

# CHRISTMAS



## Reception

This unit builds on work done in Advent. It provides an opportunity for the children to explore the Christmas story and become familiar with the people involved, the location and the response to the Birth of Jesus.

There are opportunities to articulate and visualise the first Christmas. All the activities should involve lots of discussion and role-play.

## Year One

This unit builds on work done in Advent and in the previous year at Christmas. It will enable children to explore the Christmas story further and relate this story to their own birth. There is an opportunity to examine the similarities and differences. Through the eyes of the inn-keeper and the Wise Men, the reaction to the Birth of Jesus is examined. All the activities should involve lots of discussion and role-play.

## Year Two

This purpose of this unit is to deepen understanding of the Annunciation and the events of the Christmas story. Emphasis is placed on the journeys associated with the Birth of Jesus, as well as highlighting what we learn about Jesus from these journeys. This work will help set the context socially, religiously and geographically for the Birth of Jesus.

The question is also raised of the implications for the Church's work today. For example consideration is given to the Church's work with refugees in the light of the 'Flight to Egypt'

## Year Three

This unit looks at the Christmas story from the perspective of the shepherds. Their response invites an exploration of the language they used and also consideration of the nature of the ministry of Jesus, which was to care for and live among the poor and marginalised.

The symbolism of the nativity scene is examined through the story of the first crib.

## Year Four

This unit examines the role of the angels in the Christmas story. It provides an invitation to identify ways in which we can be messengers of the Good News today. Opportunities are provided to consider specific role models of people, who have been messengers of the Good News in the life of the Church. The feasts associated with Christmas, such as the Annunciation and the birth of John the Baptist, are also explored.

Ways in which the parish community celebrates Christmas are also identified.

## Year Five

This unit explores the Christmas story in greater detail and looks at some of the difficulties encountered by the Holy Family as a result of the Birth of Jesus. In particular, the effects of being homeless and a refugee are covered. Connections are made between the plight of Jesus and the homeless and refugees today. The role of King Herod highlights the problems faced by the refugees and homeless today.

A focus is also provided on Christmas being a time of prayer and devotion.

## Year Six

This unit provides an opportunity for a more detailed look at the Christmas story through the eyes of the Gospel writers. A particular focus is given to St John's Prologue, which describes Jesus as 'the Word'. The meaning of the word 'Incarnation' is illustrated and developed. This will open out the different images of Jesus that are portrayed in Scripture.

Similarities between the Christmas story, which appears in Matthew and Luke's Gospels, are also considered.

