



Darwen St James'

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of CDARI

**Tuesday 26th November 2024**



The Long Journey to Bethlehem.



Let's light the candle to begin our Worship today.





Welcome Words.



**God**



**in**



**Christ**



**has revealed**



**his**



**glory.**



**Come**



**let**

**us**



**worship.**

**BIBLE TEXT****LUKE 2.1–5**

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. She was pregnant.

**Can anyone describe what a census is?**

A census is a procedure for collecting information about the population of a nation. This is an example of some questions from the U.K. census:

## Household questions

**H1** Who usually lives here?

↪ Tick all that apply

- Me, this is my permanent or family home
- Family members including partners, children, and babies born on or before 27 March 2011
- Students and/or schoolchildren who live away from home during term time
- Housemates, tenants or lodgers
- People who usually live outside the UK who are staying in the UK for 3 months or more
- People who work away from home within the UK, or are members of the armed forces, if this is their permanent or family home
- People who are temporarily outside the UK for less than 12 months
- People staying temporarily who usually live in the UK but do not have another UK address, for example, relatives, friends
- Other people who usually live here, including anyone temporarily away from home

**OR**  No-one usually lives here, for example, this is a second address or holiday home ➔ **Goto H4**

**H2** Counting everyone you included in question H1, how many people usually live here?

Why do you think it might be necessary for Emperor Augustus to carry out a census?

Talk to the person next to you!





At the time Jesus was born, the Roman Empire stretched from Syria in the East to Portugal in the West.

The Emperor Augustus wanted more money, so he decided to collect taxes from everyone who lived in his empire!

He needed a census to give him information about all the citizens.

The decree (or order) was given that every adult must register themselves and their family in their hometown.

For Joseph and Mary, this was Bethlehem, so they needed to travel from Nazareth in northern Galilee to Bethlehem, near Jerusalem in Judea (around 97 miles)

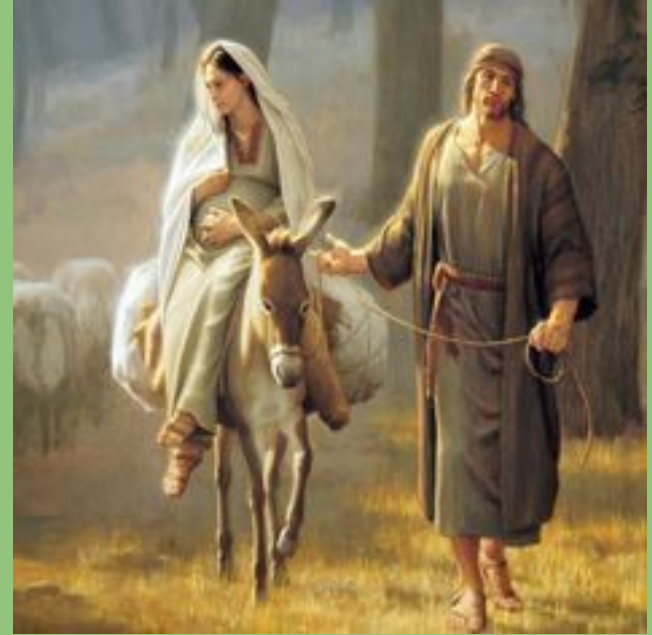




It probably would have taken them about a week to get there.

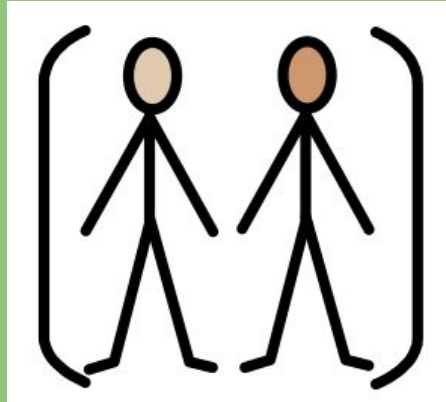
Mary was expecting her baby, so this would have been a difficult journey for her.

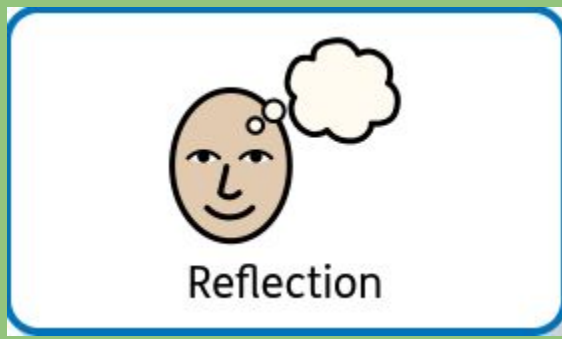
We would probably make a journey like this in a car. Everything that Mary needed would have been carried, or strapped to the donkey.



**What do you think they might have taken with them on the long journey?**

**Talk to the person next to you!**





Mary and Joseph have finally arrived in Bethlehem after a long, exhausting journey - only to find that all the houses and inns in the little town are full!

Imagine that you are an innkeeper in Bethlehem. Your inn is fully booked. It is late, but you are still trying to provide food for all your guests.

Close your eyes and let your imagination take you back 2000 years. To the night that will change the world.



Let us sing.

**Been a long time**





Let us Pray.



May

the



grace

of



our



Lord



Jesus Christ



And

the



love

of



God,



our



father



Be

with



us



all,



evermore



Amen



Closing Words.



+



The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you,

&

++



and also with you.