The Vigil Mass for the Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas Family Mass)
24 December

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading **Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7 (CEV)**

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light.
And it shines upon everyone
who lives in the land of darkest shadows.

Our Lord, you have made your nation stronger.
Because of you, its peoples are glad
and celebrate like workers at harvest time
or soldiers dividing what they have taken.

You have broken the power
of those who oppressed and enslaved your people.
You have rescued them as you did from Midian.

For us a child has been born.
A son has been given to us,
and he will be our ruler.
His names will be: Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God,
Eternal Father and Prince of Peace.

His power will never end,
and peace will last forever.
He will rule David's Kingdom and make it grow strong.
He will always rule with honesty and justice.
The Lord All powerful will make certain that all of this is done.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95 (CEV)

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. (repeat)

Sing a new song to the Lord!
Everyone on this earth,
sing praises to the Lord,
sing and praise his name.

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Day after day announce,
"The Lord has saved us!"
Tell every nation on earth,
"The Lord is wonderful
and does marvellous things!"

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Tell the heavens and the earth
to be glad and celebrate!
Command the ocean to roar
with all of its creatures
and the fields to rejoice
with all of their crops.

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Second Reading Titus 3:4-8 (CEV)
A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

Brothers and sisters:
God our Saviour showed us how good and kind he is.
He saved us because of his mercy,
and not because of any good things that we have done.
God washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit.
He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning.
God sent Jesus Christ our Saviour to give us his Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Good news of great joy to all the world.
Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 1:1-14 (CEV)**
A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people
to be listed in record books.
These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.
Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed.
So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee
and go to Bethlehem in Judea.
Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown,
and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.
Mary was engaged to Joseph
and travelled with him to Bethlehem.
She was soon going to have a baby,
and while they were there,
she gave birth to her first-born Son.
She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him in a manger,
because there was no room for them in the inn.
That night in the fields near Bethlehem
some shepherds were guarding their sheep.
All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord,
and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them.
The shepherds were frightened.
But the angel said, "Don't be afraid!
I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy.
This very day in King David's hometown a Saviour was born for you.
He is Christ the Lord.
You will know who he is,
because you will find him dressed in baby clothes
and lying in a manger."
Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven

and joined in praising God.
They said: "Praise God in heaven!
Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."

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