A Prayer for Those who Travel:

Father,
we pray for all those who will travel today to school, or work, or play;
for those who will travel home to visit families and friends at Christmas;
for those who are seeking God's will for their lives.

As we all travel through life, unite us in your love and help us to draw comfort and strength from one another and to grow in love and grace.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



A Christmas Blessing:

And now may we be
as faithful and obedient as Mary and Joseph,
as full of wonder as the shepherds
and as persistent and generous as the wise men.

As we celebrate the Coming of Jesus the Messiah into our world,
may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us, our families, our friends and neighbours
and with our parish community
today and forever more.
Amen.

Suggested Prayers for the Posada

As you receive the figure of Mary, Joseph and the donkey into your home as part of their Posada journey this Advent, please pray together as a family and/or with friends and neighbours some of the suggested prayers.



You can, of course, make up your own prayers, or say the joyful mysteries of the Rosary together.

It is a good idea to make a special place of honour for Mary, Joseph and the donkey during their stay with you.

During the hand over of the figures:

Givers: Will you take these figures of Mary & Joseph and the donkey into your home?

Receivers: We will.

The figures are handed over

Givers: May they be a symbol to you of taking the Lord Jesus into your hearts.

Receivers: Amen.

Bible Reading:

It is suggested that you read **one** of the following Bible stories

Luke 1: 26-38	Mary receives news from the Angel Gabriel that she is to bear a son.
Matthew 1: 18-25	Joseph is told in a dream of Mary's pregnancy.
Luke 2: 8-20	The visit of the shepherds.
Matthew 2: 1-11	The visit of the Magi.



A Prayer for Families:

We pray for families around the world.
For the family of our parish community.
For our own families.
For families who are separated at this time of year.
For those with no family:
that Christmas may be a time of preparation and thought;
that Jesus will be at the centre of our lives;
that we may unite and forgive each other;
that we may look forward with confidence,
showing true love for one another.
Amen.

A Prayer of Hope:

Leader: Jesus, born in a stable
All: Bring hope to the homeless

Leader: Jesus, child of Mary and Joseph
All: Bring hope to all families

Leader: Jesus, light of the world
All: Bring hope to the dark places of this world

Leader: Jesus, bearer of peace
All: Bring hope to those suffering from conflict and war

Leader: Jesus, who fled to another country
All: Bring hope to all refugees

Leader: Jesus, who was hungry in the desert
All: Bring hope to the poor and starving

Leader: Jesus, who died for us
All: Bring hope to those near death

Leader: Jesus, Son of God, Messiah
All: Bring us hope this Christmas.
Amen.

