

## Scene 4: Bethlehem

**Child 2** They've all gone. What shall we do now?

*TRAVELLERS 10 and 11 re-enter and start to walk across the stage. They see the CHILDREN.*

**Traveller 10** Are you children still by yourselves? Where are your parents now?

**Child 1** Er, they've just gone to look for somewhere to stay.

**Child 2** They told us to wait here. They'll be back soon.

**Traveller 11** Well, good luck to them. Because of the census, the town is full of visitors. You'll be lucky to find a floor to sleep on.

**Child 3** What's a census?

**Traveller 10** Surely you know? It means that all the people have to be counted.

**Child 1** *(quietly, to CHILD 3)* It's like taking the register at school.

**Traveller 11** We've been looking for Mary and Joseph. Have you seen them?

*The CHILDREN shake their heads.*

**Traveller 11** They probably arrived hours ago. They'd travel more quickly with a donkey. I bet they're in bed, asleep by now. Just as we should be!

**Traveller 10** Goodbye. We'll no doubt see you on the return journey!

*The CHILDREN wave as the TRAVELLERS exit.*

**Child 2** But where are Joseph and Mary? I didn't see them on the journey.

**Child 3** *(looks off-stage)* Look they're coming now.

*MARY and JOSEPH enter.*

**Mary** Oh, Joseph, we're very late arriving. So many people passed us on the way but the road was stony and I was scared to travel any faster.

**Joseph** Yes, I was worried that the donkey might stumble. Anyway, we're here now. Let's knock on a door and ask for shelter.

*The CHILDREN turn another page in the book and the three INNKEEPERS enter, each holding a 'window'.*