

# CHRISTMAS AT ST ALPHONSE 2022

## CAROLS FOR MASS 24 DECEMBER - 1 JANUARY



### Christmas Liturgy

Christmas Eve: Vigil Masses - 4.00pm & 8.30pm.  
Christmas Day: 11.30am

### New Year Liturgy - Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Saturday 31 December: 7.30pm (Vigil Mass )  
Sunday 1 January: 11.30am & 6.30pm

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

By Pope Francis

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love;  
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel  
and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again experience  
violence, rejection and division;  
may all who have been hurt or scandalised  
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
make us once more mindful  
of the sanctity of the family,  
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
graciously hear our prayer.

Amen.



**O Holy Family of Nazareth,**

*I give you my heart and soul. Assist me in my  
last agony and may I breathe out my soul in  
peace with you. Amen.*

### Message for Christmas:

Once again this year we open our hearts and minds to welcome **Emmanuel**, 'God with us', into our lives. I pray that this joyful event will strengthen us all and lead us to become ever more involved in the life of the Church as 'messengers of Good News'. So many in our world are waiting for a message of hope and joy and peace. Each one of us, as Christians, has our part to play in 'delivering' and 'being' that message.

The synodal process has invited us all to become more involved in 'shaping' and 'being' Church. Thank you to all who organised and participated in this process. I pray that all the hard work of so many in our community will bear much fruit in the year ahead and that as we find new places and ways of worship we will be ever more courageous, creative and open to the plan of God for all creation.

2023 will bring changes for our community as we find new places of worship because of the closure of St Alphonse on 15th January 2023. We will keep you informed of future plans through the parish website: [www.catholic.lu](http://www.catholic.lu)

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ descend upon each one of us and the whole world. God bless us with happiness, joy and peace this Christmas and may the New Year of 2023 be showered with God's grace & blessing.

With blessings and best wishes,  
Fr. Michael



## 1. O little town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above your 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.
2. How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous Gift is giv'n!  
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.

3. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sins and enter in,  
Be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!



## 2. It came upon the midnight clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.
2. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man,

hears not heard  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing.

3. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when the new heaven  
and earth shall own  
The Prince of Peace their king,  
and all the world repeat the song  
which now the angels sing.



### 3. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature  
sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks,  
hills, and plains

repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world  
with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, and wonders of his love.

### 4. Once in royal David's city

1. Once in royal Davids city,  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby,  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall:

with the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. And through all His wondrous  
childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly mother  
In whose gentle arms He lay.  
Christian children all should be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.

### 5. O come, all ye faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
born the King of Angels:  
*O come, let us adore him, (x3)*  
*Christ the Lord*
2. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!





## 6. In the bleak midwinter

1. In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
2. Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;

- but his mother only,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
3. What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man,  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him:  
give my heart.



## 7. Silent Night

1. Silent night, holy night  
all is calm, all is bright;  
round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace  
sleep in heavenly peace
2. Silent night, holy night!  
shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

- Christ, the Saviour is born,  
Christ, the Saviour is born
3. Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

## 8. Angels we have heard on high

1. Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o're the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains

*Gloria in excelsis Deo x2*

3. Come to Bethlehem to see  
him whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord the newborn King

2. Shepherds why this Jubilee  
Why your joyous strains prolong  
Say what may the tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song



## 9. Hark the herald angels sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell

Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail the heav'n-born  
Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings  
Ris'n with healing in his wings  
Mild He lays his glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

## 10. Away in a manger

1. Away in a manger,  
no crib for His bed  
the little Lord Jesus  
laid down His sweet head  
the stars in the bright sky  
looked down where He lay  
the little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay
2. The cattle are lowing  
the baby awakes  
The little Lord Jesus  
no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus  
look down from the sky  
and stay by my side,  
'til morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus,  
I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever  
and love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children  
in thy tender care  
and take us to heaven  
to live with thee there.



## 11. What child is this

1. 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.
2. Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear,  
for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spears shall  
pierce him through,  
the cross he bore for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.
3. 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 a song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The babe, the Son of Mary.



## 12. The little drummer boy

1. Come they told me  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
A new born King to see  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
Our finest gifts we bring  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
To lay before the King  
Pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum  
So to honour Him  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
When we come
2. Little baby  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
I am a poor boy too  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
I have no gift to bring  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
That's fit to give our King
3. Mary nodded  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
The ox and lamb kept time  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my drum for Him  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my best for Him  
Pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum  
Then he smiled at me  
Pa rum pum pum pum  
Me and my drum





### 13. O Holy Night

1. O Holy night!

The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night  
of our dear Saviour's birth  
Long lay the world in sin  
and error pining  
'Til He appears 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;  
O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine,  
O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

2. Led by the light of Faith  
serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by  
His cradle we stand

So led 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, to our weakness  
is no stranger  
Behold your King;  
before Him lowly bend  
Behold your King; before Him  
lowly bend

*Fall on your knees;  
O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine,  
O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night,  
O night divine!*



## 14. The first Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angels 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.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell  
Born is the King of Israel.*

2. 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.

3. And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came  
from the country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star  
wherever it went.

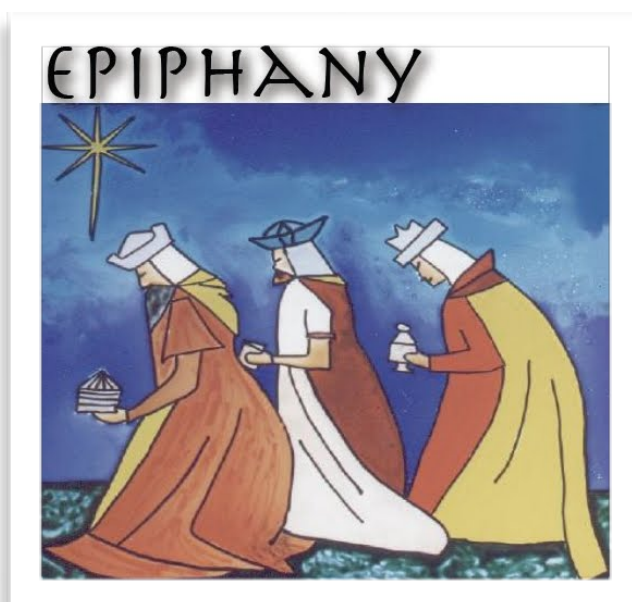
## 15. We three Kings

1. We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain,  
moor and mountain  
Following yonder star

*O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still  
proceeding  
Guide us to thy Perfect Light*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign

3. Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising, all men raising  
Worship Him, God most high
4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes of life of gathering gloom  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb
5. Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Earth to heav'n replies  
Guide us to Thy perfect light



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**Church closure:** St Alphonse Church will be closed for long term repair and renovation from Monday 16 January 2023. Updates on the location for English-speaking Masses will be posted on [catholic.lu](http://catholic.lu) as soon as possible.

**Parish Office** - Please contact the Nicola in the office for all enquiries including baptisms, weddings, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Office hours are 08:30 - 12:30 Mon - Fri. The office is at 34 rue des Capucins.

**Weekend Masses:** 7.30 pm Saturdays (vigil), Sundays 11.30am and 6.30pm.  
**Livestreaming of Mass:** The Sunday 11.30 Mass is live-streamed via our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/stalphonseluxembourg/](https://www.facebook.com/stalphonseluxembourg/)

**Weekday Masses:** The Wednesday 6.15pm Mass at St Alphonse is celebrated every week in English by Fr Michael.

**Children's Liturgy** takes place during the 11.30am Sunday Mass at 11.30am. Children aged between 3 and 7 years approximately leave the church at the beginning of Mass with the catechists and return at the offertory. Parents are welcome to accompany their children and more volunteer helpers are always needed.

**The parish office will be closed between 22 December and 2 January.**

**Donations to the English-speaking Catholic Community :** a number of parishioners have commented that they no longer carry cash. Please consider making a donation via bank transfer or even better, set up a monthly direct payment: **Friends Engl. Cath. Comm. LU10 0019 5155 8196 2000.** Donations can also be made via your mobile using Digicash (payconiq) - please scan the QR code.

Thank you for all your donations - your generosity is much appreciated.

