

Friday, December 25

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1818:** The Christmas carol *Silent Night* was sung for the first time at the Church of Saint Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria

336: The first known celebration of Christmas took place in Rome

1223: St Francis of Assisi assembled the first known nativity scene, in Greccio, Italy

1758: The comet portrayed as the Star of Bethlehem in medieval art returned as predicted by astronomer Edmund Halley, after whom it was later named

1995: Palestinian Christians celebrated Christmas in Bethlehem for the first time in 28 years