

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



Mary, Mother of God

Year A

1 January 2023

“The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger... When the eighth day came they gave him the name Jesus.”

Something to Think About

Imagine you are Mary. You have just a baby in rather strange circumstances and you are very, very tired. Not many mothers lay their new babies to sleep in a manger filled with straw! What do you think Mary was thinking, after she heard what the angels had said about her baby being the Saviour of the world? Do you think she was confused? Happy? Excited? Worried? Or maybe a mix of all these?

The Story

The gospel for today's special feast day, tells of what the shepherds did after the angels appeared to them. Those shepherds rushed to find the baby lying in the manger. They told Mary and Joseph what the angels had said about their baby, that he was Christ the Lord. Mary kept thinking about this and was wondering what it could all mean. Then Mary and Joseph named their baby, Jesus.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

2:16-21

The shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying in the manger.

When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. Everyone listened and was surprised. But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant.

As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said.

Eight days later Jesus' parents did for him what the Law of Moses commands. And they named him Jesus, just as the angel had told Mary when he promised she would have a baby.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Video

Click to watch the video.

[The Story of Christmas \(Jesus and the Shepherds\)](#)



Group Discussion

Mary shows us how important it is to spend time in silence, to think deeply about things and to believe that God is always with us. Do you have a place that you like to go when you need some quiet time? Maybe outside in the garden? Maybe in your bedroom? Spend a few moments in silence now, feeling God's presence in your heart, and thank God for being with you.

Praying For Others

Leader: Like Mary our mother who put her hope in God, let us pray for God's blessings this year.

Reader 1: We pray that we may listen to God's word. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for peace and calm in our minds. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that we will trust in God's plans for us. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for those who are worried or afraid, that they will find comfort. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that God will bless us and keep us safe throughout the year. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Mary, our mother,
Thank you for showing us how
important it is to listen quietly to God
and to hold God's word in our hearts.
Please pray for us, now and always.
Amen.

Group Activity

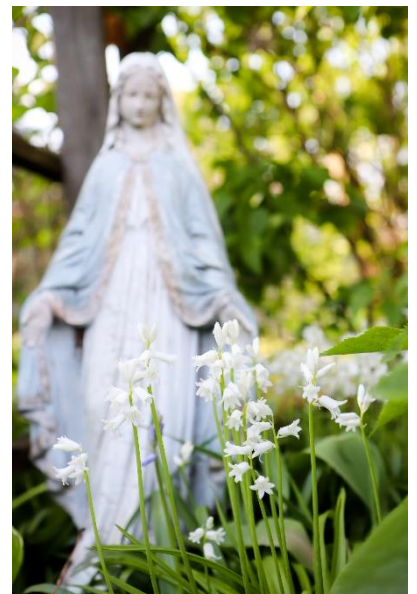
Mother Mary, Pray for Us

You will need:

*Colouring-in page for each child, coloured pencils or markers,
quiet reflective music*

Optional: cotton wool for the clouds, glitter glue, glue stick

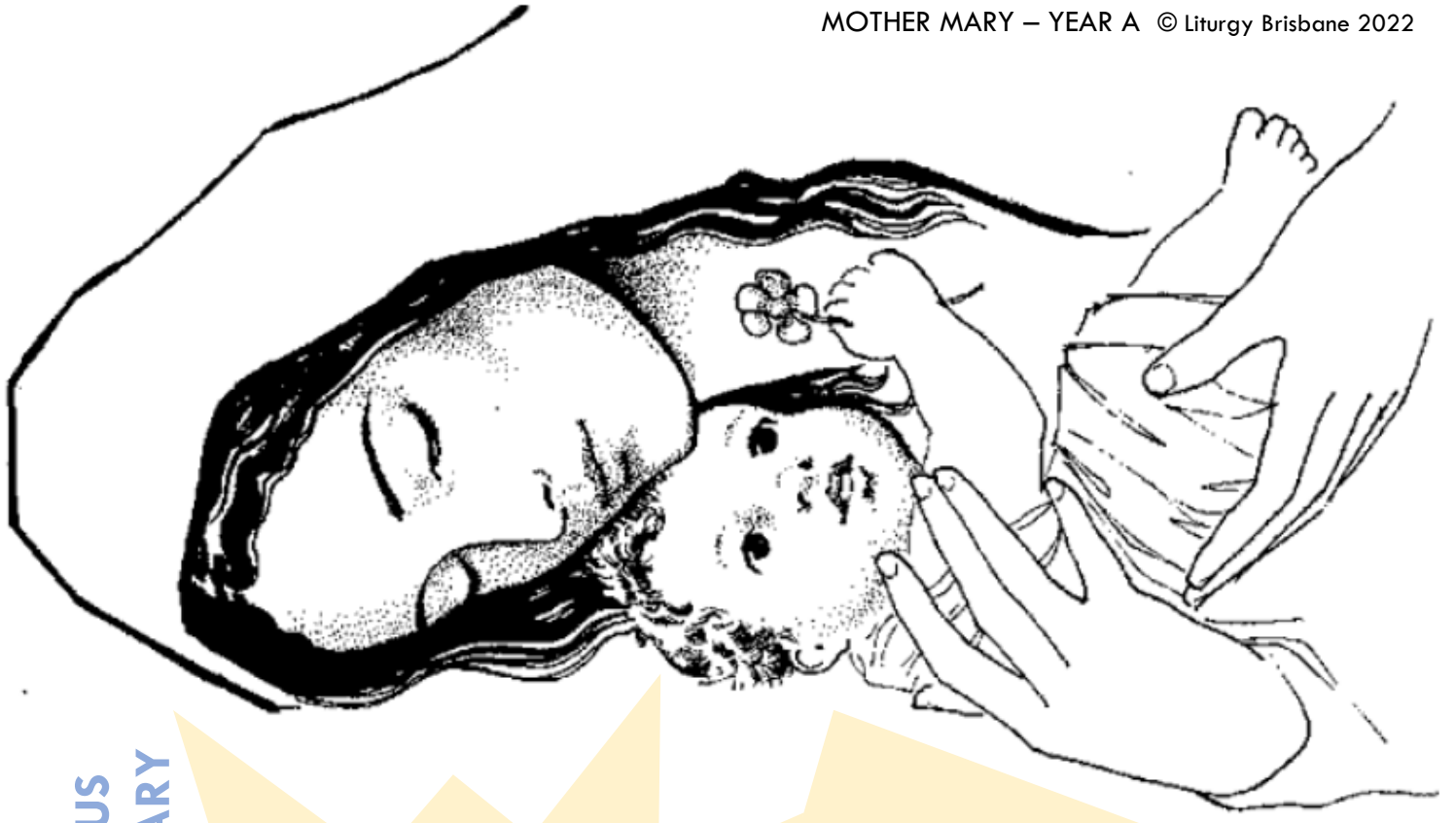
- 1) As quiet music begins, ask the children to colour in quietly, thinking about the amazing things that happened to Mary, and how she would have pondered all these things in her heart.
- 2) After the colouring is finished, children might like to decorate their picture with glitter, or glue cotton wool onto the clouds.





Mother Mary, pray for us!

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This is ME with JESUS
and my MOTHER MARY

**JESUS
IS OUR
BROTHER**

**MARY
IS OUR
MOTHER**

In the yellow space, DRAW YOURSELF OR CUT
OUT AND GLUE IN A PHOTO OF YOURSELF.
Then colour the picture of Jesus and Mother Mary.