

St Mary, Whitegate and St Peter, Little Budworth
Readings for Sunday 28th December – Holy Innocents
Morning Prayer or Holy Communion

COLLECT:

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong:

by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PSALM: 124

If the Lord himself had not been on our side, ♦

now may Israel say;

If the Lord had not been on our side, ♦

when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us alive ♦

when their anger burned against us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over our soul; ♦

over our soul would have swept the raging waters.

But blessed be the Lord ♦

who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowler; ♦

the snare is broken and we are delivered.

7 Our help is in the name of the Lord, ♦

who has made heaven and earth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. AMEN

FIRST READING:

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Thus says the LORD:

A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.

Thus says the LORD:

Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work,

says the LORD:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

there is hope for your future, says the LORD:

your children shall come back to their own country.

SECOND READING:

Matthew 2: 13-18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

POST COMMUNION:

Lord Jesus Christ, in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless of your children:

may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;

for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

AFTER THE SERVICE:

Please join us for refreshments. At St Mary's these are served in the Mews which is at the bottom of the steps leading to the village green. Toilets are available in the Mews.

At St Peter's refreshments are served in Church and there is a toilet at the back of church.

SAFEGUARDING:

St Mary's & St Peter's take our duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at:

<https://www.chesterdiocese.org> and click on the "Safeguarding" tab



Holy Innocents MP+HC 281225