

# Christmas

Cameos of

## Part 1: *Miriam Of Nazareth*

O come all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
~ Frederick Oakeley

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.  
~ C.F. Alexander

If the angel Gabriel addressed her as "highly favoured," and if her cousin Elizabeth called her "blessed... among women," we should not be shy to think and speak of her in the same terms, because of the greatness of her Son.  
~ John Stott

The account of Christ's miraculous birth was given in the Gospels for the sake of those who had already come to believe in him and who wished to know the facts, but was never used as a means of evoking faith in those who were not yet convinced on other grounds as to who he was.  
~ J.N.D. Anderson

There are indeed more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in post-Enlightenment metaphysics.  
~ N.T. Wright (on the virgin birth)

While I most certainly believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, I do not find anywhere in the New Testament that this particular belief is necessary for personal salvation.  
~ Billy Graham

Through the centuries the Church has become evermore aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception.  
~ Catechism of the Catholic Church

Church tradition has crowned our simple Miriam and clothed her in rich garments, but we perceive her lit with secret joy, as she was when the angel came.  
~ Jenny Robertson

Mary is the Mother of God and our mother; we can entrust all our cares and petitions to her.  
~ Catechism of the Catholic Church

As the Son of Man, Jesus had no father.  
As the Son of God, he had no mother.  
~ Stewart Mulligan

They would have wanted Jesus to appear respectable and would have done their best to 'lose' the story of the virgin birth. The fact that Matthew and Luke stuck to it argues for its truth.  
~ Angela Tilby

**But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.**  
~ Galatians 4:4 (NRSV)