

## Lighting the Christmas Candle on Christmas Eve



*Putting a candle in the window is an Irish tradition, said to date from Penal times. Then it signalled a safe place to say Mass. At Christmas, the candle was often lit by the youngest child in the house and put in the window to indicate a place of welcome to the baby Jesus.*

Place a white candle on a windowsill facing the road

**Child:** Jesus, today we light a white candle to welcome you.  
Our home is open for you to come and be with us this Christmas.

**Parent:** Long ago, Mary and Joseph were turned away from the inn  
on the night Jesus was born.  
This lit candle reminds us that many people are left outside,  
even on Christmas night.

**Child:** Jesus, we pray for all the people searching for a home,  
and all the people who feel lonely tonight.

**Parent:** Jesus, you are our friend and brother.  
Today we celebrate your coming into our world –  
help us to live these Christmas days  
as a friend to everyone we meet.

**All:** Stay with us Lord Jesus in our hearts  
and in our home and in our world. Amen