

24 December 2025
VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Introduction:

Dear brothers and sisters, on this sacred night, heaven bends close to earth. The prophet Isaiah tells us that “*a great light has shone on those who dwell in darkness.*” In the stillness of this night, the Light of the world is born—Jesus, our Emmanuel. Let us enter this mystery with wonder, joy, and faith, as we welcome the Child who brings peace to every troubled heart.

First Reading: Is 62: 1-5
Psalm: Ps 89: 4-5, 16-17, 27&29
Second Reading: Ac 13: 16-17, 22-25
Gospel: Mt 1: 1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant:

Trusting in the mercy of the God who comes to dwell among us, let us place our prayers before the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church: That the Church may proclaim with renewed zeal the joy announced by the angels: that a Saviour has been born for us. *We pray to the Lord.*

For peace in the world: That the light of Christ may scatter the darkness of war, division, and fear, and guide leaders toward justice and reconciliation. *We pray to the Lord.*

For families gathered tonight: That the love born in Bethlehem may bring healing, forgiveness, and tenderness to every home. *We pray to the Lord.*

For the poor, homeless, and abandoned: That all who watch the night in hardship may find comfort, shelter, and compassionate care. *We pray to the Lord.*

For those away from home: For migrants, refugees, and all spending Christmas far from loved ones; may the Lord be their comfort and guide.

For our parish community: That we may carry the light of Christ from this holy night into our daily lives and for the faithful departed: That they may awake to the fullness of Christ's eternal light. *We pray to the Lord.*

Celebrant:

Lord God, in the silence of this holy night, Your Son Jesus was born for us. Hear the prayers we bring with faith, and fill our hearts with the light of His presence. May His love guide our steps and His peace dwell in our homes. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**