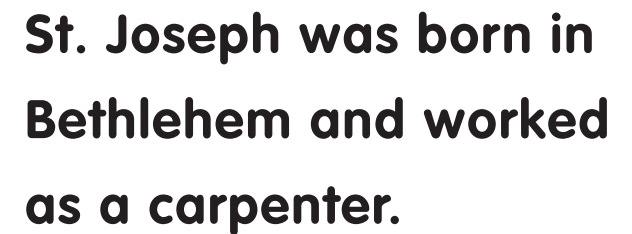


St. Joseph

St. Joseph is the feast day of the husband of the Virgin Mary. A descendant of probably the greatest of the Hebrew kings, David, he was a pious carpenter. He married Mary in obedience to an angel's instructions from God, journeyed to Bethlehem where Jesus was born and then took his family to Egypt to protect the boy from Herod. Joseph is honoured by Catholics and Anglicans, and is patron saint of the Church, families, workmen and the dying.

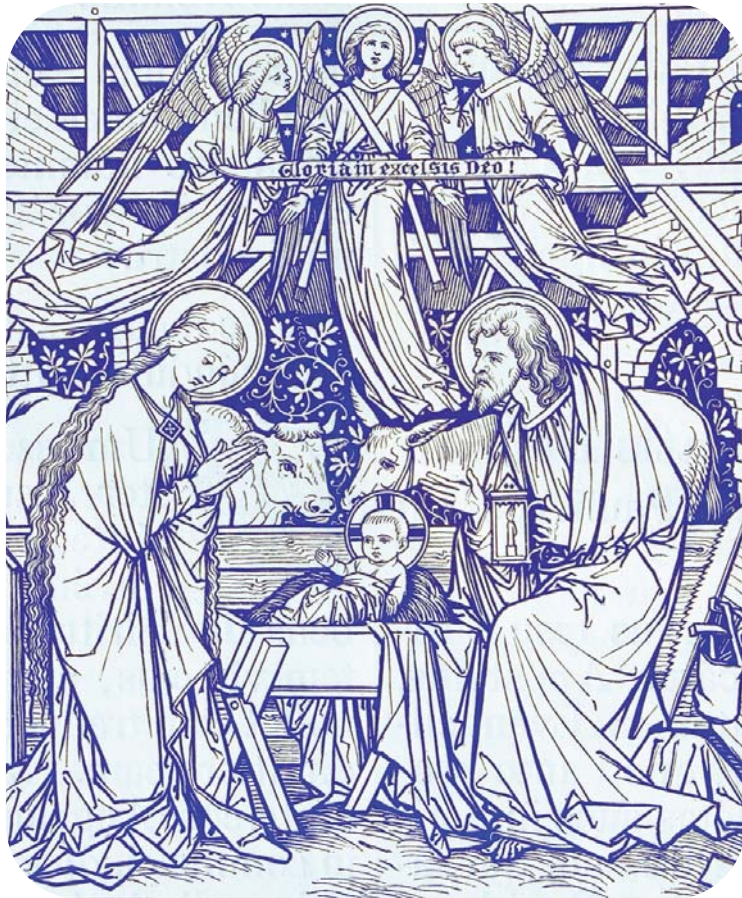


- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
What was your favourite part?
St Joseph was a carpenter, what did he do?
What sort of tools would he use?
- ③ What sort of things can be made from wood? Look at a tree and see how wood is produced.
- ④ Joseph was obedient, what do you understand by obedience?
- ⑤ What happens when you are disobedient?



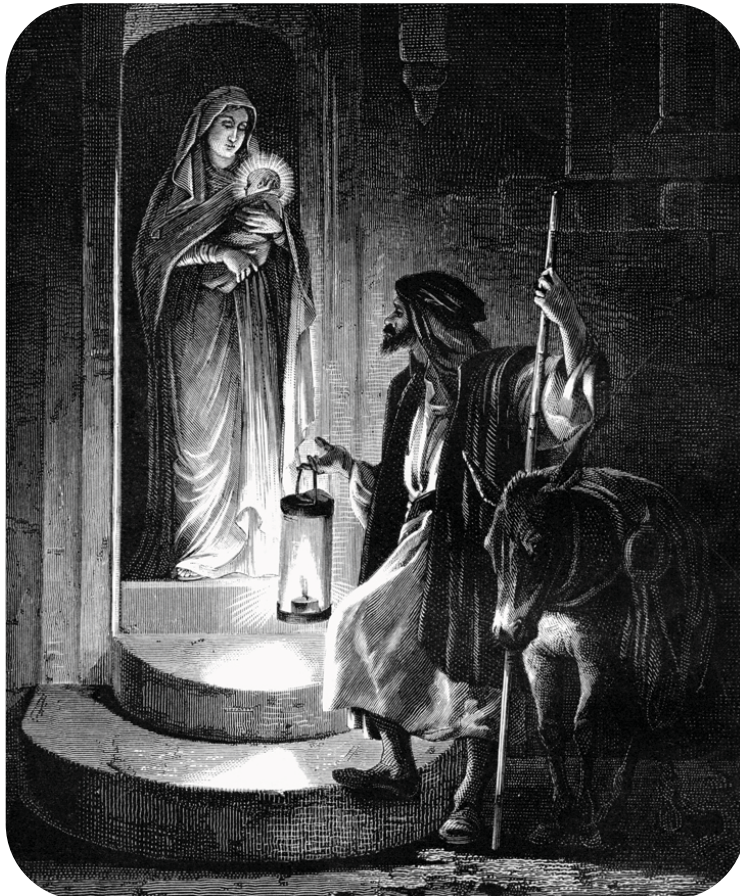


This was an occupation he later passed on to his Son (Mark 6:3: "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joseph, and Jude, and Simon? are not also his sisters here with us?").



He became betrothed to Mary, a consecrated Virgin, in order to serve as her protector.

Apocryphal writings indicate that Joseph was an older man at the time, and was a widower with grown-up children, but there is no way to know for certain.



**He had to travel from
Nazareth to Bethlehem
to be taxed so Jesus
was born in Bethlehem.**



**Joseph was warned
in a dream to take
the baby Jesus to
Egypt to escape
Herod who was
killing all the babies.**