

PRIEST: As we rejoice at the birth of Jesus, our Saviour,
we turn with confidence to God our Father
praying that the peace and light which Christ brings
will be welcomed into the world:

READER: **For the Church, that the people of God will always be
a light to the world for those who live in darkness.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For peace on earth, that the peace which Christ offers
will be a reality for all peoples.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For all who are welcoming a new child into their family,
that they may receive this gift of new life with joy
and be blessed with patience, health and strength.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For our own parish community,
that our celebration of the birth of our Saviour
will make us more aware of our unity in Jesus Christ.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For the lonely, the bereaved, the sick,
and all those who are suffering in any way,
remembering especially the victims of war and terrorism,
that the light of Christ will shine on them.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

PRIEST: God our Father,
on this holy night
you give us your Son, the Lord of the Universe,
wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

On this holy night
draw us into the mystery of your love
that we may find the one for whom we have waited,
Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever.