

Note: The section [] is for use when blessing is celebrated within Mass

Blessing of the Cribs

Order of Prayer

Gathering

Song: Come Lord Jesus, Come (Michael Mangan – Follow the Star, Songs and Prayer Celebrations for Advent & Christmas) is one suggestion

Greeting: Parish Priest

Psalm:

Priest : Praise the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has come to save his people.

All: Our God has given us a mighty Saviour
from the family of David his servant.

Side A: Long ago the Lord promised
by the words of his holy prophet
to save us from our enemies
and from everyone who hates us.

Side B: God's love and kindness will shine upon us
like the sun that rises in the sky.
On us who live in the shadow of death
this light will shine
to guide us into a life of peace.

Priest: Praise the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has come to save his people.

All: Our God has given us a mighty Saviour
from the family of David his servant.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (2:1-7)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled, each in his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth in Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and she laid him in a manger, because there was no room for him in the inn.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Homily

[Blessing of Cribs: Invite children to come forward and gather with their cribs or figures at and on the -sanctuary steps.

Priest: God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
You have made manifest Your love;
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent Your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives
He brings joy and peace, justice,
mercy, and love.

Suggested Antiphon (sung): Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; Come, Lord Jesus; come and be born in our hearts.

All mangers, and each manger
that the families here present will place
in their homes this Christmas time
remind us that,
in the birth of a tiny baby born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago,
Your love came into our human world
for all time to bring all people to You.

Antiphon (sung): Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; Come, Lord Jesus; come and be born in our hearts.

Bless these mangers, Lord † and bless this hay † which will be placed in
the mangers in our homes
as we celebrate the holy season of Christmas.

Antiphon (sung): Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; Come, Lord Jesus; come and be born in our hearts.

Lord, bless all who look upon these mangers;
may they remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to Him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen]

Children return to their places during the song **Come Lord Jesus (Carey Landry – Hi God 2) is suggested**

Intercessions: During this time of Advent we think about our need for Jesus. As we prepare to receive him when he comes at Christmas we now pray

Leader: For the Church, as we remember the humble birth of Christ, that we may always proclaim his gift of new life for all people, we pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear out prayer.

Leader: for the world in which we live, that it may come to recognise Christ who was greeted by the angels and shepherds, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord hear out prayer.

Leader: For our families and our homes, that Christ who was laid in the manger may dwell with us always, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord hear out prayer.

Leader: For parents, that their love for their children may be modelled on that of the Virgin Mary and St Joseph, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord hear out prayer.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Archbishop: May Christ, our God, enlighten our hearts and minds, now and forever.

All: Amen

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son and he Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Concluding Song: Away in a Manger (Traditional)