



Prior Knowledge

Why are gifts given at Christmas and how do they link to the Nativity story?

To Christians, the gifts given at Christmas are symbolic of the tributes made to the baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men after his birth during the story of the Nativity.

What is the importance of the Church to the community at Christmas?

Some denominations hold a special service on Christmas morning. Young children may be encouraged to bring their toys. Christmas carols are sung and there are Bible readings based around the Christmas story.

Why are rites of passage important in the life of a believer?

These are significant points in life, often followed by a changed way of living. These highly symbolic ceremonies also prepare people of faith for new roles in their personal lives and church communities.

New Knowledge

How are babies welcomed into the world by their Muslim families?

Muslims believe it to be the word of God. Babies are welcomed into the world by having the adhaan recited into their right ear. Prayer is very important to a Muslim's daily life and for many Muslims takes place five times a day.

What is the significance of the Jatakarma ceremony?

This ceremony welcomes the child into the family. The father touches and smells the child and whispers religious verses (Mantras) into the ears of the infant. All this is to promise the baby a safe and comfortable environment.

What ceremonies do Hindus have at the beginning of their lives?

What is 'Christmas spirit' and how can it be shared?

During Christmas it is common to watch some differences on people behaviour. Joy, happiness, feeling of gratitude and sharing, intended to increase. That is what some people call of Christmas spirit.

Why is marking a change from childhood to adulthood still important for many people? (Judaism)

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a coming of age ceremony for Jewish boys and girls when they reach the age of 12 or 13. This ceremony marks the time when a boy or girl becomes a Jewish adult. This means that they are now responsible for their own actions and can decide for themselves how they would like to practice Judaism.