

# The Advent Story

Sunday 2	Nearly 2000 years ago, in the land that we now call Israel, most people lived in small towns and villages. In the village of Nazareth lived a carpenter called Joseph and a girl called Mary.	
Monday 3	Although most of the people were Jewish, like Mary and Joseph, they were governed by the Romans. The Romans made life hard for the Jews and made them pay heavy taxes.	
Tuesday 4	Mary was an especially good girl, who learned to pray and live a holy life. When she grew up she was engaged to be married to Joseph the carpenter.	
Wednesday 5	One day Mary had a visit from the angel Gabriel. Even Mary was scared to have a visit from an angel, but Gabriel told her not be afraid, but to be glad because she was going to have a baby. This very special baby would be called Jesus, and he would be the saviour of the world.	
Thursday 6	Not long after the angel Gabriel visited Mary, another angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph about Mary's baby, and how special he would be. Jesus was the son of God, but Joseph would be his earthly father while he was growing up.	
Friday 7	In a land far away in the east, wise men had seen a star that they had never seen before. When they consulted their books they found that this new star was the sign that a great king was about to be born, and they decided to go and see the new king.	
Saturday 8	The wise men set out on their journey, bringing with them gifts that were right for a new king: gold, frankincense and myrrh. They knew they had a long way to go but the star in the sky showed them the way.	
Sunday 9	The Roman Emperor wanted to count how many people lived in his empire, so he knew how much tax he could collect. He ordered that every family must return to their home town for a census. Joseph was descended from David, the great king of Israel, so he and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem.	
Monday 10	The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem is about a hundred miles, and it would take Mary and Joseph more than a week. It was nearly time for Mary to have her baby, but they both still had to go.	
Tuesday 11	Mary and Joseph packed up what they needed for the journey, and set out. They travelled across mountains, through valleys planted with olive trees and across an arid desert. Each night they stopped by a spring or a well with other people also travelling back to their own home towns.	

Wednesday 12	Meanwhile the wise men had travelled for a long time across a huge distance and had reached the capital of the country, Jerusalem. They were sure that a new king would be born in the capital, so they went to the palace of King Herod.	
Thursday 13	When the wise men told King Herod that they were looking for the new king, Herod was very angry. He was the king and he didn't want a new king to take his place. But he was polite to the wise men and pretended to be interested in finding the new king himself.	