

Christmas



Religious Education KS1
Christianity

Christmas



The celebration of the birth of Jesus is marked with many services in churches, and traditional family gatherings. It is customary to depict the nativity in model forms, under or near Christmas trees in churches and some homes. Both churches and homes are decorated with evergreen trees, as the symbols of everlasting life. Feasting and exchanges of gifts have long been the order of the day. Though some traditions would have the exchange of gifts immediately after the Midnight Mass, others, especially those to servants, were done on the following day, often in Christmas boxes, hence 'Boxing' Day.





Mary and Joseph made the long journey from Nazareth where they lived, to Bethlehem, so they could pay their taxes.





When they arrived in Bethlehem they could not find anywhere to stay. Eventually an innkeeper helped them by letting them stay in his cattle shed at the back of the Inn.





During the night Mary gave birth to her son.





The angels told the shepherds' in the fields to go to Bethlehem, to see the special child that had been born.





Later, 3 Kings came because they saw a bright star that told them a special baby had been born. They gave the baby special gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.





These gifts had special meanings:
Gold for a King,
Frankincense for God and
Myrrh for Death; as Jesus was to die for the sins of everyone.





Questions

Discuss with the children what part of the story they liked best and why?

Talk to the children about how Mary might have felt after her long journey, and having nowhere to stay. Talk about the stable, how comfortable or uncomfortable it would have been. How do the children feel when they are cold?

Mary and Joseph had some unexpected visitors. Ask the children who they like to visit them.

The Kings bought Jesus some presents. Get the children to find out what the gifts were, learn their words and their meanings. Ask the children which gifts/presents they like to receive.

Additional stories and supporting activities about the Christmas season, can be found under St. Nicholas and St. Boniface on iChild. You'll also find plenty of resources within the Christmas section.

