

Scene 1

(The whole cast enters and positions are taken for the opening song.)

Song 1 – It's A Nativity (CD track 8, lyrics p11) *(Whole cast)*

(As the song ends, the children sit down either side of the stage – see staging suggestions. The narrators stand in prominent positions, reading their words which sit on decorated music stands. Mary is alone on stage, sweeping the floor. A small stool is placed slightly off-centre.)

Narrator 1 Long ago, in a hot and dusty land far away, there lived a young woman named Mary. She was good, kind and very hard-working.....

Mary *(sweeping)* What a lot of dust! Never mind, at least it keeps me busy.

Narrator 2 God had been watching Mary. He had a very special job for her to do and sent Gabriel, his angel, to tell her all about it.

(Gabriel enters as Mary sweeps. She turns and sees him, and sits down on the stool in shock!)

Gabriel Don't be afraid, Mary. I have wonderful news for you. Listen.....

(The other angels join Gabriel for the next song.)

Song 2 – Mary, Mary (CD track 9, lyrics p12) *(Angels, supported by the whole cast)*

(As the song finishes all the angels exit.)

Scene 2

(Joseph enters and stands by Mary)

Narrator 3 Mary was engaged to be married to a carpenter named Joseph. He too was good and kind, and didn't turn his back on Mary when she told him she would be having God's baby.

Joseph *(puffing his cheeks in surprise!)* Well, I can't say it's not a shock, Mary! But don't worry, I shall look after you.

Narrator 4 Now, Joseph also had some important news of his own. The emperor who ruled their land had ordered that every man must return to the town of his birth, with his family, to sign a new register.

Narrator 1 So some months later, not long before Mary's baby was to be born, it was time to travel the long and dusty road to a town called Bethlehem.

Narrator 2 Nervously they got ready to leave. It would be a difficult journey, but Mary and Joseph knew that God would be with them every step of the way.

Song 3 – Fetch The Donkey (CD track 10, lyrics p13) (Whole cast)

(During the song, Joseph leads on the donkey – see staging suggestions/ costumes. After the music finishes he leads the donkey and Mary off stage.)

Scene 3

(4 innkeepers enter and stand across the stage holding placards which read 'Guest House – Sorry, No Vacancies'. Lots of visitors enter and approach the innkeepers, enquiring about rooms to rent.)

Narrator 3 Now Bethlehem, where Joseph and Mary were travelling to, had suddenly become a very busy town! Lots of other visitors had arrived to sign the register, and soon all the inns and guesthouses were full up.

Visitor 1 *(to innkeeper 1)* But we've been on the road for days! Surely you can squeeze us in?

Innkeeper 1 I'm really sorry Sir, but we're full!

Visitor 2 *(to innkeeper 2)* Look, we're happy to pay a little more than the going rate. Please give us a room.

Innkeeper 2 No-can-do I'm afraid, Madam. We're already bursting at the seams!

Visitor 3 *(to innkeeper 3)* Look here, I'm a very important person in my home town. There must be a room free for me.

Innkeeper 3 I don't care if you're the Queen of Sheba, there's no room at my inn!

Visitor 4 *(to innkeeper 4)* We're tired, we're dirty and we're hungry. All we want is a little something to eat, a hot bath and a comfy bed.

Innkeeper 4 Well you won't get it here! How many more times must we say it? Now clear off, the lot of you!

All Visitors *(turning to the audience)* Charming!

Song 4 – Full To The Brim *(CD track 11, lyrics p14)*
(Visitors, supported by the whole cast)

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