

**St Joseph's
Pudsey**

Travelling Crib

2013 Diary

Welcome to our 2013 Travelling Crib Diary

Could you offer Mary and Joseph a room for the night?

This journey symbolises Mary and Joseph's difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus.

The idea behind the diary is so as many people as possible can join in the journey, even if you are unable to have the crib in your home.

We have 2 cribs that are travelling around the parish during Advent.

All diary entries will be posted in this diary.



Keep coming back to see what has been happening on its travels.

1 December 2013

Today me (James Nelson) Olivia, Martha and Amelia all did the travelling crib together.

Olivia lit the candle and we all sang the hymn.

We took it in turns to read a page from the book and I read the prayer.

We thought about people who are feeling lonely and prayed for them.

James Nelson

1 December 2013

We set the crib up and read the story of Jesus' birth.

We had the girls' grandparents staying with us so they shared with us the story of Jesus and prayers with the crib.

The Rawnsley Family

2 December 2013

It was the first time that we had the travelling crib at our house. We met the Rawnsley family at school and brought it home.

We lit the candle, said prayers and mum read the story of the Nativity and especially thought about how difficult it must have been for Mary and Joseph and also how lucky our family is. We kept the crib under our Christmas tree with one of the lights from the tree shining on it like the star.

The Winks Family

2 December 2013

It was nice to have the Travelling Crib again after a break of several years. It brought back some happy memories! With two teenagers in the house it's good to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and not just material things.

We are welcoming a new baby into our family in a couple of weeks time- the girls are getting a new cousin, so this will be a special Christmas for us.

Bev, Jim, Emily and Gabby Finn

3 December 2013

This was a nice experience.

As a family we set up the crib scene, sang the song, read the prayer, and then the story.

We took time to talk about what this time of year means to us.

We discussed that it is OK to be excited about gifts but that we need to never forget that this time of year is about the birth of Jesus, who was good and full of love, and we need to follow in his foot steps.

The Pryal Family

3 December 2013

The children enjoyed looking at and setting up the figures and relating them to the story. We read the book and lit the candle.

Richard met the Winks family and Susan met the Doubles.

We enjoyed hosting the crib and then sending it on its onward journey.

The Dalton Family

4 December 2013

We welcomed the travelling crib in our home on 4th December, passed onto me from Susan Dalton.

My baby was in bed when we set up the crib, so only my husband and myself sang the song while lighting the candle, we then took some time to reflect what Christmas means for each of us. I then said the prayer and left the candle on for a while. I read the story to my husband.

In the morning I read the story to my baby, and she seemed to enjoy it a lot, looking at the pictures on the book and keeping very quiet. I passed it onto Barbara Langan in the morning at the parish toddler group.

Lalia, Gary and Agnès Double

4 December 2013

I woke up early and left my daughter & husband to go to work. It was a long day! I drove to Cheshire rushing back to pick up the crib. On my way I saw a star; meanwhile Stephanie had to leave the crib in a doll house outside my house as I wasn't there, next to the rabbit hutch. When I arrived my daughter went running to check the house as we were waiting a long day for it! we lit the candle and added some hay to the crib. Olivia put a gold coin of chocolate, symbol of the wise men and cotton, symbol of the present of the boy shepherd. My husband lit Frankincense and some lavender flowers. All set up we read the book and sang the song. My message when I turned to the page "far, far away, followed the star for miles across the desert" made me drop some tears It was no palace, a stable roof with the new born King inside. My daughter made me read the 'magic' book again in bed. We prayed and had a chat of how important is the true meaning of Christmas.

Olivia, Dveirel & Alejandro Garcia Torres

5 December 2013

As always, I enjoyed having the travelling crib - I think it is a lovely item and the process has great symbolism. I also like that it allows you to meet new members of the parish.

My fiance, Mark and I liked setting up and discussing the crib at home on Thursday night. On Friday, I took it to school and shared it with my class who enjoyed saying the prayer and following the booklet at the end of the day. They thought the book was "beautiful" and the crib "cool".

Clare x

5 December 2013

I collected the crib from Lalia at St Joseph's play group on Thursday morning. After tea the children (Roan and Olivia) set up the nativity scene, which they really enjoyed doing. I then lit the candle and we said the prayer and sung the hymn. The children enjoyed the Christmas story and Olivia remembered that the wise men brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. Olivia says Christmas reminds us how lucky we are to have Jesus.

We all enjoyed having the crib to stay and will pass it on to the Jezzard family in the morning.

The Langan Family

6 December 2013

We received the crib today and were due to have it for 2 nights due to one family who had to rearrange their date. It worked out well as 2 of my children were out. I set up the crib.

The Jezzard Family

6 December 2013

Our Friday night was made very special when the Travelling Crib arrived at our house. Thank you to Clare who delivered the crib safely to us.

We set the crib up as a family and as Freya lit the candle, Flinn said a prayer and then we read the story together.

It was a very special time for us as a family.

The Travelling Crib was a wonderful reminder to us all about what a special time Christmas is.

Hope you all enjoy it as much as we have.

Flinn, Freya, Keely and David

7 December 2013

We really enjoyed setting the crib up underneath our Christmas tree.

We lit the candle and read through the story before we went to bed.

It's a lovely way to reflect as a family and remind us what Christmas is really about.

Michelle, Ian, Anya & Joss
Torkington

7 December 2013

I put the crib away in the morning as the children wished to set up the crib which Frances did and Finlay lit the candle.

Annie read the story.

We talked about Christmas and the fact that it is not just about receiving and giving presents.

We all read the prayer and sang the song.

Sunday morning we put away the crib ready for it to continue on it's journey.

The Jezzard Family

8 December 2013

Kieran and Joseph were really excited to receive the crib from Anya and Joss. As soon as it arrived they set it up. We tried to skype Charlotte as she was away in Germany visiting family but they were out so we sent them a picture.

The boys helped to light the candle and then we all sang the song. Kieran and Joseph each read part of the prayer and we talked about the real meaning of Christmas and how lucky we are.

We read the book as our bedtime story and the boys enjoyed looking at the pictures.

The next day I took the crib into school for Mrs Gormley to show the children in Green Class.

We have enjoyed welcoming the crib into our house again this Christmas and look forward to it's return next year.

The Marriott Family

8 December 2013

I collected the crib from Sue at mass this morning. We are new to St Joseph's so it was nice to meet someone new. Abigail and I set the crib up and read the story of the Nativity.

It was nice to have the crib in our new home, and take part in a church community activity.

The Holmes Family

9 December 2013

We were glad to have the crib this morning & I read from the book to Romeo.

He was especially impressed with the picture of Jesus, Mary & Joseph on the double page!

The Devereux Family

9 December 2013

We welcomed the Crib into FS1 (Nursery) on Monday 9th December 2013. We lit the candle and talked about the candle symbolising that Christ is the great light of the world and when we see this light it reminds us that it is Jesus who fills our lives with light. We then read the story and said the prayer together. We also discussed presents/gifts and how God so loved the world that He gave us all such a special gift of His only Son.

Over the last few weeks we have talked a lot about Christmas in FS1. The staff team feel that having the opportunity to share 'The Travelling Crib' and taking part in their own Nativity play it has helped the children to begin to understand the true meaning of this very special time of the year.

Thank you for allowing the FS1 Nursery children to share the crib with everyone.

The FS1 team; Joanne Gormley, Joan Allen,
Lauren Marriott and Lucy Gaughan

10 December 2013

It was lovely to meet Tim as he delivered the crib on and to put a face to a name..

We had a lovely calm time (in the midst of a hectic Tuesday evening!) setting up the crib, singing together and reading the story. Esme had a friend Emma over for tea and they took it in turns to read the story to Joseph.

We look forward to meeting the next family as we pass the crib on!

The Astburys
(Catriona, Stuart,
Esme 8 and Joseph 5)

10 December 2013

I have received the crib into my home and have enjoyed the peace it gave me in my busy life.

To thank God for the gift of my own family and hope the Light of the World shines in all our homes. Peace to our troubled world is a prayer we all want answered.

Remember Jesus is the True Gift of Christmas.

Linda Harrison

11 December 2013

We lit the candle and all sat together to welcome the crib into our home.

We read the book and talked of the true meaning of Christmas.

We prayed for peace and for those less fortunate.

Charlie, Ruby and Tallulah enjoyed re-enacting the story with the figures whilst Jack, Martin and I watched on.

The Travelling Crib went to Rainbows with Ruby where they shared in the story.

The Wood Family

11 December 2013

Thanks to Catriona and Esme for dropping off the crib. Freya helped set it up as Martha watched and we sang the song. At bedtime we read the story together cuddled up on the chair in Freya's room whilst the girls had their bedtime milk.

It's the first time we've had the travelling crib from St Joseph's so thanks to everyone who helped organise it. Going to have to do a careful check to make sure there are no missing contents or surprise extras for Sarah and her family tomorrow!

Claire, Francis, Freya and Martha

12 December 2013

Daddy, Alexander and Dominic collected the crib and we set it up together. Daddy lit the candle and we sang the song together. We read the story and talked about the first Christmas. We said a prayer and packed up the crib ready for Friday's family.

Alan, Sarah, Alexander and
Dominic

12 December 2013

My daughter Lia, who has just turned 4, was so excited about receiving the crib she couldn't wait to get home from nursery at lunchtime. We set the crib up together and lit the candle. It was the first year she really understood the meaning of Christmas and although we read the stories together she enjoyed telling her baby sister the story following the pictures herself.

Both sets of Grandparents visited that day and we all sang and prayed together as a family round the crib. It was so lovely.

Lia is already hoping the crib will come again next year.

The Mathews Family

13 December 2013

Niamh lit the candle as the rest of the family said the candle prayer.

My son, 21, felt very nostalgic as he remembered lighting the candle when he was in his early teens.

Niamh read the story of the birth of Jesus beautifully. It was a peaceful moment in a very hectic time. Made us as a family reflect on what is important at this time of year – health, happiness and being together at this time of year. We prayed especially for Niamh's uncle and my brother who is poorly.

The Choma-Wilkinson Family

13 December 2013

I enjoyed setting the crib up with my family. My grandma was at my house and she helped me sing the song. The manger looked nice because the candle was flicking. I hope the next family enjoys it like we did.

The Milner Family.

14 December 2013

First we lit the candle. Then Mummy read the story of the nativity. Me and my sister Roisin acted out the story of the nativity using the figures and the crib. Next we said the prayer.

We thought about the people who don't have as much as us.

My littlest sister Daisy liked playing hide an seek with the sheep. Then we went to bed.



by Violet Langridge & Family

14 December 2013

Beth played the piano and everyone sang.

We chatted about Christmas.

We said Jesus is the light of the world.

Beth and Alex read the story and Ciaran put the characters in the stable.

We had lots of fun.



The Rudd and Casey Families



15 December 2013

We loved having the crib tonight. We lit a candle, sang the song and thought about what Christmas means:

“Jesus is coming”, “Love comes into the world”, “hope”, “Mary has a baby”, “peaceful”, “restful”.

Dominic, Anthony and Chiara used the figures to act out the story as we read the book together.

We thought about how we receive gifts at Christmas because God sent us the greatest gift of all.

From Richard, Helen, Dominic,
Anthony, Chiara and Grandma
Edwards

15 December 2013

It was great to have the crib in our house. Dawn and Naomi set the crib up and we said a prayer. Then after that we talked about Jesus' birthday. We read the Nativity for bedtime.

Dawn, Naomi & Rosemary

16 December 2013

We read the story of the Nativity at bedtime. James remembered how the wise men did not go back to tell King Herod about Jesus to protect the baby.

Baby Jesus looked well tucked in his crib.

The Lofthouse Family

16 December 2013

We nearly missed having the crib due to Asher leaving it on his peg at school. We decided to race back to school and were lucky enough to get in just before closing. After, we sat down together to celebrate Advent. Asher loved setting up the figures and suddenly what had been a very hectic day became very peaceful. We lit Asher's FHC candle since the crib candle was still in transit. The booklet helped us to stay focused. We enjoyed welcoming the crib into our home and thinking about the true meaning of Christmas.



Asher Moore and family

17 December 2013

The crib came to the Walker family this evening.

It was a great opportunity for us to forget the hustle and bustle of the every day world and concentrate on the real meaning of Christmas.

We discussed what Christmas meant to all of us and reflected on the miracle of Jesus.

Daniel, Josie & Charlotte

17 December 2013

We looked at the crib and all of the characters. When my husband got home we set up the crib, lit the candle and sang the song. Iona (aged 1) loved the figures – she kissed them all before bed!

We tried to read the story but it was a little too long so we looked at the pictures and did a shortened version.

We loved having the crib and it was lovely to spend time reflecting on what a special time Christmas is.

The Rogers Family

18 December 2013

Matthew and I collected the travelling crib and brought it home. Matthew was very eager to set the crib up and was very careful and thoughtful about where he placed each figure. We lit the candle as a family and sang the song. Matthew listened attentively to the Nativity story, identifying everyone as we turned each page. We then said the prayer, took the photo and talked about what Christmas means to us all. Matthew also took the crib into his school where his whole class listened to the story and asked questions.



Helen, Giles
& Matthew Hart

18 December 2013

We loved having the crib. Bailey was so excited when it was dropped off. We set the crib up and read the story of the first nativity and we spoke about the meaning of Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

The Ellis Family

19 December 2013

We had the crib and we lit the candle and we prayed together with it.

We left the candle burning for all the ill people in our family.



The Norton Family

19 December 2013

I was at work when the crib arrived so I set it up for when the boys woke in the morning. George and Harry were really excited!

We read the nativity and spoke about the meaning of Christmas. Harry sang *Away in a Manger*, which he has been practicing a lot!

The Hart Family

20 December 2013

We had the crib and we enjoyed acting out the nativity with the figures.

We lit the candle and said a prayer for homeless people.

The Podesta Family

20 December 2013

We enjoyed receiving the crib, meeting the Hart family and were very grateful for the tin of biscuits that were passed on with the nativity!

Zac, Kian and Maisie enjoyed setting up the nativity, singing Christmas songs and reading the Nativity story.

It is really important to share the story with the children for the true meaning of Christmas.

The Palfreemans

21 December 2013

We enjoyed singing the hymn and we enjoyed doing the Nativity.



The Lock Family

21 December 2013

The crib arrived on Saturday and we put it up that morning to look at it throughout the day.

On Sunday morning we lit the candle and Maisie enjoyed singing the song a few times. She also wanted to arrange the figurines and tried to match the animals.

We shortened the story and to finish, Maisie sung a song from her nativity by choice. She really seemed to understand the meaning of Christmas 😊

The Milner Family

22 December 2013

Even though the boys are now teenagers, our Christmas preparations wouldn't be complete if we didn't have the Travelling Crib in our home.

It was great to turn the TV off and sit together.

After great debate over which figure was Joseph or the shepherd, the boys set the crib up.

After Dónal lit the candle we all sang the song together (some reluctantly) and then took turns at reading the story.

Reflecting on our thoughts of Christmas:
"It's a time to be happy."

"Time to spend with the family."

"Thinking of others – helping at the foodbank, buying toys for children with less than us."

"Sharing."

"Starting the day off with Mass."

Maria, Lawrence, Niall & Dónal Hogan

22 December 2013

The children loved receiving the crib. We set it up just before bedtime on the dining table and Grandad and Uncle Andrew joined in. Each child had some of the figures and as we came to the part of the story that talked about the characters, Elizabeth, Samuel, Emily & Charlotte put them into the crib. They all said a prayer at the end which even Charlotte joined in.

The Watson Family

23 December 2013

Our family loved singing the song.
We had fun setting up the crib.
Mum read the story and I (Isobel)
read the prayer. We all enjoyed
the travelling crib.



Isobel Farmer and family

23 December 2013

We got the crib at lunchtime from the Watsons and set it up straight away. When it went dark we lit the candle and sat down in a circle. We sang the song and read the prayer then my mum and Erin read the story. We thought about the true meaning of Christmas and Jesus being born and how important it is for us to remember what Christmas is about.

The Healy Family

24 December 2013

We felt very lucky to have the travelling crib on Christmas Eve. It was a good opportunity to make sure that the true meaning of Christmas was not lost amid all the other excitement of preparing for preparing for Santa! We set up the crib in the evening. We lit the candle, sang the song and said the prayer together. Liam read the story to us and Ryan sang some songs from the school nativity, like "No Room", when we got to that part of the story. We sang "Away in a Manger" together at the end. We thought about the gifts we give and receive at Christmas to remember how Jesus is God's great gift to the world. Then we put out our stockings and some treats for Santa and went to bed.



The Wilsons

24 December 2013

We read the Nativity story and Daddy, Aunty Steph, Grandma, Pappa and Isaac were here and Isaac put the figures in the crib as we told the story.

I sung the song, lit the candle with singing the prayer.

The Lawrence Family

The End

**Thank you for
being part of the
Travelling Crib
journey**