

The First Christmas



The Annunciation

For our young parishioners



About two thousand years ago, in a town called Nazareth, there lived a young lady named Mary. Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph who was a carpenter.

One day an angel appeared before Mary. The angel told her not to be afraid because he had been sent by God. The angel told Mary that God had chosen her to have a very special baby and that his name would be Jesus.

The angel said that the baby would grow up to be a great man and would be the 'Son of God'.

Joseph's Dream



Mary told her news to Joseph who was full of wonder, but a little afraid. That night Joseph had a dream. An angel appeared to Joseph saying,

' Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For God has chosen her and blessed her to give birth to His very own Son. And this child shall be named Jesus.'

Joseph awoke from his dream and knew everything would be all right. He would marry Mary and take care of her and the precious baby Jesus.

Journey to Bethlehem

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem as a law had been passed saying that everyone must travel to their birthplace to have their names registered for taxes. Joseph had been born in Bethlehem.

After a long tiring journey, they reached the town of Bethlehem.

Mary knew it was time for God's Son to be born and she needed a place to rest. Many people had also come to register their names. Joseph searched the whole town but could not find a place for them to stay.



Jesus is Born



At last they found shelter. A kind inn keeper showed them a place where they could stay. A stable, where a few hours later, the 'Son of God' was born.

Just as the angel had told them, they named him Jesus. The 'Son of God' born in a simple stable. Mary wrapped Jesus in strips of soft cloth, then gently laid Him in a wooden manger.

The Shepherds

At the same time some shepherds were keeping watch over their sheep on the hills outside Bethlehem. When suddenly a bright light appeared before them and they were very afraid.

It was the light of an angel sent by God. The angel said,

'Do not be afraid, God has sent me to tell you great news!

This very day, a Saviour is born in Bethlehem!

You will find Him lying in a manger.'



Finding Jesus

The shepherds left the hillside and quickly went to Bethlehem. On arrival at the stable they were filled with joy. They found baby Jesus lying in a manger, as the angel said.

The shepherds knelt to worship Him. They told Mary and Joseph how an angel had appeared to them and told them that Jesus was to be the 'Saviour of the World'.



Everyone in the parish wishes you



A Very Happy
and Joyous Christmas!

