

**Raise your voice in hope this Advent!**

**CAFOD is your Catholic Agency, fighting for justice and mercy. As part of the global Caritas family, we reach out – on your behalf – to people in urgent need, whether it's emergency aid, campaigning, or helping communities fight poverty.**



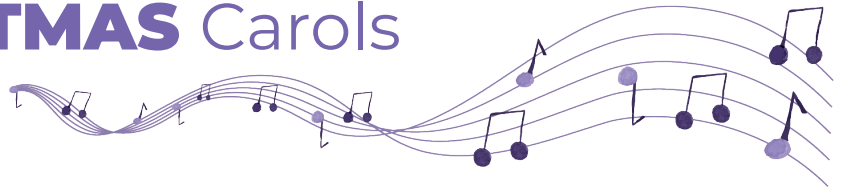
**“When the firewood arrived our emotions were off the scale because we knew it was our lifeline.”**

When war broke out, Maria and her family were forced to flee their home. Like families across Ukraine, they now face a freezing winter in abandoned, bomb-damaged houses – no windows, walls and roofs half-collapsed, and with no way to keep warm. But CAFOD partners are right now working to repair these shelters and provide firewood to keep the bitter cold away.

**You can donate to CAFOD's Advent Appeal and find out more about our work at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) OR scan here!**



# CHRISTMAS Carols



## O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels:

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten not created  
*O come, let us...*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God in the highest  
*O come, let us...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesu, to thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us...*

## WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

While shepherds watch'd their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he, (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.”

“To you in David's town this day,  
Is born of David's line  
A saviour who is Christ the Lord,  
And this shall be the sign:

The heav'nly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
And in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high  
And on the earth be peace.  
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to all  
Begin and never cease.”

## SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child;  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:  
Christ, the Saviour is born,  
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace:  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

## O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to all the earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

**IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER**

In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter  
Long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him  
Nor earth sustain,  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God almighty – Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breast full of milk and  
A manger full of hay:  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But only his mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give him:  
Give my heart.

**UNTO US A BOY IS BORN**

Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
Came he to a world forlorn,  
The Lord of ev'ry nation,  
The Lord of ev'ry nation.

Cradled in a stall was he,  
Watched by cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see  
That he the world surpasses,  
That he the world surpasses.

Then the fearful Herod cried,  
"Pow'r is mine in Jewry!"  
So the blameless children died  
The victims of his fury,  
The victims of his fury.

Now may Mary's Son, who came  
Long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame  
Unto the joys above us,  
Unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
While the choir with peals of glee  
Shall rend the air asunder,  
Shall rend the air asunder.

**JOY TO THE WORLD**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love!

**THE FIRST NOWELL**

The first No-well the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherd in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
*No-well, No-well, No-well, No-well,  
Born is the King of Is-ra-el!*

They lookèd up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued, both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

**ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY**

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood,  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be,  
Mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day, like us he grew,  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on,  
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him: but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars his children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.

**GABRIEL'S MESSAGE**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame,  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden, Mary!  
Most highly favoured lady!  
*Gloria!*"

For known, a blessèd Mother thou shalt be.  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favoured lady!  
*Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify  
His holy name."  
Most highly favoured lady!  
*Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favoured lady!  
*Gloria!*"

**AWAY IN A MANGER**

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 thee, Lord Jesus!  
Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
In thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven  
To live with thee there.

**HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

Hark, The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
*Hark, the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of the virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark, the herald...*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth!  
*Hark, the herald...*

**THE HOLLY AND THE IVY**

The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.  
*The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer  
The playing of the merry organ  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom,  
White as the lily flower,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
To be our sweet Saviour.  
*The rising of the sun...*

The holly bears a berry,  
As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to do us sinners good.  
*The rising of the sun...*

The holly bears a prickle,  
As sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn.  
*The rising of the sun...*

The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.  
*The rising of the sun...*



## GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMAN

God rest you merry gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour  
was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

## IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good-will to all,  
From heav'n's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
Oh hush the noise, of mortal strife,  
And hear the angels sing!

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow:  
Look now! For glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing.  
Oh, rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And all the world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

## WE THREE KINGS

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar;  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder Star.  
*O start of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading,  
Still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring, to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign  
*O Star...*

Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh:  
Prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
Worship Him, God on High!  
*O Star...*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
*O Star...*

Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and sacrifice  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Earth to heav'n replies  
*O Star...*

## I SAW THREE SHIPS

I saw three ships come sailing in  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
I saw three ships come sailing in  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day?  
And what was in those ships all three,  
On Christmas day in the morning?

Our Saviour Christ and His lady,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
Our Saviour Christ and His lady,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
And all the souls on earth shall sing,  
On Christmas day in the morning!

Then let us all rejoice amain,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
Then let us all rejoice amain,  
On Christmas day in the morning.



**"Your help was like a mercy from God."**

These are the words of Majid, a father forced to flee his home with his wife and four daughters, on foot, in the dead of night. Majid and his family walked for a day and a half through the desert, leaving all their possessions behind, to escape missiles and terrorism in their home city. Thanks to your support, Majid and his family in Syria now have somewhere safe to stay.

**Have a very happy and blessed Christmas from the whole CAFOD family!**

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