

Virtual Family Prayer Bag



Dear Parent / Carer,
here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag
for Christmas Day

Celebrating Christmas

Please take some time on Christmas Day
to come together, as a family, in prayer.
Christmas Day is celebrated on 25th December
but we continue to celebrate for the whole of Christmastide
until 'The Baptism of the Lord'
on 9th January 2022!



**Find a comfortable place to sit,
light a candle
and begin with the Sign of the Cross**



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



Happy Christmas!



Have you wished everyone in your house
a Happy Christmas today?

"Merry

Christmas



Everyone"



A Message from Bishop David



Dear young friends in Christ,

There are many ways we can listen to God speaking to us. Perhaps the best way is to hear God's word spoken to us in the Scriptures, or when we sit with the Bible and listen carefully to what we are reading. Another way is to hear God speaking to us in our every day lives. When we are at home with our family, we can hear God speak to us in the ordinary things of our daily lives. At school, teachers and friends say things to us, and we might catch a glimpse of God trying to speak to us.

Christmas is a time when all these things come together. When we listen to the words of the prophets in the Old Testament, they spoke of Christmas in a remarkable way. They were excited about what God was doing. Are we? And when we hear the Christmas story, of the struggle to find a place for Jesus to be born, of shepherds and wise men. A new born baby is a sign of hope and confidence in the future. This is how God chose to bring us his greatest message. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh for us, being amongst us in a way that we can all understand.

Let's try to make Christmas a time of love and joy for all those around us. Let's make a promise to baby Jesus now, that we are going to welcome his birthday by thinking about others rather than ourselves.

A very happy and blessed Christmas to you and your family.

✠ **David**

Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley
Bishop of Northampton





Advent is over!

Our waiting has come to an end!

Our preparations are finished!

Jesus is Born!



It's Christmas!



We celebrate the birth of Jesus 2021 years ago!

**God our Father loved the world so much
that he sent his only Son, Jesus,
into the world, to be a human being
just like each one of us.**

**The little baby in the manger over 2000 years ago
is God's gift of himself to us.**

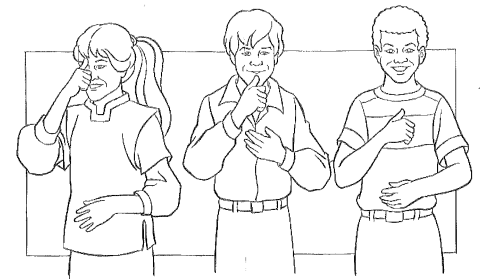
**Jesus is given the name Emmanuel which means
God – with – us.**



Who can you see in the stable at Bethlehem?



A Reading from the Gospel of St Luke
Glory to you O Lord





This is how Jesus came to be born



The Roman Emperor, Augustus, issued an order. Everyone in the Roman Empire must register at the town his family came from.

Joseph's family were descended from King David. So he had to go to Bethlehem, where King David was born.



Joseph took Mary on the long journey south
through the hills
eighty miles of rough dirt roads.

The donkey carried food,
warm cloaks for the chilly nights
and clothes for the baby
who was due to be born any day.



Mary was tired when they arrived in Bethlehem.
But there was nowhere for them to stay.
The inns were already crowded with travellers.
One inn – keeper felt sorry for Mary
but the only space he had left was in the stable.

It was dirty and smelly in there with the animals.
But at least Mary could rest there
and there was nowhere else.



That night Mary's baby son was born.
She wrapped him up warmly
in the clothes she had made,
and laid him in a manger to sleep.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Loving Father we thank you for sending your son,
Jesus, to be one like us.



We welcome him now into our home,
we welcome him into our hearts and
we welcome him into our lives.

May the light of the Christ-Child shine into the
darkness of this world that we may walk in his light
and bring that light to those we meet this Christmas.



We make this prayer through
our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
Amen

Let us pray.....

We pray for people who are homeless that they will
find a safe place to sleep tonight.

Jesus, light of the world.....

hear our prayer

We pray for people who have been driven from
their homes by war or lack of food or water,
that they will find food and shelter

Jesus, light of the world

hear our prayer



**We pray for those who are hungry
that they will have enough food to eat
in this season of plenty.**

**Jesus, light of the world.....
hear our prayer**

**We pray for people who are ill
that they will feel the comfort and peace of Jesus
in their hearts.**

**Jesus, light of the world
hear our prayer**



**We pray for those who we miss this Christmas,
for loved ones who are far away.**

Jesus, light of the world.....
hear our prayer

**We pray for those who have died
that they will enjoy the love and joy of Jesus in heaven.**

Jesus, light of the world.....
hear our prayer





God, our loving Father,
we thank-you for the gift of Jesus to the world.
Open our hearts to welcome his love.
Bless our home so that as we welcome your son Jesus today,
we may welcome everyone who visits us
with kindness and joy.
Help us to be grateful for the good things that you have given to
us and to be generous in sharing them with others.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, your greatest gift to us.

Amen



Click on the link below
to watch / listen / join in with

[Away in a Manger](#)

Or sing it yourselves!

Away in a manger
no crib for a bed
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay
the little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
the Baby awakes
but little Lord Jesus
no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus
look down from the sky
and stay by my side
until morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask you to stay
close by me forever
and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in your tender care
and fit us for heaven
to live with you there

**We end our prayer time together
by making the Sign of the Cross**

**In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit
Amen**

