



Liturgy Cycle C

# **Christmas**

## **Joy For All The People**

### **Introduction**

**'I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today ... a Saviour has been born to you.'**

**These are the words of the angels to the shepherds. As we gather here this night (morning) our Saviour is present among us, not as a little helpless baby, but as our risen Lord. Let us draw close to him and be happy.**

**On those who live in a world of deep shadow your light shines. Lord, have mercy.**

**To all who accept you, you give the power to become children of God. Christ, have mercy.**

**You are full of grace and truth; from your fullness we all receive. Lord, have mercy.**

### **Midnight Mass**

#### **First Reading (Isaiah 9:1-7)**

**This reading looks forward to the coming of a Saviour-child who will rescue his people from darkness and oppression, and enable them to live in security and peace.**

#### **Second Reading (Titus 2:11-14)**

**St Paul reminds us of what is expected of us if we are to enjoy the salvation won for us by Christ.**

#### **Gospel (Luke 2:1-14)**

**This tells about the birth of Christ in a manger and how the news of his birth was brought to simple shepherds by angels.**

### **Dawn Mass**

#### **First Reading (Isaiah 62:11-12)**

**With the birth of our Lord the Christian people can taste the joy of the exiles returning from Babylon.**

#### **Second Reading (Titus 3:4-7)**

**We ourselves did nothing to merit the birth of Christ; rather, God sent his Son out of compassion for us.**



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### **Gospel (Luke 2:15-20)**

**With Mary we are invited to ponder on the deep meaning of the birth of Christ so that, with the shepherds, we may be moved to glorify and praise God.**

### **Day Mass**

#### **First Reading (Isaiah 52:7-10)**

**This great hymn of exultation at the return of the exiles from Babylon is also a poem of joy for our redemption.**

#### **Second Reading (Hebrews 1:1-6)**

**The whole history of God's dealings with his people in the past was a preparation for the coming of his Son at a particular moment in history.**

#### **Gospel (John 1:1-18)**

**This is a great hymn to the Word of God, the source of all life, whose coming among us makes us children of God.**

#### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

**We have no other light but Christ. He came down from heaven to show us the way to the house of our heavenly Father. Let us pray to him with unlimited confidence on this joyful day.**

**R: Save us through your birth.**

**For all who believe in Christ: that they may recognize their splendid dignity and strive to live up to it. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Save us through your birth.**

**For all men and women of goodwill: that God may touch their hearts and open their ears so that they may receive the message of salvation. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Save us through your birth.**

**For all those who are poor or lonely or dispirited: that they may experience the loving presence of Christ in their lives. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Save us through your birth.**

**For ourselves: that we may welcome Christ into our lives with the simplicity and love of Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Save us through your birth.**



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### Let us pray:

**Father, when your Son came among us as man he scattered the darkness of this world and filled it with your glory. Grant that through his grace we may live as children of the light so that, when our earthly journey is over, we may come at last to the kingdom where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**

### Sign Of Peace

**Lord, at your birth the angels sang: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.' Yet two thousand years later they still fight for possession of the land where you were born. Help us not to abandon the struggle for peace, and grant to us who have heard the message of the angels the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever.**

### Communion Reflection

**C stands for Christ. If we leave him out of Christmas it is like celebrating a wedding without the groom.**

**H stands for the hope he gives us — hope of a life without end.**

**R stands for the revolution he began: turning hate to love, war to peace, and everyone into everyone's neighbour.**

**I stands for Israel, the land where he was born. But it also stands for me, for Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem, but it would all be in vain unless he is born in me.**

**S stands for the salvation he brought: those who lived in darkness saw a great light.**

**T stands for thanks — thanks to the Father for the gift of his Son. The best way to say thanks is to make room for him in our hearts.**

**M stands for Mary who brought him to birth. She will help to bring him to birth in us also.**

**A stands for the angels who at his birth sang: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth'. It was the sweetest music ever heard on earth.**

**S stands for the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. Now Christ is the star we follow. His light will guide us through the night until the sun of eternal day dawns upon us.**