

Plays within the Liturgy of the Word .

The Mass is not an historical re-enactment of the events of salvation history and care should be taken not to give the impression that the Liturgy of the Word is a play. This is not to say that dramatic elements may not be used, e.g., the readings may at times be divided into parts distributed among the children. However, the use of costumes, etc. is more appropriate in the context of other celebrations or services. Care should be taken especially at Christmas and during Holy Week and the Easter Triduum not to stage the various liturgies as plays. The Christmas Mass should not be presented as a birthday party for Jesus, nor should secular notions of Santa Claus be introduced into the Christmas liturgy.

Introduction: Lectionary for Masses with Children #52.

Dramatised Christmas Gospel

- Luke 2:1-20 -

Dramatisation of the Gospel of Midnight Mass including the continuation (—*) read at the Mass at Dawn. For pastoral reasons this Gospel may be read at a Vigil Mass.*

Commentator: **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Narrator: The Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire.

Commentator: When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own town.

Narrator: Joseph went from his home town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judaea, the birthplace of King David.

Commentator: Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David.

Narrator: He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger.

Commentator: There was no room for them to stay in the inn.



Narrator: There were shepherds living in the fields near Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them:

Angel: Do not be afraid. I bring good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

Narrator: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God:

Chorus: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all on whom his favour rests.

***Narrator:** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another:

Shepherds 1 & 2: Let's go to Bethlehem!

Shepherd 1: And see this thing that has happened –

Shepherd 2: Which the Lord has told us about.

Narrator: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in a manger.

Commentator: When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Narrator: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Commentator: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

Commentator: **The Gospel of the Lord**

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ