

# LITANY OF THE HOLY CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

(approved for private use only.)

**This Litany is ideal for devotion during Christmastide and in the Octave of the Epiphany.** It is tailored for the use of children. Those petitions pertaining particularly to children have been enclosed in brackets. Underlining has been used to indicate bowings: a full bow for the holy Name of Jesus, a half-bow for the name of our mother, Mary.

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*

God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

O divine Infant Jesus, sent to earth from Heaven,  
*have mercy on us.*

O divine Infant Jesus, born of Mary in Bethlehem,  
*have mercy on us.*

O divine Infant Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
*have mercy on us.*

O divine Infant Jesus, placed in the crib, &c.

O divine Infant Jesus, praised by the angels,

O divine Infant Jesus, adored by the shepherds,

O divine Infant Jesus, proclaimed as Saviour  
through Thine adorable Name,

O divine Infant Jesus, announced by the star,

O divine Infant Jesus, worshipped by the Magi  
with symbolic gifts,

O divine Infant Jesus, presented in the temple by the Virgin,

O divine Infant Jesus, embraced by the aged Simeon,

O divine Infant Jesus, revealed in the temple  
by the prophetess Anna,

O divine Infant Jesus, persecuted by King Herod,

O divine Infant Jesus, fleeing into the exile of Egypt,

O divine Infant Jesus, crowning with martyrdom  
the infants of Bethlehem,  
O divine Infant Jesus, rejoicing the heart of Mary  
with Thy first words,  
O divine Infant Jesus, learning to take Thy first steps in exile,  
O divine Infant Jesus, returning from Egypt  
to be reared in Nazareth,  
O divine Infant Jesus, loved by all  
as a shining example of obedience,  
O divine Infant Jesus, brought to the temple at the age of twelve,  
O divine Infant Jesus, lost by Mary and Joseph  
on their return home,  
O divine Infant Jesus, sought for three days with great sorrow,  
O divine Infant Jesus, found with great delight,

Be merciful, O Jesus.

Be merciful, *hear us, O Jesus.*

From all evil, *deliver us, O Jesus.*

From all sin, *deliver us, O Jesus.*

[From all misconduct in the Church, *deliver us, O Jesus.*]

From quarrels and anger, *deliver us, O Jesus.*

From lies and thievery, *&c.*

From evil talk and bad example,

From bad habits,

By Thine Incarnation,

By Thy birth,

By Thy most bitter poverty,

By Thy persecution and sufferings,

Through the intercession of Thy most holy mother,

Through the intercession of Thy holy foster-father,

Through the intercession of the Holy Innocents,

Through the intercession of all the angels and saints,

We, Thy sinful children, *beseech Thee to hear us.*

Hear our prayer for the salvation of the unfortunate heathen,

*we beseech Thee, hear us.*

With pity, *we beseech Thee, hear us.*

That Thou wouldst look kindly upon our small gifts, *&c.*

That Thou wouldst number the men of God among Thy saints,

That Thou wouldst richly bless their apostolic works,  
That all the world may kneel before Thee,  
That we may be zealous to convert all unbelievers  
    in the name of Thy Holy Childhood,  
That we may keep our baptismal vows faithfully,  
That we may rejoice to be children of Thy Father in Heaven,  
That we may ever honour and love our Father in Heaven,  
[That we may pray as Christian children, freely and devoutly,]  
That we may willingly obey Thy commandments,  
[That we may inscribe in our hearts the Fourth Commandment:  
    Honour thy father and thy mother,  
That we may grow in wisdom and virtue as we grow in years,  
    [That Thou wilt keep us innocent,]  
That Thou wilt deliver us from temptation,  
That Thou wilt instil in us great love and devotion  
    for Thy mother, Mary,  
That we may never make an unworthy confession,  
That we may receive Holy Communion with sincerity,  
[That Thou wilt grant our parents long lives,]  
[That Thou wilt grant them Thy best gifts.]  
That Thou wilt enlighten our pastors and give them strength,  
That Thou wilt repay our benefactors with eternal gifts,  
That Thou wilt have mercy upon the poor souls in Purgatory,  
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,  
    *spare us, O Lord.*  
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,  
    *graciously hear us, O Lord.*  
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,  
    *have mercy on us.*  
Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*  
*Pater.*

Let us pray.

We pray to Thee, Heavenly Father, Who, for the Infant Jesus' sake, adopted us as Thy children and as heirs of Heaven to look kindly upon people [children] not of the Faith and let them participate in our unearned and priceless fortune. We ask this through the Infant Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. *Amen.*