

## Posada 'A place to call home'

**What is Posada?** Posada is a Spanish word that means 'Inn'. Posada celebrates the journey of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem for the census. In homes across the country nativity figures are taken from house to house and given shelter, enabling families the chance to act as hosts to the Mary and Joseph.

The tradition started in Mexico where the Posada is part of traditional fiestas before Christmas. It is held in the nine days before Christmas, leading up to Christmas Eve, or Noche Buena, Holy Night.

Luke 2: 6-7

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

This verse reminds us of the hardship of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their difficulty in a place to stay where Mary could give birth to her baby. The Holy family were welcomed by a stranger in Bethlehem, so by hosting Mary and Joseph we can show them the same kindness they were shown by the innkeeper.

### **Celebrating Posada in school**

The Posada could be hosted each day by a different class, passing it on to the next class each morning. When the family are passed on, prayers and a Bible reading can be said. See structure below.

Alternatively each class could make their own and take it in turns to take the Holy family home each night. You could provide a Posada Prayer to say and a story book telling the Christmas Story, plus a record book for each child to draw and write about when they had the Posada stay in their home.

I wonder how you could work with your church community? Could the Holy family be passed on to the church community on the last day of the Christmas term?

There are lots of ideas on the internet of how you could make your own simple Posada figures or many reasonable nativity sets to buy.

**Posada act of worship** (suggested format)



**As the Posada crib is passed to the receiving class, the current class say these words.**

- We pass the Holy family to you now to welcome and care for until tomorrow. As they stay in your classroom may you be reminded of the difficult journey Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem and the hardships they faced along the way.
- Jesus was an amazing gift from God for us all.
- We pray that you may know the blessing Jesus brings to the world today and always.

**The receiving class say these words together:**

- We welcome Mary and Joseph into our classroom.

The receiving class then sets up the Posada crib in a special space in the classroom, placing a candle next to it. (Best to use a battery operated candle here)

**Sing Away in a manger together**

Away in a manger no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnwO\\_0DrpCk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnwO_0DrpCk) (Music track with lyrics)

**Both classes say this prayer together:**

**A Prayer of Hope:**

Jesus, born in a stable  
Bring hope to the homeless  
Jesus, child of Mary and Joseph  
Bring hope to all families  
Jesus, light of the world  
Bring hope to the dark places of this world  
Jesus, bearer of peace  
Bring hope to those suffering from conflict and war  
Jesus, who fled to another country  
Bring hope to all refugees  
Jesus, who was hungry in the desert  
Bring hope to the poor and starving  
Jesus, Son of God, Messiah  
Bring us hope this Christmas.  
Amen.

