

# CHILDREN'S MASS - CHRISTMAS VIGIL - CHRISTMAS EVE

## DRAMA TO PREPARE PEOPLE TO HEAR THE GOSPEL

Characters:

Name:

Telephone number:

Innkeeper 1		
Joseph		
Innkeeper 2		
Innkeeper 3		
Mary		
Storyteller 1		
Storyteller 2		
Shepherd 1		
Shepherd 2		
Shepherd 3		
Shepherd 4		

Properties:

- **Costumes for characters. (Consider how storytellers might be dressed)**
- **Manger with straw or shredded yellow paper.**(particularly if hay fever is an issue for some)
- **Doll wrapped in swaddling clothes.**
- **Toy sheep**
- **2 simple backdrops - one for the stable and one for the paddock scene. These might be constructed from brown paper and taped back to back (one upside down) so the scene change can be effected by flipping between the two. Note there will be limited space on the sanctuary.**

<b>Innkeeper 1</b>	<b>Sorry. We have no rooms</b>	
<b>Joseph</b>	<b>Not even an attic</b>	
<b>Innkeeper 1</b>	<b>Nothing. The whole town is filled with people coming to be registered.</b>	
<b>Innkeeper 2</b>	<b>We're full</b>	<b>Innkeepers move away</b>
<b>Joseph</b>	<b>(going to another Inn) This one is taking forever to answer. It's hopeless.</b>	
<b>Innkeeper 3</b>	<b>You must be the tenth one we've turned away in the last hour. Sorry. (Innkeeper mimes closing door)</b>	<b>Innkeeper moves away.</b>
<b>Mary</b>	<b>Joseph, there's a stable over there in the corner of that paddock. Let's go over there. We'll make a little space for ourselves. We'll be comfortable enough.</b>	
<b>Joseph</b>	<b>Mary, let me try one more street. I want you to have a proper place.</b>	
<b>Mary</b>	<b>I'll be all right in the stable. Really I will. Anyway, Joseph, there isn't any more time. The baby is coming now. Take me over there (points to stable)</b>	<b>Innkeepers now become backdrop managers. Hold up Stable backdrop. Position manger containing doll. Alternatively Mary might nurse doll.</b>
<b>Choir (sings)</b>	<b><i>Gloria, Gloria, In excelsis Deo Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia (Taize)</i></b>	<b>Choir enter and stands in front of nativity scene. At end of chorus part to reveal scene.</b>

<p><b>Storyteller 1</b></p>	<p><b>It was lambing time and there were some shepherds in the top paddock protecting their sheep from foxes.</b></p>	<p>Flip backdrop and position in front of nativity scene. (Joseph and Mary bob down if necessary.)</p>
<p><b>Storyteller 2</b></p>	<p><b>Suddenly there was a bright light and lots and lots of angels, all dressed in white, appeared in the paddock.</b></p>	<p>Paddock backdrop is now visible.</p>
<p><b>Storyteller 1</b></p>	<p><b>They nearly frightened the shepherds to death. But let's hear it about it from them.</b></p>	
<p><b>Shepherd 1</b></p>	<p><b>We're shepherds. We heard the news up in the paddock. We're going to worship the new-born saviour.</b></p>	
<p><b>Shepherd 2</b></p>	<p><b>We heard the news from an angel. We were taking turns watching the sheep. The whole place lit up around us.</b></p>	
<p><b>Shepherd 3</b></p>	<p><b>We fell on our faces trying to hide, waiting for the worst. We thought we were done for.</b></p>	
<p><b>Shepherd 4</b></p>	<p><b>The angel of God told us not to be afraid, and gave us the news that our saviour was born in Bethlehem. Then hundreds of angels began to praise God singing.</b></p>	
<p><b>Choir</b></p>	<p><i>Gloria, Gloria, In excelsis Deo. Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia.</i></p>	<p>Choir moves in front of backdrop. Flip back drop to stable scene and place behind Mary and Joseph.</p>

Shepherd 1	We should have known. There's been a lot of talk about the saviour in recent times.	Choir moves to either side of scene. Shepherds take positions in front of choir.
Shepherd 2	People making speeches telling us to prepare? Telling us that God was going to come among this people.	
Shepherd 3	And the prophets told us over and over again that God would not forget God's people.	
Shepherd 4	It's really happened. God has come among us. God is with us. Wow! Hey everybody, lets stand up and sing with the angels as we welcome the Gospel, the Good news of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!	
Choir	<i>Gloria, Gloria, In excelsis Deo Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, (Repeat x 3 with harmony [in rounds])</i>	Everybody singing!

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke follows immediately.**

Children hold positions during the Gospel reading.

Children are seated in positions during the homily and return to their families at the conclusion of the homily.