

(A modern take on the story)

Long long ago, even before Australian Prime Ministers kept their jobs for four years, there lived a woman named Mary and a man named Joseph. Mary and Joseph's Facebook™ status said they were engaged to each other.



Joseph was a carpenter, and one day, while he was carving some wooden legs for the hospital, an angel appeared before him. 'Giddy mate!' the angel said, 'I bring you good news of great joy - Mary is about to have a baby. You're going to be a father!' 'But how can that be?' asked Joseph, 'for we have always taken precautions. That's really strange.' 'And even more exciting,' the angel replied, 'God is also the baby's father'. 'That's even stranger!' said Joseph. 'Well, actually God is only the child's spiritual father' said the angel, 'you will be his biological father. Everything spiritual has a physical side to it, even God's son.' 'So God gets to delight in his son and I get to change his nappies?' asked Joseph. 'Correct!' replied the angel and vanished.

As Mary's baby grew within her womb, she developed a craving for bread. Unfortunately, at that time there was a bread

shortage in Nazareth (where they lived), however, Joseph came up with the idea of going to Bethlehem, because with a name that means *House of Bread*, they were sure to have plenty.

As they journeyed to Bethlehem, with Mary on a donkey, Joseph checked out some air-bnbs™ and made a booking. When they arrived, Joseph realized why it's always good to update your phone apps.



Picture of Bethlehem house on Joseph's air-bnb™ app.

Picture of Bethlehem house on up to date airbnb™ app at time of Jesus' birth, after conversion to a stable.



As the baby was coming soon, they stuck with their booking, but from then on, Mary always booked their holidays.

Meanwhile, there were some shepherds out in a field, field minding their flock, when when suddenly....



In those days there was a debate in the scientific community as to whether such were king-locating beacons, or stars that had gone supernova (i.e burned up their fuel and spectacularly blown up). The



some angels appeared and spoke to them 'Do not be afraid of our hairstyles, for we have news of great joy! To you this day is born a saviour in an air-bnb™ in



wisepersons' passion for keeping up with international royalty encouraged them to hold on to the first option.

Bethlehem and there you shall find him, wrapped in a blue jumpsuit, which, by the way, is currently only \$15.99 at Target™. Go and check him out.' So they went to see the baby.

Also at that time, there were also three wisepersons travelling from far away to see baby Jesus. They were



Upon arriving at the air-bnb™ they knocked on the door. Joseph answered, 'what can I do for you?' 'We've come to see the king of the world' replied the three wisepersons, 'and we brought gifts.' The first wiseperson entered and presented his gift. 'What's that?' asked Joseph as he placed a bag of myrrh on the table. 'It's myrrh', he replied. 'Fantastic!' Joseph said sarcastically, 'what would Jesus want with myrrh? How would you like to get myrrh for a present when you were a kid? Can you imagine your brothers and sisters complaining to your parents? - 'Mum, dad, Bert got myrrh and we've never got any! It's not fair!! Why can't we get myrrh as well?' 'You can't imagine that? No, neither can I. Thanks for going to the trouble, but there is only one thing baby Jesus wants and that's the opportunity to love and be loved'. 'That's two things' said the other two wise persons, who by now had entered the air-bnb™. 'You truly are wise' replied Joseph

following a special star in the sky to find Jesus.