

# ***The Blessing of the Crib***

## ***St Edmund & St Mary Church INGATESTONE***



### **Carol**

**1** 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.

**2** 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 and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**3** For he is our childhood's pattern,  
day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.

**4** And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

**5** Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around

# Welcome & Introduction

## THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

*A reading of the Christmas story  
during which Mary and Joseph are placed in the crib*

### Carol

1. 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.

**The shepherds are placed:**  
2. Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds first saw the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiance beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

### Carol

#### **The angels are placed**

Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born 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 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.

Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.  
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.  
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.

## Carol

### *Children only*

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

### **All Some animals are placed**

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 for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there

### **The baby Jesus is placed**

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

## Prayer of Blessing

*After which the lights on the Christmas Tree are turned on*

## Carol

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, etc.*

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us, etc*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:  
"Glory to God in the highest:"  
*O come, let us, etc.*

## Blessing.

**After which people are invited to come visit and pray at the crib  
You can leave your gifts for kids inspire under the tree '**

*There will be a retiring collection for the work of the Parish Church. We rely  
on your generous support*

***CHRISTMAS EVE*** 11.30pm Midnight Mass  
With Carols

***CHRISTMAS DAY*** 8.45am Holy Communion (traditional)  
at Buttsbury  
10am Communion with Carols  
At Fryerning