

The Annunciation – Mary and Angel Gabriel

Spend some time looking at the floral arrangement representing Gabriel's visit to Mary, and think of that moment when her life was changed by his good news.

Some words from the Bible:

Gabriel said, 'Mary, you have found favour with God. You will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, the Son of the Most High God.' Mary said, 'Let it be to me according to your word.'

Luke 1.30,31,38.

Some suggestions for Prayer:

Thank God for choosing young, lowly Mary to serve him.

Pray for all who feel small and afraid, that they may find courage too.

Pray for good news to come to all who feel far from God.

Pray that you may know and have boldness to do God's will.

Lord, when I want to rebel and ignore you, give me the obedience of Mary.

When I feel weak and timid, give me the courage of Mary.

When I'm too proud to hear you, give me the humility of Mary.

When my heart is cold and barren, give me the love of Mary. Amen.



The Visitation – Mary meets cousin Elizabeth

Spend some time looking at the floral arrangement representing Mary meeting with Elizabeth, and remember the joy and celebration these two pregnant women shared.

Some words from the Bible:

When Elizabeth heard the words of Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. She cried, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb'.
Luke 1.41,42.



Some suggestions for Prayer:

Pray for people who are journeying to visit loved ones this Christmas.

Pray for the people you will be able to spend time with.

Pray for the people who must stay apart this year because of Covid.

Pray for pregnant women and children to be born soon.

Saviour God, let me rejoice in you like Mary and Elizabeth.

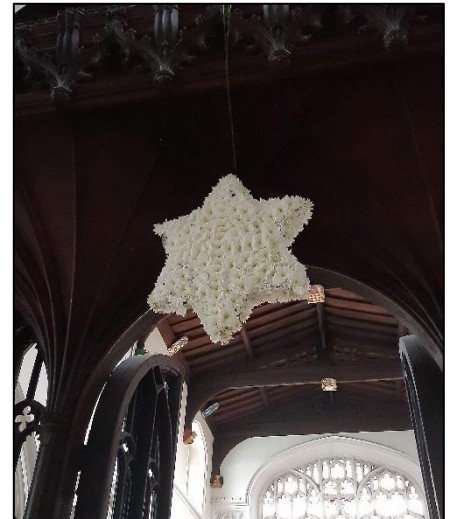
I rejoice in your holy name. I rejoice in your mercy to your children.

I rejoice in your love for the humble. I rejoice in all your gifts.

***But when I cannot rejoice with all my heart, fill me once more with your grace.
Amen.***

The Crib – the Birth of Jesus

Spend some time looking at the Crib and thinking about the characters. Look at the floral Star of Bethlehem and remember how it led people to Jesus.



Some words from the Bible:

Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2.7.

Some suggestions for Prayer:

Light a candle as you pray for someone who isn't here with you.

Write a prayer label and offer your prayer on the Christmas Tree.



Pray for people who are cold and without food or shelter tonight.

Thank God for coming to be with us in Jesus.

Child of Bethlehem, weak and helpless, help me in my weakness.

Child of Bethlehem, loved and cherished, forgive my lack of love.

Child of Bethlehem, peaceful in a manger, calm my restlessness.

Great Son of God made flesh, hold me in your loving arms always.

Amen.

The Heavenly Host – Good news to shepherds

Spend some time looking at the floral arrangement representing the angels who visited the shepherds, and think of the message they received.

Some words from the Bible:

The multitude of the heavenly host praised God and said, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill among people.' The Shepherds said, 'Let us go to Bethlehem, to see this thing which has happened.'

Luke 2.13,15.



Some suggestions for Prayer:

Thank God for choosing lowly shepherds to hear the news of Jesus.

Pray for everyone who is on a spiritual journey towards Christ.

Pray for peace to come to this broken, hurting world.

Pray that you may share goodwill with others, now and always.

Glory to God in the highest, hidden among the humble.

Glory to God in the highest, revealed to the lowly.

Glory to God in the highest, born on the earth he created.

Great Shepherd, be merciful to your wandering sheep, and make my life a song of glory too. Amen.

The Gifts of the Wise Men

Spend some time looking at the floral arrangement representing the Magi's gold, incense and myrrh, and remember their journey to find King Jesus, and to offer him their gifts.

Some words from the Bible:

The wise men knelt down and worshipped Jesus, and opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2.11



Some suggestions for Prayer:

Thank God for calling folk from all races and nations into his family.

Pray for the rich and intelligent of the world to use their gifts wisely.

Worship Jesus: King, Priest and Sacrifice.

Pray that you may offer what you can in God's service.

Star of Bethlehem, guide me onward:

to the banquet of the King

to the pardon of the Priest

to the life eternal you purchased on the cross. Amen.

The Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Spend some time looking at the floral arrangement representing the Holy Family, and think of young Jesus growing and learning, in Joseph and Mary's care.

Some words from the Bible:

The family returned to Nazareth in Galilee, and the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favour of God was upon him. And Jesus was obedient to Mary and Joseph, and his mother kept all these things in her heart. *Luke 2.39,40,51.*



Some suggestions for Prayer:

Thank God for the pattern he gives us, in Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Pray for all children, that they may grow, develop and thrive.

Pray for parents that they may share love, diligence and wisdom.

Pray for your own family this Christmas.

Gentle, loving Mary, may God grant me love like yours.

Kind, nurturing Joseph, may God grant me protection like yours.

Gracious, strong Jesus, may God make me become like you.

Holy family, help us grow like you, day by day, year by year. Amen.