

The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts

Advent Resources 2020

Nativities

Nativity Hunt

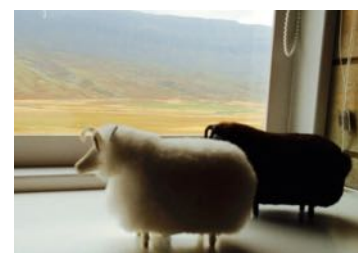
Did you participate in the neighbourhood Bear Hunt while your community was in lockdown? (Details are here if the idea is new to you - <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-25/coronavirus-bear-hunts-around-the-world-including-melbourne/12085168>)

How about creating a Nativity Hunt in your neighbourhood?

Create a Treasure Hunt map or simple list with the characters of the Nativity on it (this could be written or pictures). On the other side have the story of the Nativity or, if you are having a nativity play at your church, an invitation to the Nativity. Give copies of it to children/families in your community – this could be at the end of year break-up of a children's program you run – ie Mainly Music or Playgroup.



Ask congregation members and others associated with your congregation to place a figure from nativity in their garden or in a window of their house or business that can easily be seen by passers-by, so that when children and their families are walking in the neighbourhood they can look for the characters and tick them off the list. You might consider keeping the figurine of the baby Jesus for a place in your church yard or a church window, to be revealed on Christmas Eve.



Managing a nativity in a COVID safe way

If it is not possible for you to hold a traditional Nativity play but you want to include people in the telling of the Nativity story, here are some options:

- Ask each child (and adult if you include them) to make the character of their choice using things from a craft box - paper bags, cardboard rolls, play dough, pipe cleaners, pop sticks, scraps of fabric and wool. Instead of the children coming and taking their place during the Nativity, when the story includes their character, invite them to bring their character up and place it in a setting around a manger. Ushers will be able to manage the distance between people as they do this.



- Ask people to take a photo of themselves dressed as a character. Create a Nativity photomontage with the images which could be printed or projected as a slide. Or, if you have someone with the skills, make an animation of the nativity story using the images.
- Do a pre-recorded video. Allocate or ask people to take on roles from a nativity play and have them record themselves in their role. People can choose to set up the scene as elaborately as they like – they could go to the park or into a paddock or shed or create the scene at home. Ask one of your tech people turn each segment into the full story.
- Hold your usual nativity play but instead of people coming forward, have them stand where they are, have the children stand on the seats so they can be seen, and then have those with speaking roles deliver their lines. You would need people to be in costume when they come to church.



If you are looking for a Nativity play to use in any of these ways, there are many available. 'Christmas for Everyone' a service that involves everyone who turns up, is published by MediaCom. CMLA has published several nativities in resource books, some that will adapt well are, 'A Very Aussie Nativity' found in *Right-side-up Christmas* and 'The Impromptu Nativity' in *Joy to the World*. You can find CMLA resources here: <https://www.cmla.org.au/shop/>

Out of the Box Christmas

The Corner Uniting Church is offering to share the film and the script of their Nativity Play 'Out of the Box Christmas'. The synopsis is as follows:

It's nearly Christmas and the ornaments being stored in the garage, start to wake from hibernation. Getting ready for the Christmas season is filled with the usual excitement and banter between the decorations, as to which ones are the most shiny, the most important and who gets to be set up first in the lounge room. But the uncertainty of a changing outside world, fills the decorations with a new sense of worry that Christmas might be cancelled. Follow the adventure as Elf on the Shelf has a near impossible idea to make sure the Christmas message can still be celebrated.

At the Corner, they are planning to do an outdoor Christmas Eve carpark movie screening offering one carpark per family, who can then bring chairs and cushions to sit on to watch the screening.

If you are interested in the film or the script, please contact Carolyn David at carolyn.david@thecorner.org.au