

Advent and christmas

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**The Joyful Mysteries**

Rosary

The examples of worship in this booklet include the first three Joyful Mysteries as they link perfectly to the theme of Advent and Christmas. Pupils may also feel comfortable with this type of prayer if it is one they are used to. The most important note to remember is that it should be meaningful and help lead pupils into a deeper relationship with Christ.

The Joyful Mysteries

*The Annunciation
The Visitation
The Nativity
The Presentation
The Visit of the Wise Men*

Each mystery consists of:

* 1 x Our Father
* 10 x Hail Marys
* 1 x Glory Be

NOTES: During Adoration there could be:

* A decade of the Rosary
* Some traditional prayers (e.g. Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be…)
* Spontaneous prayers
* Prayers written by children
* SILENCE

**The choice will depend on the age/ability of the pupils as well as time.**

The examples of worship provided here follow a simple structure but the content can be amended as appropriate (e.g. pupils could write their own prayers, the whole piece of scripture could be used, different songs could be chosen by pupils).

**The Annunciation**

**Gather:** Kneel and make the sign of the cross

Sing:*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came…*

***We listen to God speaking to us in a reading from the Gospel of Luke

Listen:***During Elizabeth’s sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, “Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you.”

The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High.

Mary said, “I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!” Then the angel went away.

***Having listened to God speaking to us, think how we might respond.***

***Respond:***By the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary carried the baby Jesus in her womb. She was the very first tabernacle. Mary obeyed God and brought Jesus into the world. How can you bring Jesus’ love to others?*(Pause for silent reflection)*

**Litany:** RESPONSE: **Holy Mary, pray for us**

(1) For all of our mothers and grandmothers

(2) For parents who are expecting babies
(3) For the babies who are not yet born
(4) For those who have chosen to adopt or foster children

(5) For our fathers and grandfathers
(6) For those who have been given difficult jobs to do for God

(7) For those who are struggling with their faith in God

(8) For all those who are worried or afraid

**Mission:** Go out to bring Jesus’ love to others.

**The Visitation**

**Gather:** Kneel and make the sign of the cross

Sing:*We greet you, Hail Mary, full of grace, because the Lord is with you…*

***We listen to God speaking to us in a reading from the Gospel of Luke

Listen:***At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!”

***Having listened to God speaking to us, think how we might respond.***

***Respond:***As soon as the baby in Elizabeth’s womb recognised Jesus, he jumped for joy. How can you recognise Jesus? How do you respond in his presence?(Pause for silent reflection)

**Litany:** RESPONSE: **Holy Mary, pray for us**

(1) That we will put others’ needs before our own

(2) That we will help the sick and elderly
(3) That we will be faithful to God in prayer
(4) That we will recognise Jesus and his good news

(5) That we will be a good example to others
(6) That we will be joyful in God’s presence

(7) That we will put our faith into action

(8) That we will never give up believing in God

**Mission:** Go out to bring joy to others.

**The Nativity**

**Gather:** Kneel and make the sign of the cross

Sing:*Away in a Manger…*

***We listen to God speaking to us in a reading from the Gospel of Luke***

***Listen:***While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed. That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David’s town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.”

***Having listened to God speaking to us, think how we might respond.***

***Respond:***God came to earth as a tiny baby and his crib was a feeding box for animals. This shows that God is humble and gentle. How can you be humble for the sake of others?

**Litany:** RESPONSE: **All the angels pray for us**

(1) For all new-born babies

(2) For shepherds and all those who look after animals
(3) For the poor in our society
(4) For those who are outcasts or who feel alone

(5) For those who are sad and are waiting on good news

(6) For those who are finding life difficult and are in need of hope

(7) For those who don’t feel wanted or loved

(8) For gentleness and humility of heart

**Mission:** Go out to think of others’ needs before your own.

**At home**

**Happy birthday, Jesus!**

***What can I give him, poor as I am
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet, what can I give him?
Give my heart.***

Look at the words from famous Christmas song/poem above (by Christina Rossetti). How could you give Jesus your heart this Christmastime? (think of your time, energy, thoughts, prayers, deeds).

Draw/write below.

Write a prayer for your family/parish this Christmastime.