**The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem**

**A reading from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2 verses 8 to 16**

 That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby, watching over their sheep.

An angel of God stood before them.

The shepherds were very frightened.

The angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid because I am bringing you some good news.

Everyone will be happy.

Today your Saviour was born in David's town.

He is Christ, the Lord.

This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:

“Glory to God in heaven,
    and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God.”

Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven.

The shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the God has told us about.”

So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby Jesus, who was lying in the manger.