

Suggested Family Activities

Place your crib in a prominent place in your home. Place a candle or a battery-operated candle/s or tealight/s near the crib.

Read the story of the birth of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke 2:1-7 (chapter 2 verses 1-7); or read a Christmas story book appropriate to the age of your child/children.

Pray silently or aloud as a family before the crib as we prepare for Christmas and throughout the Christmas Season.

Place your needs or prayer intentions in a jar or box near the crib We invite Jesus, the bringer of peace and light into our world to be with all people.

Begin a prayer journal. This can include own prayers, drawings and/or prayers children would like to learn. Reflections, thoughts or feelings written in a conversational prayer with Jesus, can be encouraged. Write the scripture story of Christmas in your own words.

Discuss what is your favourite part of the story and why?

Draw a few pictures of different parts of the Christmas story and create a storyboard.

Watch the videos together

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-luke-1/> (5 mins)

by Bibleproject

https://youtu.be/poswRRB_2i0 (5 mins) *The Star (2017) The Nativity Scene (10/10) | Movieclips by Fantango Movie Clips*

Children songs/hymns to celebrate Christmas:

Oh What A Special Night <https://youtu.be/duzZ-p6rYNI> Animated Praise

Follow the Christmas Star <https://youtu.be/9xRJxyWUu3s> Michael Mangan

Peace on Earth <https://youtu.be/3FPAztVs6iE> Michael Mangan

Christmas is the Time <https://youtu.be/NclDx5USQ4c> Michael Mangan

Carol of the Drum https://youtu.be/3l3KniB_8Tw Andrew Chinn

Borrow resources free (books, dvd's etc) from the Catholic Resource Information Service (CRIS) at Thebarton. Catalogue <https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-faith/resources-and-information/cris-catalogue>



Our Family Prayer at the Christmas Crib

God of love and peace,
Thank you for the many gifts in our lives;
for our family and our friends,
for the warmth and shelter of our home,
for the food we share together
and for all the beauty that we enjoy.

As we gather to celebrate at this time of Christmas
we thank you especially for the gift of Jesus
who came to show us that you are with us always.

Help us to be generous in the way
we share your gift of love with others. Amen



Catholic Archdiocese
of Adelaide



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Family Faith Formation Team, Adelaide

I wonder... How did the Christmas crib tradition begin?

The custom of the Christmas Crib was begun by St Francis of Assisi. To celebrate the birth of Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi decided to make it 'real' for his people and his friars.

With his friends he succeeded in re-creating the first crib scene in a cave surrounded by candles. The villagers and friars were completely overwhelmed as they celebrated the Christmas Mass at which St. Francis preached, bringing the Christmas story to life in a very special way.

After the death of St. Francis, the custom of having a crib spread throughout Europe. The crib in the house became popular by the 17th century owing much of its popularity to the enthusiasm of the Franciscans.

When we have a crib scene in our home it is not only a reminder of the first Christmas, it is also a link with all other Christians who have celebrated the joy of the birth of Christ through the ages. Reflecting before the crib in silence or in prayer together is a meaningful way to prepare for the coming of Jesus into our lives this Christmas.

I wonder... Does Christmas begin and end on Christmas day?

The Christmas season begins with Evening Prayer 1 on Christmas Eve. This is followed by the Eucharistic Celebration (Mass) on Christmas Eve Vigil Mass in the evening. This Mass is celebrated as *The Nativity of the Lord*.

This season of joy and celebration of the birth of Jesus concludes with the celebration on the Sunday after the Epiphany or after January 6.

<i>Christmas Day</i>	25 December
<i>The Feast of the Holy Family</i>	1 st Sunday after Christmas
<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	2 nd Sunday after Christmas
<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	Sunday after Epiphany (or after 6 Jan)

We celebrate *Mary the Mother of God* on the 1st January.

Please check the parish newsletter for times

Scripture Story

The Birth of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke (2:1-14)
(chapter 2 verses 1-14)

Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.

Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, and while they were there, she gave birth to her firstborn son. She dressed him baby clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. But the angel, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you which will make everyone happy.

This very day in King David's hometown a Saviour was born to you. He is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying in a manger."

Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said: "Praise God in heaven! Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993)
Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

*We wish you and your family
a very happy and holy time
as we celebrate the memory of Jesus' birth.*