

**Metropolitan Cathedral
& Basilica of St Chad, Birmingham**



**Principal Celebrant
The Most Rev Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham**

**Mass for The Nativity of the Lord
Friday 24th December 2021**

Words of Welcome – Monsignor Timothy Menezes

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

A server places the baby Jesus into the crib

Dear Friends,
this crib scene invites us to contemplate
a moment in history in the town of Bethlehem,
and the significance of Christ's birth for all generations.
Let us enter into this Mystery of God's love for all people
in any need this Christmas.

Lord God, we ask your blessing + on this Crib Scene.
May the love of Mary and Joseph,
and the witness of the shepherds and the animals
draw us closer to you.

The incarnation – the birth of your Son in human history –
reveals your boundless love and mercy
for all those you have created.

Bless our homes and families this night
and make us a people who sing your praises.
Through Christ our Lord.

As the procession makes its way to the sanctuary, all stand.

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all you 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 heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

(Charles Wesley 1707-88)

Please remain standing.

The Greeting

Archbishop In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Archbishop Peace be with you.
All **And with your spirit.**

Penitential Act

Archbishop Brothers and sisters,
let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves
to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Archbishop Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince
of Peace:
Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Archbishop You are the Son of God and the Son of
Mary:
Christ, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Archbishop You are the Word made flesh, the splendour
of the Father
Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Archbishop May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.
All **Amen.**

Please remain standing

Gloria

Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

(sung by choir)

Collect**Archbishop**

Let us pray.

O God, who have made this most sacred night
radiant with the splendour of the true light,
grant, we pray, that we, who have known the
mysteries of his light on earth,
may also delight in his gladness in heaven.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please sit

First Reading**Reader**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

R/ Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

Cantor O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R**

Cantor Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the people. **R**

Cantor Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice.
All the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **R**

Cantor With justice he will rule the world,
 he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R**

Second Reading

Reader A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Choir I bring you news of great joy:
 today a Saviour has been to us.

Gloria in excelsis!

He is Christ the Lord.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Gospel

Deacon The Lord be with you.

All **And with your spirit.**

Deacon A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.’

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Please sit

Homily The Most Rev Bernard Longley,
Archbishop of Birmingham.

After the Archbishop's homily, please remain seated for a few moments of silence after which the Archbishop will say:

Archbishop Let us profess our faith.

Profession of Faith *(said)*

All I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayer of the Faithful

Archbishop As a people of prayer and thanksgiving, we unite ourselves with people all over the world this night who celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Reader For all Christians and for the world created and shaped by God; that this night may be a cause for rejoicing and reflection on all that is good in the world, and in the goodness of God in each person.

Choir **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.**

Reader For all areas of the world where there is any conflict or division; that Christ, the Prince of Peace, may touch the hearts of all those who would prefer war to peace. May all people of goodwill know that we are called to be brothers and sisters.

Choir **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!'

Reader For our country and for the world as we continue to face the challenges of the pandemic; for all those who have known sadness as a result of it, for all those who have given their skills and their care to others, and for a future of hope.

Choir **Silent night, holy night.**
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from your holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at your birth
Jesus, Lord at your birth.

Reader Mary of Nazareth received the Angel Gabriel's word from God to become the Mother of God. Let us ask her prayers for us tonight as we say:

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is fruit of thy womb Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Archbishop You know the heart of each one of us, Lord God, and you call us into a relationship of love and trust with you. Bless all people who turn to you this Christmas night. May this

joyful Feast be a time of peace and hope for the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit

Offertory

Tui sunt caeli – Orland de Lassus (1532-1594)

Whilst the choir are singing, the altar is prepared and the offertory gifts are brought to the Archbishop.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Please stand

Archbishop Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Archbishop May the oblation of this day's feast
be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,
that through this most holy exchange
we may be found in the likeness of Christ,
in whom our nature is united to you.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Archbishop The Lord be with you.

All **And with your spirit.**

Archbishop Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Archbishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right and just.**

Archbishop It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the mystery of the Word made flesh
a new light of your glory has shone upon the eyes
of our mind,
so that, as we recognize in him God made visible,
we may be caught up through him
in love of things invisible.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

Sanctus (*Missa de Angelis*)

Cantor Sanctus

All Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sa-ba-oth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Please be seated.

Archbishop You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
and all you have created
rightly gives you praise,
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,
you give life to all things and make them holy,
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Archbishop Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:
& **concelebrants** by the same Spirit graciously make holy
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,
that they may become the Body and ✠ Blood
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed
he himself took bread,
and giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice,
and giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM
IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,

THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL
COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT
FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE
FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

Archbishop The mystery of faith.

All (*sung*) **Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

Archbishop Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial
& concelebrants of the saving Passion of your Son,
his wondrous Resurrection
and Ascension into heaven,
and as we look forward to his second coming,
we offer you in thanksgiving
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church
and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose
death you willed to reconcile us to yourself,
grant that we, who are nourished
by the Body and Blood of your Son
and filled with his Holy Spirit,
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

Mgr Menezes May he make of us
an eternal offering to you,
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your
elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph her Spouse,
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs
with Saint Chad

and with all the Saints,
on whose constant intercession in your presence
we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,
we pray, O Lord,
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity
your pilgrim Church on earth,
with your servant Francis our Pope and Bernard
our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,
and the entire people you have gained for your
own.

Canon Walker Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,
whom you have summoned before you:
in your compassion, O merciful Father,
gather to yourself all your children
scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters
and to all who were pleasing to you
at their passing from this life,
give kind admittance to your kingdom.

There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your
glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you
bestow on the world all that is good.

Archbishop Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Please stand.

Archbishop At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Archbishop Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Archbishop Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Archbishop The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All **And with your spirit.**

Agnus Dei *Agnus Dei – Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)*

Please be seated

Archbishop Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
All **Lord, I am not worthy**
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

Administration of Holy Communion during which the choir will sing:

In Splendoribus Sanctorum - plainchant
Hodie Christus Natus Est - Palestrina
Cradle Song – Richard Causton

Prayer after Communion

Archbishop Let us pray.

Please stand

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
that we, who are gladdened by participation
in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity,
may through an honourable way of life become
worthy of union with him.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Archbishop will offer a few words of thanks

The Blessing

Archbishop The Lord be with you.
All **And with your spirit.**

Archbishop Blessed be the name of the Lord.
All **Now and forever.**

Archbishop Our help is in the name of the Lord.
All **Who made heaven and earth.**

Archbishop May almighty God bless you,
 the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and
 the Holy ✠ Spirit.
Amen.

Deacon Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Carol – O Come, All ye Faithful (*All sing*)

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 heaven 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 given
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.

words & music: anon 18th Century

Acknowledgements

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