

**Discussion & Reflection Questions**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas - 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2025**

**Read: 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.' <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> 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.'

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> '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.'

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

<sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

**Questions:**

1. Why do you think Matthew's gospel emphasises that Jesus and his family became "refugees" in Egypt?
2. Matthew links this event to Hosea 11:1 ("Out of Egypt I called my son"). How does this fulfilment passage connect Jesus to the story of Israel's exodus?
3. What does Herod's violent response to the news of Jesus' birth reveal about fear, power, and insecurity in human leadership?
4. The "Massacre of the Innocents" is in stark contrast to the story of the birth of Jesus. What does this tell us about the world we live in & what Jesus was born for?
5. We see the movements of fleeing, waiting, returning & relocating. Can you relate to these experiences? Who might relate to this experience?

6. What does God's protection of Jesus say to us in a world where others still suffer injustice?
7. Why do you think God leads the family to Nazareth, and how does the theme of humility or hiddenness shape our understanding of Jesus' early life?
8. How might this passage inform a Christian response to modern issues such as refugees, unjust leadership, violence against the vulnerable, or trust in God during uncertainty?

**Prayer:**

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created,  
and yet more wonderfully restored,  
the dignity of human nature:  
in your mercy,  
bring us to share the divine life of Jesus Christ,  
who came to share our human life,  
and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.