



Praying at the Crib

"The nativity scene is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him, his children, brothers and sisters all, thanks to that Child who is the Son of God and the Son of the Virgin Mary. And to realise that in that knowledge we find true happiness. Like Saint Francis, may we open our hearts to this simple grace, so that from our wonderment a humble prayer may arise: a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us his all, and thus never to leave us alone."

Pope Francis, *Admirabile Signum*



Lord, we ask you bless this Crib and all who look upon it.
You came to us as a helpless child to share our vulnerabilities,
our joys and sorrows, and to teach us your way of love.

As we look upon this Crib, space of tenderness, may it open
our hearts and our homes to become Bethlehem spaces, open to
receive the Light and Love of God and share it with others.

May this Crib which was a home for an anxious couple in
search of shelter, and for a new-born child fragile and
vulnerable, remind us to open our hearts and homes: to listen
for the whisper of God;
to listen for the voices of the anxious and the vulnerable in our
families and communities this Christmas.

Gracious God, bless us with an extravagance of patience,
insight, hope and love, as we await the birth of our Saviour.
Pour down your blessings on all our families and homes and on
the broken parts of your world.

May we know the peace that the angels announced to the
shepherds and may the joy of God's coming among us in Jesus,
fill our hearts.

Amen.