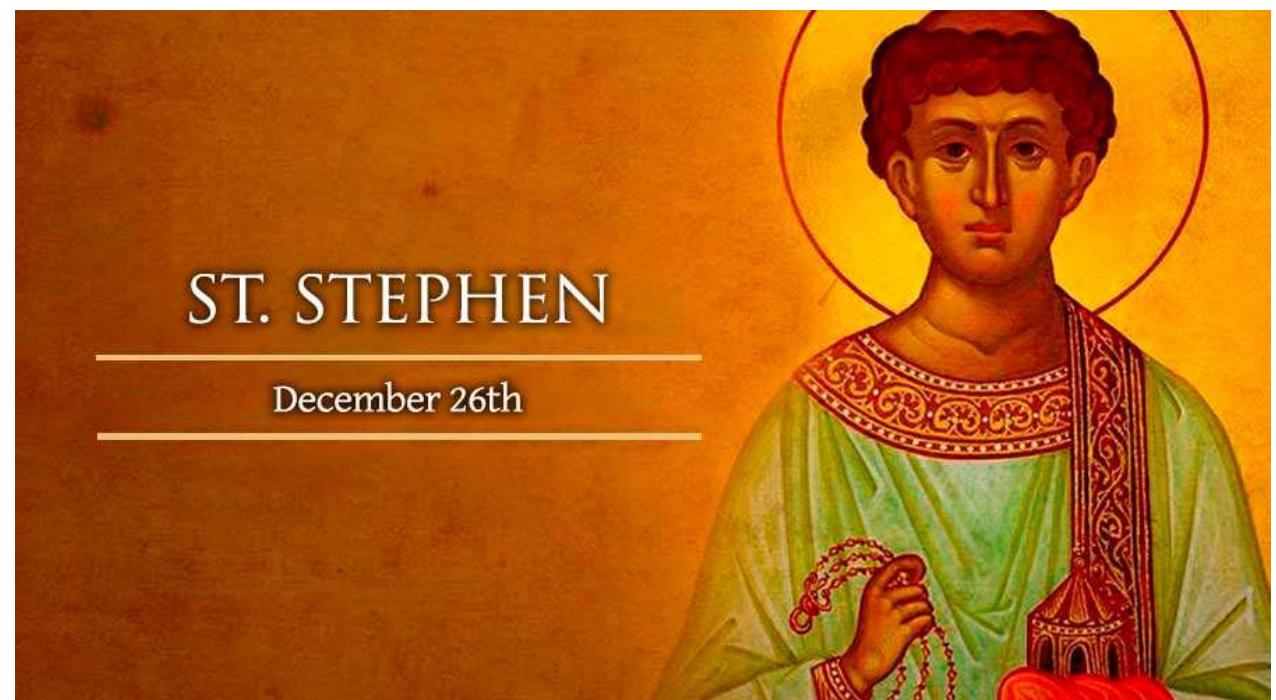
St Stephen

My name is Stephen. I have something important to tell you about Christians. After Jesus Christ had risen from the dead and ascended to His Father, something wonderful happened to the Apostles. Well, they received the gift of God's Holy Spirit. It changed them

from being afraid into people with courage and so they preached the Good News - that Jesus, the Son of God born of the Virgin Mary is risen from the dead, He is our Saviour. He loves us and will always forgive us if we ask Him.

After spending time preaching, the Apostles found they needed some help - help to make sure that poor people had food and clothing and things like that. So that's where I come in. I was chosen to help the Apostles - I became a Deacon. We were the first Deacons in the Christian Church. But I didn't only help the Apostles like Peter and John: I also spoke out for Jesus. I wanted to tell other people how much they are loved by God and that the Lord Jesus is their Saviour. Some people didn't like what I said. But they could not shut me up. I spoke about how the Lord Jesus changes lives and if only we would repent, ask forgiveness, be baptised and join our community. You wouldn't think that anyone would object to that would you? But some important people did and they would put me to death! They took me out of the city and stoned me to death. But something wonderful happened... even while stones were hitting me, I had a vision of Jesus - Jesus in glory. That made me feel so happy. Soon I would be with Jesus! So I could even forgive those who were throwing stones at me. Because Jesus forgave those who crucified Him.

So on the very next day after Christmas... 26th December it is my feast day... St Stephen the first Martyr. Don't call it Boxing Day – call it St Stephen's Day because Christmas is not only about the birth of the infant Jesus – Christmas is about the grown-up Jesus who died for us and rose from the dead at Easter. To follow the Lord Jesus might even mean to die as a martyr. Ever since my death there have been thousands and thousands of martyrs. I, Stephen and all the saints will help you to be loyal to Jesus.



Feast of the Holy Family



Lord, I offer myself to you this day, and I offer You my family. I offer every relationship, good or difficult, and I offer every challenge we face. Please come and bless my family, make us holy like the Holy Family of Nazareth.

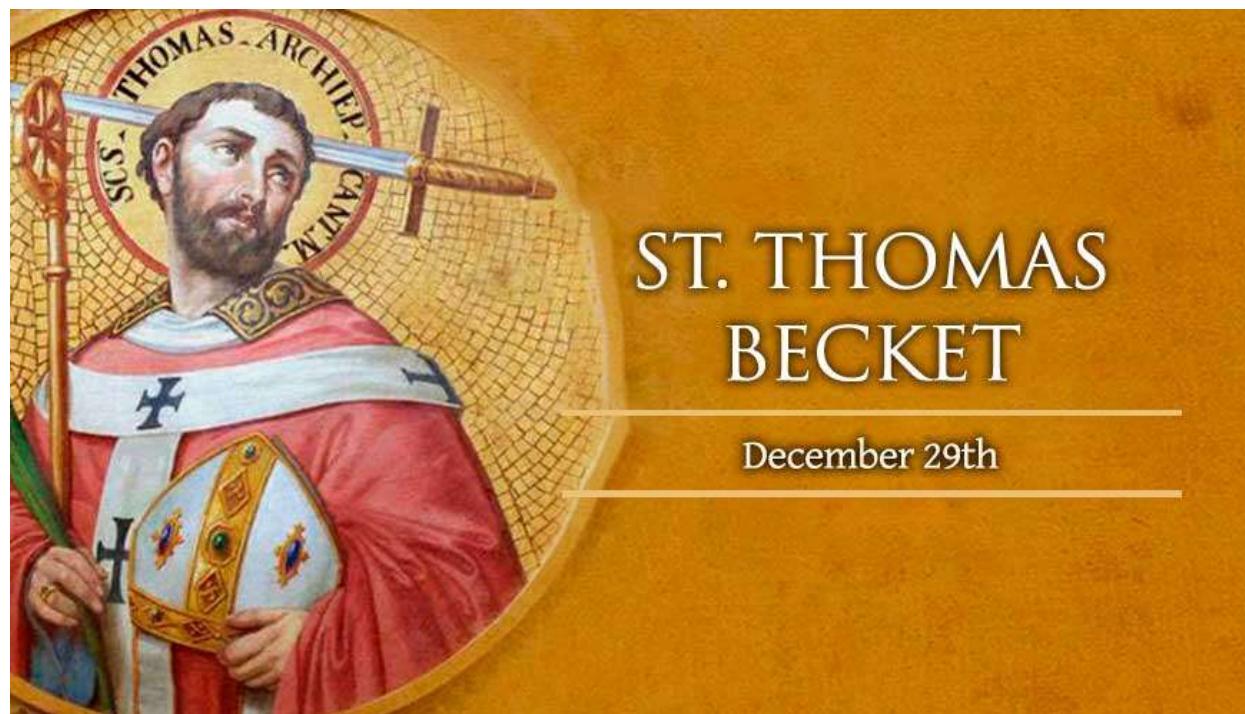
Amen.

Feast of the Holy Innocents



Today, the Church sits in mourning even in the middle of the celebrations. Yes, Jesus our Emmanuel has been born and His presence breaks into the darkness. The Holy Family's flight into Egypt and Herod's massacre of children reminds us of the tragic reality of suffering caused by cruelty and injustice.

St Thomas A Becket



Hello, I am St Thomas of Canterbury. My feast is celebrated in the Christmas season... 29th December. My friend, St Stephen actually lived at the time Jesus was alive on earth. I'm like you. I am a member of the Catholic Church that has handed on the message of Jesus.

Have you heard of Canterbury? I was the Archbishop of Canterbury and like all Bishops my task was to hand on the teachings of the Church, the teaching of Jesus, because as a Bishop I was a successor of the Apostles. I was born in London in 1118, and became friends with the King, Henry 2nd. But a change came when I became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. I realised that I had to take Jesus seriously and that I had the duty to lead my people in the ways of God and especially to be loyal to the Pope.

So things went from bad to worse with King Henry 2nd. I was sent away from England in exile for 6 years and then not long after I had returned, the King, who was in France at the time, lost his temper with me and wanted to get rid of me. So four Knights came to Canterbury and murdered me in the Cathedral.

I must say people in England and in Europe were shocked. People flocked to Canterbury and my shrine became famous. You may have heard about people making pilgrimages to shrines - well the shrine of St Thomas of Canterbury was one of the most famous in Europe. Chaucer wrote about some pilgrims in his "Canterbury Tales."

So what can I tell about the Christmas message? Well, Jesus was put to death because He disturbed the authorities with His teaching. I was put to death because the King didn't like what I was saying. Just 40 years ago another Archbishop was murdered for the same reasons, the authorities were afraid of him so Archbishop Romero was murdered.

The Pope has said that I am the patron saint of priests in England. My feast day is at Christmas to remind us that the Bishops and Priests continue to teach in the name of Jesus and that they are not to be afraid of opposition when it comes to proclaiming the truth.

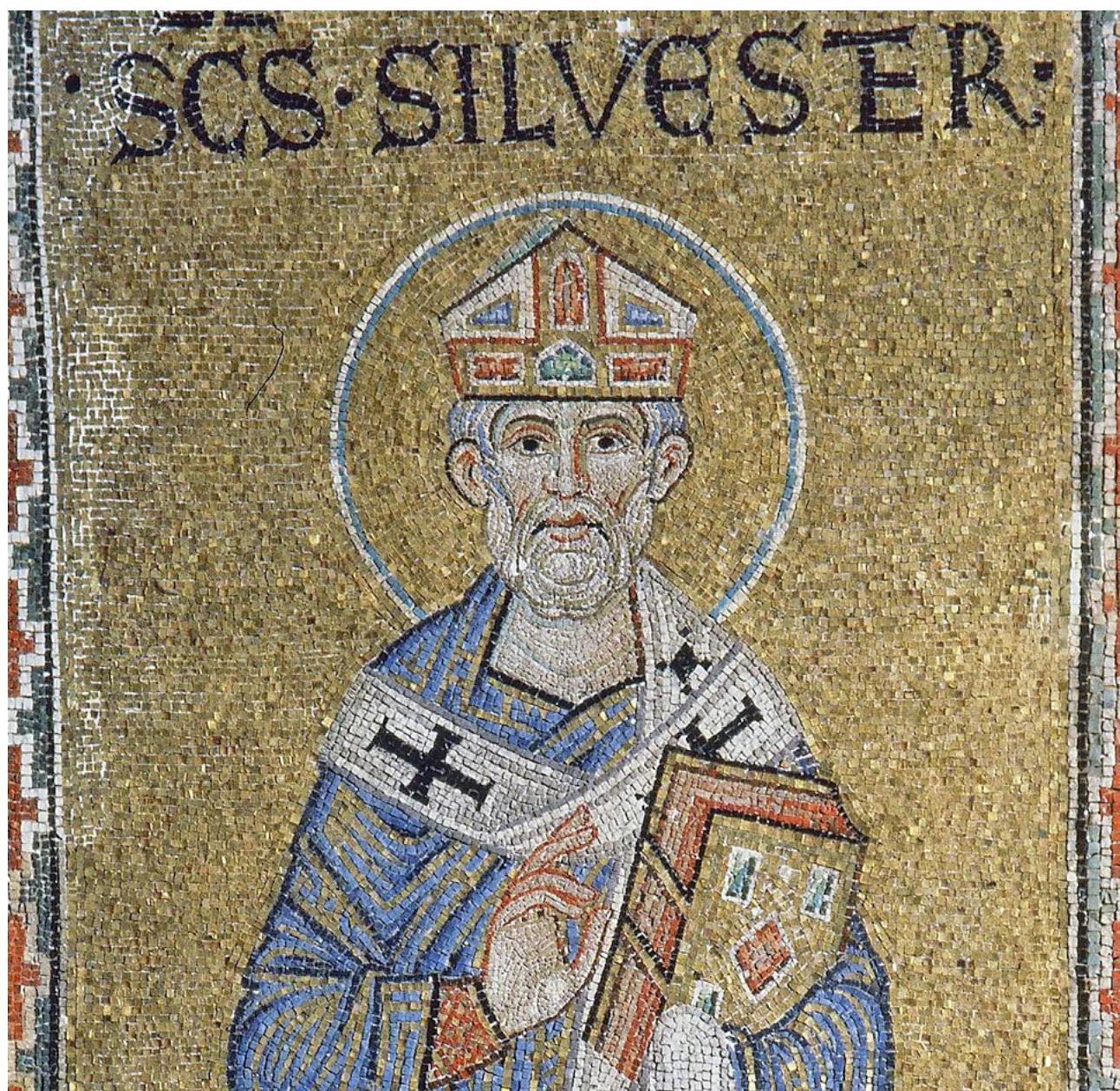
Christmas Octave Day 6



"She (Anna) never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem."

Luke 2:37-38

St Silvester



Hello, I'm St Silvester. I was born in Rome about 250 years after Jesus was born. I was the 33rd Pope and was around when Emperor Constantine became a Christian - he was the first to bring Christianity to the Roman Empire.

The Church was continuing to grow and we had some important things to sort out. There were some important questions about Jesus that needed settling. We had a special meeting called the Council of Nicaea in 325. You know the Nicene Creed (the "I believe") that we say at Sunday Mass? – It was drawn up at that meeting.

At the Council of Nicaea the Church affirmed that Jesus is one with the Father, Jesus is "consubstantial" with the Father. God Himself became human – the Church affirmed the Incarnation.

And that's what we celebrate at Christmas - God loves us so much that He took flesh. Emmanuel - God with us.

Mary Mother of God



SOLEMNITY OF
MARY, MOTHER
OF GOD

January 1st

A solemnity is a feast of the highest importance in our Church. Today we celebrate Mary, Mother of God - the young woman whose yes brought our Saviour into the world. She has many names and at Christmas we remember that she gave birth to the Prince of Peace. As we step into 2021 let us remember that we do so with the Queen of Peace.