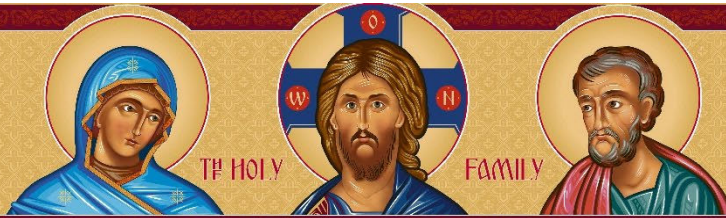


Holy
Family



Catholic
Parish

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – YEAR B – 25th OF DECEMBER 2023

Readings for Christmas Night Mass

FIRST READING : Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has 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; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

PSALM RESPONSE

℟. *Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

SECOND READING : Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

GOSPEL : Luke 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together 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 a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

Readings for Christmas Day Mass

FIRST READING : Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

PSALM RESPONSE

℟. *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

SECOND READING : Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: *You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me.* Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

GOSPEL : John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR MASS HYMNS, MASS PARTS, AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS

MASS PARTS - NIGHT MASS AND MORNING MASS

LORD HAVE MERCY

CANTOR: Lord— have mer—cy. **ALL:** Lord— have mer—cy.
CANTOR: Christ— have mer—cy. **ALL:** Christ— have mer—cy.
CANTOR: Lord— have mer—cy. **ALL:** Lord— have mer—cy.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to people of good ...
will—. We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we- glo-ri-fy you, we ...
give you thanks for your great glo-ry. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King-, O God
Al-migh-ty Fa—ther. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly be-got-ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther. You take a-way the sins of the world, ...
have mer-cy on us. You take a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our ...
prayer. You are sea-ted at the right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on ...
us—. For You a-lone are the ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You ...
a-lone are the most high Je-sus Christ. With the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glory
of God, the Fa—ther, A—men—.

This food is called among us the Eucharist, of which no one is allowed to partake but the one who believes that the things we teach are true, and who has been washed with baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and who is living his life as Christ has commanded.

Saint Justin Martyr, 2nd century

HOLY HOLY HOLY

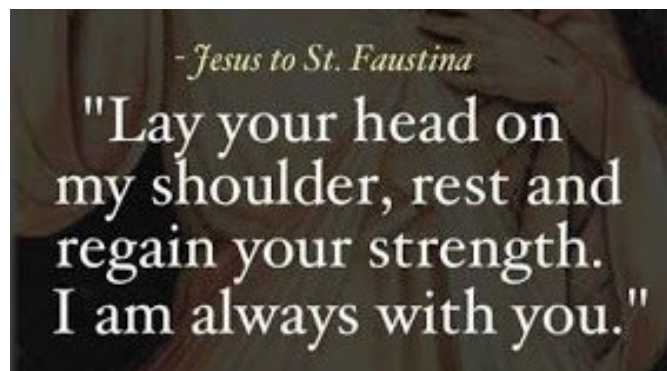
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, Lord God of Hosts.
Hea-ven and earth, are full of your glo-ry—.
Ho-san-na— in— the high—est.
Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord—.
Ho-san-na— in— the high—est.

MYSTERY OF FAITH

R: We pro-claim Your death O— Lord-, and pro-fess Your re-su-rec-tion,
un-til You come a-gain.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God-, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God-, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God-, you take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.



1 **Entrance Hymn**

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
born the King of angels,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb.
Very God Begotten not created,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heav'n above:
Glory to God in the highest.
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Yea Lord we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu to Thee be glory giv'n.
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing.
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

2 **Offertory Hymn**

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er our plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echo still their joyous strains:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your rapturous strain prolong?
Say what my your tidings be,
which inspire your heav'nly song:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,

Come adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See within a manger laid,
Jesus Lord of heav'n and earth,
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
Celebrate our Saviour's birth.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

3 **Communion Hymn**

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, Holy night,
Son of God loves pure light.
Radiance streams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus Lord at Thy birth.

5 **Recessional Hymn**

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world,
the Lord is come,
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing!
and heav'n and nature sing!
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!

Joy to the earth the Saviour reigns,
let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods
rocks hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy!
repeat the sounding joy!
repeat repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories
of His righteousness and wonders of His love!

and wonders of His love!
and wonders, wonders of His love!
Incarnate God, Emmanuel!
in flesh is manifest,
He comes to die that we might live
forever in His rest!
forever in His rest!
For e'er and ever in His rest!

6 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That doth in exile homeless mourn
Until her Saviour Christ be born.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Is born to save thee Israel.

O come thou day star seen on high
with healing for our hearts draw nigh:
Do thou the mists of night dispel
and death's foreboding darkness quell.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Is born to save thee Israel.

O come of Gentile hearts, the King.
A world that needs thee ransoming.
And save thy Servants who confess
with humbled hearts their faithlessness.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Is born to save thee Israel.

7 GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as
flame.
"All hail" said he thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria.....

For known a blessed mother thou shalt be:
all generations laud and honour thee:
thy Son shall be Emmanuel by seers
foretold,
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria.....

Men:

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.

Women:

To me be as it pleaseth God

Men:

She said

Women:

My soul shall praise and magnify his holy
name!

All: Most highly favoured lady.

Gloria...

Of her Emmanuel the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world
will ever sing:

Most highly favoured lady.

Gloria...

8 AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet
head,
the stars in the bright sky looked down
where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the
sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay close by me forever
and love me I pray,
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender
care,
and fit us for heaven to live with Thee
there.

9 GAUDEAT ECCLESIA

Let the church rejoicing sound,
the hundredth has at last been found,
Once had been a staying sheep,
Drachma found in searching sweep.

*Alleluia, we sing,
for our Husband and our King,
Royal Church rejoicing!
Eya et eya,
Regia egregia,
Gaudeat ecclesia.*

Now has dawned the Righteous Sun,
the King of hosts, the Saviour's come,
Heralding all gladness, Banishing all
sadness.

Once in exile, now we see
the King of all humility,
The Rose has borne the Lily,
God the Son from Mary.

Today! Today!
is born the King of glory everlasting,
Born of Mary is this day
He who will Goliath slay.

God from Mary's womb is born,
while hell is left in trembling scorn.
Prisoners no more to own,
Satan's angels left to groan.

10 ***ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY***

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all.
And His shelter was a stable
and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
through His own redeeming love.
For that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above.
And He leads His children on
to the place where He has gone.

11 ***HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING***

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem,
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King!

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord.
Late in time, behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see,
Hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King!

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace,
Hail the Sun of Righteousness,
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more to die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth,
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King!

12 ***WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT***

While shepherds watched
their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

Fear not said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
Glad tidings of great joy
I bring to you and all man-kind.

To you in David's town
this day is born of David's line
a Saviour who is Christ the Lord
and this shall be the sign:

The heav'nly babe you there
shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid.

Thus spake the Seraph and
forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God who thus
addressed their joyful song:

All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace,
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
begin and never cease.

13 ***SLEEP NOW, GENTLE JESUS***

Sleep now, gentle Jesus,
baby most blest,
One night Your foes with dreadful blows
will rob You of Your rest.

Sleep now, gentle Jesus,
while shepherds sing,
You'll be one day for sheep astray
the Lamb of offering.

Sleep now, gentle Jesus,
wise kings bow down,
One night You'll stand with reed in hand
and thorns Your only crown.

Drink now, gentle Jesus,
hush, and don't cry,
One day, not far, harsh vinegar will greet
Your dying sigh.

Sleep now, gentle Jesus,
laid in the hay.
Your mother same will lay Your frame
into a tomb one day.

Let my heart be, Jesus,
Your manger still.
I pray that I might also die to self,
to do Your will.

14

COVENTRY CAROL (LULLY LULLA)

*Lully lulla, thou little tiny child,
by by lully lullay.*

O sisters too, how may we do for to
preserve this day this poor youngling for
whom we do sing? by by lully lullay.

Herod the king in his raging, charged he
hath this day, his men of might in his own
sight all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee!
and ever morn and day,
for thy parting neither say nor sing
by by, lully lullay!

15

O SANCTISSIMA

O most holy one, O most lowly one,
Loving Virgin, Maria!
Mother, Maid of fairest love,
Lady, Queen of all above, Ora, pro nobis!

O sanctissima, O pissima,
Dulcis Virgo Maria! Mater amata,
intemerata.
Ora, pro nobis!

Virgin ever fair. Mother, hear our prayer,
Look upon us, Maria! Bring to us your
treasure,
grace beyond all measure;
Ora, pro nobis

Virgo, respice; Mater, adspice.
Audi nos, O Maria!
Tu medicinam portas divinam.
Ora pro nobis!



« If we want to find the God who appeared
as a child, then we must dismount from
the high horse of our “enlightened”
reason. We must set aside our false
certainties, our intellectual pride, which
prevents us from recognizing God’s
closeness. »

~ Pope Benedict XVI, 2011

**Do not fear God because
of the greatness of His
majesty, but fear Him
because of the greatness
of His love.
-Isaac the Syrian**

PRAYER *before* **MASS**

Almighty and ever-living God, I approach the sacrament
of Your only-begotten Son Our Lord Jesus Christ,
I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean to the
fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light,
and poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth.

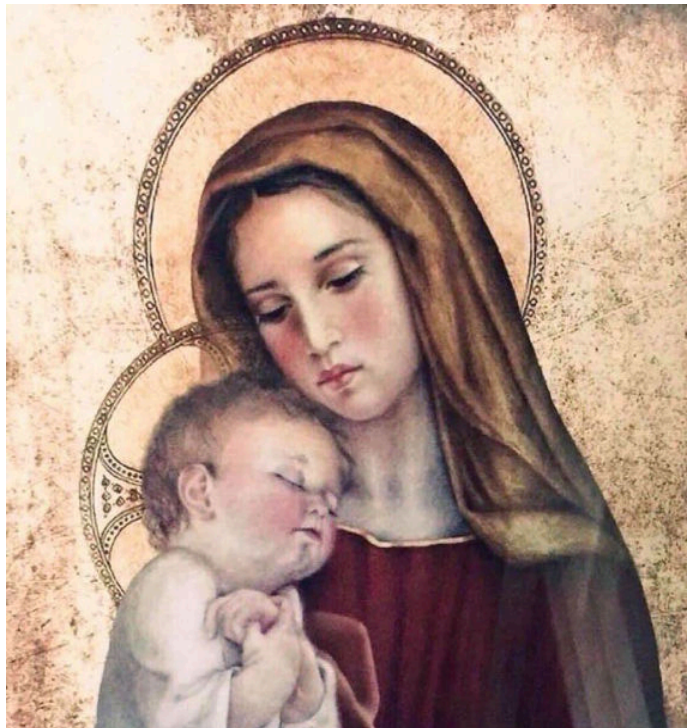
Lord, in your great generosity, heal my sickness,
wash away my defilement, enlighten my blindness,
enrich my poverty, and clothe my nakedness.
May I receive the bread of angels, the King of kings
and Lord of lords, with humble reverence, with
the purity and faith, the repentance and love, and the
determined purpose that will help to bring me to salvation.

May I receive the sacrament of the Lord’s
Body and Blood, and its reality and power.

Kind God, may I receive the Body of Your
only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
born from the womb of the Virgin Mary,
and so be received into His mystical body
and numbered among His members.

Loving Father, as on my earthly pilgrimage I now receive
Your beloved Son under the veil of a sacrament,
may I one day see him face to face in glory,
who lives and reigns with You for ever. **Amen.**

- Saint Thomas Aquinas



HOLY FAMILY PARISH NOTICES

REMINDER

Parish activities that take a break during January
Please make a note on your calendar of the starting dates
for 2024

Sunday Cup of Tea - starts 28 Jan 2024

Catechism Classes - starts 28 Jan 2024

Rosary for Life - starts 28 Jan 2024

Parish Newsletter - starts 28 Jan 2024

Monthly Adoration - starts 2 Feb 2024

Hall Bookings - starts 2 Feb 2024

Church Cleaners - start 10 Feb 2024

Thursday Night Formation - starts February

The Parish Office will be CLOSED from

the 23rd December till 23rd January.

Fr Jeremy will be away at Hearts Aflame from the 29th Dec to the 9th Jan. If you have an emergency and need a Priest, please contact Holy Cross Parish, Henderson on 022 560 6522 or St Paul's Parish, Massey on 09 8337420

Please see: the foyer door and noticeboard for changes in Mass-Times from 26th December 2023 to 9th January 2024

Please remember that there will be **NO 8am LATIN MASS on 31st December and 7th January**, due to Fr Jeremy being at Hearts Aflame..

FINAL NEWSLETTER FOR 2023

A huge "Thank You" !! to all our helpers who have kept Holy Family ticking along this year. May all parishioners have a very safe and Holy Christmas and a very Joyful New Year.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR JEREMY

Dear Holy Family Parishioners, and Friends in Christ, Merry Christmas! At this time of Christmas, let us take time to truly thank God for all His blessings; and in the trials that He allows, let us also make sure that we keep God first in our priorities, and look to love Him truly. That God became man is the heart of our faith. Let us adore the Infant Jesus and confide our lives and all of cares to Him, trusting in His love, and His care for us. Let us also keep in prayer those who are suffering at this time, and for whom Christmas is a difficult time, especially those in the Middle East. Let us thank God for the faith that He has so graciously given us. To have a clear, solid, and loving faith, at this time in human history, is an incredible gift. Let us never let go of it; and let us cherish it with all our heart. Let us ask the Infant Jesus to teach us to love more deeply and selflessly in 2024, both His Father, and his brothers. Fr Jeremy

« The best way to look at Christmas, is to stand on one's head. Contemplating the crib, everything looks upside down: the angels looking down on the God who made them, God looking up at His own creation. There in the manger, where He is homeless, we all find our home ... Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home. »

~ GK Chesterton

NEXT SUNDAY

31st December 2023

Holy Family (Yr B)

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40;

LITURGY ROSTER

Readers: M. D'Souza, J. Brodie

Prayers of the Faithful: E. Shaw

Offertory: Thotawattage Family

Special Ministers: P. Tagiilima

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

starts 10 February 2024

please keep the Church tidy.

SUNDAY CUP OF TEA ROSTER

starts 28 January 2024

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

25 Dec: Gloria Petica

26 Dec: Derek Nicholson

31 Dec: Teresa Gilmer

The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS



"Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night."

Pope Benedict XVI

"Mankind is a great, an immense family... This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas."