

St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was a 4th century bishop in Myra, in Asia Minor. There are many stories about him, but the best known are the ones about him tossing bags of silver into the house of a poor residence of the city to provide for the man's daughters' dowries. Also the rescuing of shipwrecked sailors, and the restoration to life of three murdered children. These led to him being the patron saint of sailors and children. The gift-bearing Santa Claus is partly based on the legends and on those of the Germanic god of fire, Thor. Nicholas died on 6th Dec and in many parts of Europe, children still receive gifts on 6 December rather than on Christmas Day.



- 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 part of the story did you like?
What part of the story didn't you like?
Which pictures did you like and why?
- 3 Talk to the children about presents they like to give, and presents they like to receive.
- 4 Ask the children to draw some pictures of Santa Claus. You will find a blank template and some colouring in sheets in the St. Nicholas and Christmas sections on iChild.
- 5 Ask the children to read the poem about St. Nicholas by Clement Clarke Moore, found on iChild.

The Story of St. Nicholas



Nicholas was born in Turkey. His parents were very rich and died when he was young, leaving him a lot of money.



He decided to use this money to help others and to follow the example of Jesus. He became a bishop and was well known for being generous.



St. Nicholas was put in prison for his faith, but was later released.



He helped a poor man with three daughters. Each daughter had to have some money in order to get married. St. Nicholas provided the money secretly.



**There are many
more stories about
St. Nicholas.
Another example is
when he rescued
shipwrecked sailors.**



St. Nicholas died on 6th Dec, which is now his Saint day.