



## Diocesan Posada

This year, we are holding a diocesan Posada, and the crib figures of Mary and Joseph are travelling on a journey round the diocese, from church to church, stopping at four different churches in each of our six deaneries.

Posada is the Spanish word for lodging or accommodation, so each stop on this journey is their lodging for the night, representing the lodging places Mary and Joseph stayed at on their way to Bethlehem.

In this leaflet there are some resources to use when the figures arrive at each church. You can choose to use all or part of them, but we hope you will at least use the prayer for each day. This prayer will be posted on social media together with the photo you send of the figures at your "lodging place" – local church, inn or other setting.



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## Suggested Outline Prayers

### Greeting

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

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

### Dialogue

*This dialogue may be used when the crib figures are handed over. Lines may be spoken by one or more individuals, or all together.*

*S = Sending Church, R = Receiving Church*

S We are travellers on our way to Bethlehem, hungry and weary.

R **Good travellers, tell us your names, and let us help you.**

S Joseph, carpenter of Nazareth and Mary his wife.

We need a place of rest, for Mary is with child,  
and the child will be called the Son of God.

R **Enter under our roof, and be welcome here, Holy Family.**

S A blessing on this place, from God Most High,  
the peace, joy and love of heaven's high king.

R **Thanks be to God for the gift of God's presence.**

### Reading and Prayer

*There is a short gospel reading and prayer for each day which may be used here. This is a four day cycle, for the four days the Holy Family are in each deanery.*



## Day 1

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

*(Luke 1:26-28)*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

God of all angels,  
as we welcome Mary and Joseph on their journey,  
help us hear your words of blessing to us,  
and use us to bring your blessing to others,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Day 2

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do." "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

*(Luke 1:35-38)*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Holy Spirit,  
bringer of life and love,  
help us to follow Mary's example  
of faith and obedience  
as we walk in the way of Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Day 3

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins.” All this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, “A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel,” which means, “God is with us”.

*(Matt 1: 20-23)*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Summoning God, you asked Joseph to trust you,  
and in turn entrusted your Son to his care.

Help us, like Joseph,  
trust that you are always with us,  
in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**



## Day 4

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him.

*(Luke 2:1-5)*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

God of our pilgrimage,  
as Mary and Joseph journey on,  
help us, like them, to walk in faith,  
that with them we may rejoice  
in seeing your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Christmas Eve – Final day of the Posada

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

*(Luke 2:4-7)*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

God of all our journeys,  
with Mary and Joseph help us go where you call us,  
and come safe to our journey's end,  
where we may see the face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Either of the versions below may be used.*

As our Saviour taught, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour gave us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Posada Closing Prayer

O Blessing God of Mary,  
O Guiding God of Joseph,  
bless and guide us on our life's journey,  
that we may rejoice today in the presence of Christ,  
and come safe with him to our eternal home.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**





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