

Children's Activity Sheet

The Cathedral Church of St Marie
welcomes

.....
to Mass today.

Mary, Mother of God

Mary, Mother of God. Year A.

Happy New Year to you! Today we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God.

In St Luke's Gospel, we hear how it all started when an angel appeared to Mary to tell her that she had found favour with God. The angel told her that she was going to have a child by the Holy Spirit, that child will be called the Son of the Most High, and that she should call him Jesus. *Wow!* Have you ever stopped to wonder what this must have been like for Mary? We don't know exactly how old Mary was when she gave birth to Jesus, but it is likely she was just a teenager. How would you feel, if something so extraordinary like this, happened to you?

Angels appear again in the nativity; can you remember who to? The shepherds, of course! Luke tells us that there were shepherds watching their flock somewhere near Bethlehem. The angel appeared to them and shared the great news that a Saviour had been born, and that they would find him as a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Then a lot of angels appeared in the sky singing praise to God!

Today's Gospel continues that story. It tells us how the shepherds hurried off to find Jesus, and that they found him *exactly* as the angel said they would. They were so excited about this; the angel they had seen must have been real! And when they shared this with Mary and Joseph, they were *astonished*...

God carefully created Mary to be the Mother of his Son. Not only did Mary give birth to Jesus, but she loved him, supported and cared for him all his life. She helped him to grow up into the man he was destined to be. She was there right from the very beginning of Jesus' earthly life, to the very very end. What a special Mother she is! And the best bit? She is YOUR Heavenly Mother too!



The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, where they found Mary, Joseph and the baby. (Luke 2:16-21)

Decoder Puzzle

This week's Decoder Puzzle is based on Luke 2: 16-21.

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words:



A	H	K	V	W	E	U	C	Y	L	D	X	G
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

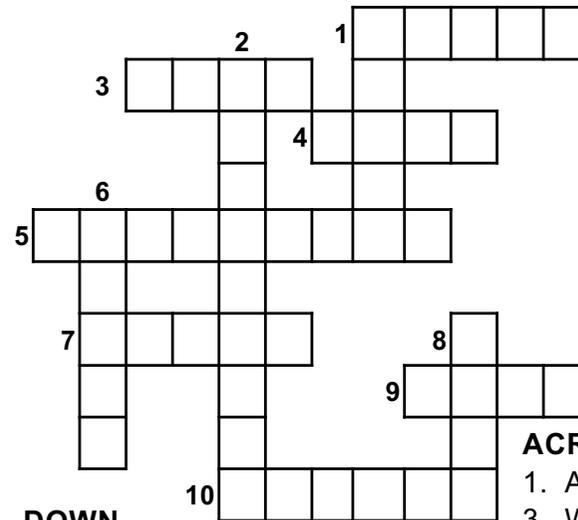
Q	I	T	O	R	J	P	Z	B	M	N	F	S
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 2-6-1-18-16 _____
- 23-1-18-9 _____
- 1-24-13-6-10 _____
- 1-26-16-17-24-15-26-2-6-11 _____
- 26-2-6-20-2-6-18-11-26 _____
- 19-6-26-7-26 _____
- 26-1-4-15-17-7-18 _____
- 20-17-24-11-6-18 _____

Saviour	Shepherds	Angel	Heart
Mary	Astonished	Jesus	Ponder



CROSSWORD



DOWN

- A place where sheep spend much of their time
- The name of the place where Jesus was born
- The part of our body usually associated with love and feelings
- A feeling you might experience when you are scared

ACROSS

- A group of sheep
- What we are when we are first born
- New information, that we maybe hearing for the first time
- The job title of people who look after sheep
- A heavenly messenger
- Jesus' mother
- What Jesus has as a bed when he was first born

Mary	News	Baby	Heart	Shepherds
Flock	Fear	Field	Angel	Bethlehem
				Manger

Children's Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father. Today we give you special thanks for Mary, the Mother of Your Son, Jesus - our Saviour! Please help us to do good listening to you too, so we can also help with your plans. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

