

# THE NATIVITY ACTIVITY!

This sketch tells the Christmas story in an original way, using rhyming couplets.

## Cast:

Narrators (N) - number as required  
Mary (M)  
Joseph (J)  
Angel 1 (A1)  
Angel 2 (A2)  
Innkeeper (I)  
Shepherds (S1, 2, 3)  
King Herod (H)  
Wise Men (W1, 2, 3)

**Props:** The narrators can be dressed either in traditional or modern dress. Other characters to use traditional costumes and props.

**Performance notes:** This works well as a narration for a children's nativity. With adults narrating, the children could be dressed up as the main characters and act without the pressure of learning many lines. Alternatively, if members of the corps possess the know-how, create an animated film or slide show of the story to run alongside the narration.

The lines assigned to the Narrator can be read by one person or divided up and given to two or more people, as you wish.

To enable your delivery of the script to flow, performers should gently emphasise the rhyme and rhythm of the lines. But take care not to rush it!

# The Nativity Activity!

Written by Rachel Gotobed

**N** Ladies,

And gentlemen -

Everyone here! -

We're going to tell you a story that's dear.

Although you'll have heard this great story before,

We know that our version will not be a bore!

So please watch and listen to all that we do:

Herein lies a message – a message that's true.

*(Enter Mary.)*

**N** This woman is Mary – God loves her so well,

He's sent her a message through Gabriel.

*(Enter Angel 1.)*

**A1** Greetings, dear Mary – do not be afraid.

The Lord has appointed you as his handmaid,

And you will give birth to a beautiful one

Whose name will be Jesus – God's only son.

**M** But how can this be? The fact is I'm not wed!

This message is making me feel full of dread.

**A1** Don't worry, dear Mary, you're safe in God's hand,

And he will establish all that he's planned.

**M** I trust in the Lord – may it be as you say.

**N** So Gabriel left, and went on his way.

*(Exit Gabriel and Mary – Enter Joseph.)*

**N** But Mary was meant to be marrying Joe,

**N** And he was not happy when told this was so.

Yet he didn't wish Mary public disgrace!

He felt so conflicted – just look at his face!

*(Joseph lies down.)*

But while he was sleeping an angel came near:

*(Angel 2 enters.)*

**A2** Please listen now, Joseph – there's nothing to fear.

This baby of Mary's is God's Only Son,

So marry her swiftly – it's got to be done!

*(Angel 2 exits – Joseph gets up.)*

**N** When Joseph woke up he did what had been said.

*(Joseph goes to get Mary.)*

But he and his wife didn't share the same bed!

Then came a decree from Caesar in Rome

That all men must head to their ancestral home.

**J** To Bethlehem, Mary – that's where we must go.

The timing is poor and I wish it weren't so.

**M** Don't worry, dear Joseph – all will be OK,  
For God will be with us each step of the way.  
*(Mary and Joseph begin journey around hall.)*

**N** So Mary and Joseph set off on their trip.  
But they couldn't travel by railroad or ship.  
Their journey was long and the road very rough,  
And Mary – pregnant – found the going quite tough.  
Eventually they got there, all tired and forlorn,  
And the time had arrived for the babe to be born.  
*(Enter Innkeeper.)*

**N** The innkeeper frowned, slowly shaking his head:  
**I** There's no room for you here – except for the shed!  
*(Innkeeper leads Mary and Joseph to stable.)*

**N** He took them out back where the animals lay –  
It was quite warm and dry and had plenty of hay.  
And right there in the stable, midst sheep, goats and ox,  
Our Saviour was born and placed in a hay box.  
*(Enter Shepherds.)*

**N** Nearby in the hills were some tenders of sheep  
Who were settling down as their flocks went to sleep,  
*(Enter Angel 1.)*

**N** When suddenly – boom! – the sky burst with bright light,  
And it gave those poor shepherds a terrible fright!

**A1** Do not be afraid!

**N** The Lord's Angel said,

**A1** I've come with good news – quick, get up, and head  
To Bethlehem town, for there you will find  
A baby's been born who will save all mankind.

*(Enter Angels.)*

**N** Then suddenly, everywhere, from all around,  
Came beautiful singing – a heavenly sound:

**All A** Glory to God, and to all, peace on earth.  
Come, celebrate with us our dear Saviour's birth.  
Glory to God, and to all, peace on earth.  
Come celebrate with us our dear Saviour's birth.

*(Angels exit.)*

**N** The angels retired and the shepherds made haste.

**S1** Let's hurry to Bethlehem – no time to waste!

**S2** I'll take a fine sheepskin to wrap the babe in.

**S3** And I'll bring a lamb to donate to his kin.

*(Shepherds go to stable.)*

**N** So when they arrived at the old cattle shed,  
They worshipped the Christ-child asleep in his bed.  
Then on their way home they all worshipped and praised,  
And declared the good news so that all were amazed!  
*(Enter Wise Men.)*

**N** There came from the East, from a country afar,  
Some Wise Men who'd journeyed, compelled by a star.  
They went to the palace to find the new King,  
But Herod was puzzled to hear such a thing.  
*(Enter Herod.)*

**H** I've asked my advisers about your idea.  
They say, 'Go to Bethlehem, out in Judea',  
And when you have found him, come back to tell me,  
So I can go also this wonder to see.  
*(Exit Herod – Wise Men journey to stable.)*

**N** The star in the night sky shone brightly ahead  
And led the Wise Men all the way to the shed.

**W1** We've come here to worship – please take these presents.

**W2** Mine's gold,

**W3** Mine is myrrh,

**W1** And mine's frankincense.

**N** They didn't go back to King Herod that day,  
But, warned in a dream, went back home a new way.

Ladies,

And gentlemen,

Everyone here!

Let's celebrate richly and be of good cheer.

For God so abundantly loves everyone,

That he gave to the world the gift of his own Son.

So this Christmastime let us remember it's true:

The Saviour was born – for me and for you!