

## **Activities for Juniors.**

- **You can learn about the first Christmas Day.**

Today is very special because we greet Jesus as he came into the world as a baby.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was born in a stable, a very lowly place, as if he was not special at all. His parents, Mary and Joseph, would have been very happy to meet him, but also it would have been a day of surprises for them. They had visitors.

When Jesus was born there were special signs to let people know that God was doing something amazing. A bright star had appeared in the sky and it shined over the place to mark where Jesus was born.

Angels appeared at night to shepherds and told them about Jesus. The shepherds were so impressed they just had to rush to see this new baby. The whole experience made them realise that the baby was someone very special.

The shepherds visited Jesus and his parents in the stable. They found the baby there just as the angels had said they would. The shepherds were the first people to meet Jesus and recognise that he was someone very special; they trusted the angels' message.

Our story is from Luke's gospel book. It tells of Jesus' birth. Read the story and find out what the angels said to the shepherds to make them rush to be the first to visit the baby.

- **You can read the story as it is told in the gospel book of Luke.**

About this time Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor, decreed that a census, a count of the people, should be taken throughout the nation. (This census was taken when Quirinius was the governor of Syria.)

Everyone had to return to his ancestral home to be counted. Joseph was a member of King David's family so he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea which was King David's ancient home. He travelled there from the village of Nazareth which is in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was expecting a baby.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.

That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared among them, and the landscape shone bright with the glory of the Lord. They were very frightened, but the angel reassured them.

“Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem! How will you recognize him? You will find a baby wrapped in a blanket, lying in a manger!”

Suddenly, the angel was joined by many, many others and they were all praising God:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,” they sang, “and peace on earth to all those who love him.”

- **You can think about the reading.**

Our story today tells us that this very special baby was born in a very lowly place and visited first by very lowly people – shepherds were thought to be rough and dirty and not very nice in those days, certainly not important people.

God sent his Son to ordinary people, people like us. This Christmas Day we remember that God sends his Son to show us his love for everybody, whoever they are.

We give each other gifts to remind us that God gave the gift of his Son to the world so that we would know just how much God loves us. The gifts we share with our families and friends show how much we love each other.

Today we light the last candle on our Advent Ring, the white one in the centre. This candle is to remind us of the gift of Jesus at Christmas. We label this candle “**Jesus**”.



There are no wordsearches or colouring or other activities for today. The most important thing to do today is to be a part of your family, to share the special warmth of Christmas, just like the shepherds must have felt that first Christmas Day.

**Have a very  
Happy  
Christmas**