

**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 he 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 our 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 our 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 our 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 our 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 the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Concluding Song:** Away in a Manger (Traditional)