



Christmas Carols prior to Mass



INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY (Polish carol)

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall.
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, Noels ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you.
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CHILD IN THE MANGER

Child in the manger, infant of Mary, outcast and stranger, Lord of us all.
Child who inherits all our transgressions, all our demerits upon him fall.

Once the most holy child of salvation, gently and lowly lived here below,
Now as our glorious mighty redeemer, see him victorious over each foe.

Prophets foretold him, infant of wonder, angels behold him on his throne,
Worthy our saviour of all our praises, happy for ever are his own.
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O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven!
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
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DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH

Ding, Dong! Merrily on high. The bells are gaily ringing
Ding, Dong! Happily reply: The angels all are singing.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis.

Ding, Dong! Carol all the bells, Awake now do not tarry!
Sing out, sound the good Noels! Jesus is born of Mary.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis

Ring out, merry, merry bells. The angels all are singing.
Ding dong! Swing the steeple Bells, Sound joyous news we're bringing.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis.

Hark now! Happily we sing – the angels wish us merry!
Ding dong! Dancing as we bring, good news from Virgin Mary!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis.

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WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians fear for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the Cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail! The Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So, bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, King, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, Joy! For Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

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OH, HOLY NIGHT

Oh, Holy Night. The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, oh hear the angels' voices, oh night divine, oh night when Christ was born!
Oh night divine. Oh, night, oh night divine.

Lead by the light of faith serenely beaming with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand. So
lead by light of a star sweetly gleaming - here come the wise men from Orient land. The
king of kings lay thus in lowly manger. In all our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger
Behold your king, before him lowly bend. Behold your king, before him lowly bend

Truly he taught us to love one another. His law is love and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression will cease.
Sweet hymns of joy, in grateful chorus raise we let all within us praise his Holy Name.
Christ is the lord, Oh praise his name for ever.

His power, and glory, ever more proclaim. His power, and glory, every more proclaim.

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OH, CHRISTMAS TREE

Oh, Christmas Tree. Oh, Christmas Tree. You stand in verdant beauty.
Oh, Christmas Tree. Oh, Christmas Tree. You stand in verdant beauty.

Your boughs are green in summer's glow, and do not fade in winter's snow.
Oh, Christmas Tree. Oh, Christmas Tree. You stand in verdant beauty.

Oh, Christmas Tree. Oh, Christmas Tree. Your candles shine so brightly
Oh, Christmas Tree. Oh, Christmas Tree. Your candles shine so brightly.

For every year, the Christmas tree, brings to us all both joy and glee.
Oh, Christmas Tree. Oh, Christmas Tree. Your candles shine so brightly.

Oh, Christmas Tree. Oh, Christmas Tree. How richly God has decked Thee.
Oh, Christmas Tree. Oh, Christmas Tree. How richly God has decked Thee.

You bid us true and faithful be, and trust in God unchangingly.
Oh, Christmas Tree. Oh, Christmas Tree. How richly God has decked Thee.
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ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly swinging o'er the plains
and the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria In Excelsis Deo, Gloria In Excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria In Excelsis Deo, Gloria In Excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King
Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little lord Jesus, lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little lord, Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing -the baby awakes,
But little lord, Jesus -no crying he makes
I love you, Lord Jesus - look down from the sky
and stay by my bedside - till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus - I ask you to stay
Close by me forever - and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children - in your tender care
and take us to heaven - to be with you there.
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The First Noel
(The Hymn below is to be sung during Mass)

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay
keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night
that was so deep.

**Refrain: Noel Noel Noel Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!**

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the East beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. R

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star where ever it went: R

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay right
over the place where Jesus lay. R

Then entered in those wise men three
and reverently upon their knee,
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frank in cense. R

Now let us all with one accord sing praises
to our heavenly Lord, who made both heav'n
and earth from nought,
and with his blood salvation bought. R

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A Holy and Blessed Christmas to you and your families!