



Carol Service for Schools

Christmas Carol 1

Welcome - Priest

This year we will celebrate Christmas in a way we have never celebrated it before. We have to obey certain restrictions for the sake of our own health and the health of our families, neighbours and friends. But that doesn't mean that we can't celebrate. It doesn't mean that we can't be happy. And we begin it here today in Holy Cross College as we remember that two thousand years ago, Christ came to us - a baby, an innocent child who would guide us on the way of peace.

Christmas Carol 2

Opening Prayer – Priest

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
Mary, light of God's people,
Joseph, light of holiness,
Pray with us now to God our Father.

Lord Jesus, come to birth in each of us as we live our lives like you.

Come to birth in each of us as we try to treat each other as brothers and sisters in God our Father.

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;
On those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater; you have made their joy increase.
For there is a child born for us,
A son given for us
And dominion is laid on his shoulders;
And this is the name that they give him:
Wonder Counsellor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Christmas Carol 3

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke. - Priest

At that time, the Roman Emperor Augustus ordered that a census should be made of the whole Roman Empire. Everyone had to be registered in the town where his family came from. So Joseph set out from Nazareth in Galilee to go to Bethlehem in Judaea, the hometown of descendants of David, so that he could be registered there with his fiancée Mary, who was pregnant. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her baby. It was a boy, her first. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, the animals' feeding trough, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Gospel of the Lord

Prayers of the faithful:

God our Father's love for us is revealed in the coming of Jesus his Son. In trust we place our petitions before him.

Pupil

1. At Christmas, we welcome Jesus as the Prince of Peace. Our world is in a sense of turmoil. This Christmas we ask that Jesus might give us the peace that He promised. May we find the peace which the angels promised. Peace on earth to men of good will. We pray for all those who work for peace and justice in our country and in the world.

Lord, hear us.

Pupil

2. Christmas is a time of giving, as well as receiving. Help us not to be selfish. May we remember all the millions in the world who have nothing. By our generosity, may they experience something of the joys of Christmas.

Lord, hear us.

Pupil

3. At Christmas, many people come together for parties and celebrations. We pray for those people who find Christmas a difficult time: those who are lonely, sick or away from home. As Mary and Joseph found shelter in a stable through the generosity of an inn keeper, may we welcome the less fortunate into our lives.

Lord, hear us.

Pupil

4. We pray for those who spread the word of God in other countries. May they have joy in announcing the birth of our Lord. With our support, may they bring the good news of Jesus into the lives of those who do not yet believe. May we also bring the good news into the lives of our homes and neighbours.

Lord, hear us.

Teacher

5. Loving God, we place into your care
all our doctors, nurses, carers and healthcare workers.
Give them courage of heart and strength of mind and body.
Keep them safe from harm.
May they know our deep gratitude
for all they are doing
to heal and help those affected by
the coronavirus.

God of all consolation
may they know your protection and peace.
Bless them in these challenging days
and bless their families.
Lord, hear us.

Teacher

6. We pray for all those who have passed away in the course of this year and in particular our own family members. May they experience the fullness of the joy of Christmas in heaven with God our Father. May God give comfort to those who are left behind so that they might know His loving kindness.

Lord, hear us.

Christmas Carol 4

Blessing of the Crib - Priest

Lord of heaven and earth,

we ask you to bless this crib.

May it inspire all who look upon it with the memory of your love.

May it brighten the hearts of your people and lighten their burden.

May there always be room in our hearts for your Son, and for all your children in need.

Bless us with the peace the angels announced.

Teach us to recognise your Son as the shepherds did.

May the light of your word guide us to him.

Make us generous with the gifts you have given us.

May we look forward to the day when Jesus will come again, so that the whole world will see the glory you have given him

Who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Principal

Closing Prayer – Priest

Come, Lord Jesus, into our world of love and work, of pain and joy, of hope and doubt.

Come with your gift of joy and peace this Christmas, to us, to our families and to all in our college. Come to birth within us and among us, you, the Saviour of the world.

May Almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Christmas Carol 5