

CHRISTMAS ON THE MOVE

Prayers

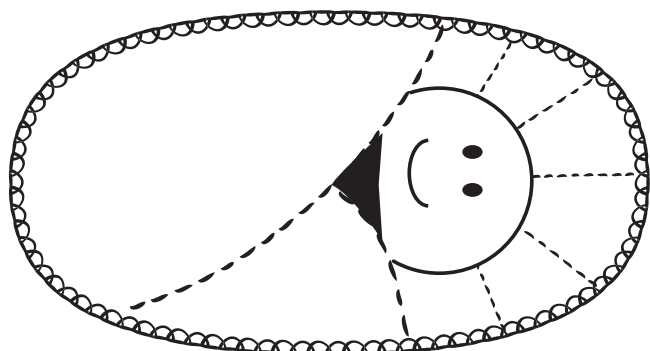
A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 2

About that time 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.

Joseph would not have wanted to travel while Mary was expecting a baby but had no choice. It was a long way to go, and he and Mary would have been very glad when family, friends, or kind strangers offered them a place to sleep on their journey.

During Advent we take care of Mary and Joseph on their journey. It can be a sign that we care for others who are without homes or safe places at the moment.

You might like to pray together each evening in Advent. You could use the following intercessions, or make up or add your own. You might like to have a response with a repeated phrase that is easy to remember (we've included one below), or to pray less formally.



We pray for people who do not have a home to sleep safely in tonight.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who are driven from their homes by war or lack of food or water.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who are going to bed hungry tonight.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who are ill (hear you can add names of people you know who are sick)

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

We pray for (any other names of people you might want to particularly pray for).

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

You might like to conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day 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.

God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus to the world.

Open our hearts to welcome his love.

Bless our homes,
and help us to welcome with kindness and joy everyone who visits us.

Help us to be grateful for the good things you have given us,
and to be generous in sharing them with other people.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.