

ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

MODEL

Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Blessing of the Crib

The Priest places the figure of the Christ child in the manger. He may then bless the crib and incense it.

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God and Father,
a child is born for us and a son is given to us.
Your eternal word leaped down from heaven
in the silent watches of the night,
and now your church is filled with wonder
at the nearness of her God.

Bless this, our crib,
a reminder of the lowly birth of our Saviour and king.

Open our hearts to receive him,
so that our lives may be filled
with his glory and peace.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Priest Welcome, Lord Jesus,
to this hallowed and gracious night
that your birth has turned to bright morning.
The angels' tidings ring in our ears,
our hearts sing out with joy
for at last you are here.

Dear child of grace,
be gracious to us,
so that we may once more speak to God as Father.

Prince of peace,
grant us your peace,
so that we may live together on earth
as brothers and sisters.

To you, Lord Jesus,
to the Father almighty,
and to the Spirit who binds us in love,
be glory and praise this Christmas night
and evermore.

People

Amen.

This is one of a number of model liturgies prepared by the Commission and provided for use within the Diocese. It should be adapted to meet local needs and circumstances.

**Copyright Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, 2007
All rights reserved.**