

## **Kingussie Parish Church linked with Laggan and Newtonmore**

**Sunday Service 1st January  
Joint Service at St Bride's 10.30a.m**

### **Church notices**

#### **Kingussie**

**Thursday 5th January the Warm space is cancelled due to a Funeral Service being held in the church.**

Good morning and a warm welcome to our joint Service here in St Bride's this morning. I bring you good wishes for the New Year 2023.

#### **Opening prayer**

Loving God, you seek to rescue us from our troubles and are with us in our dangers. Be our strength and guide at all times and help us to know you are with us always.

Amen

1st **Hymn** 295 Who would think that what was needed

Mr Roy Alexander will bring our 1st Reading for this morning.

**1st Reading is** Isaiah Ch 63 v 7 - 9

I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,  
the deeds for which he is to be praised,  
according to all the Lord has done for us—  
yes, the many good things  
he has done for Israel,  
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.  
He said, "Surely they are my people,

children who will be true to me";  
and so he became their Saviour.  
In all their distress he too was distressed,  
and the angel of his presence saved them.  
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them  
all the days of old.

2nd **Hymn** 303 It came upon the midnight clear

### **Roy will now bring our 2nd reading Matthew Ch 2 v 13 - 23**

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more."

#### **The Return to Nazareth**

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

### **CHILDREN'S TALK**

## **AIM**

**To tell how Joseph was warned in a dream to escape from Herod.**

1. Who can remember the name of the mother of Jesus? (Mary)
2. What was Mary's husband called? (Joseph.)
3. Who can tell me how Joseph was told to marry Mary? (He was told by an angel in a dream)
4. Where was Jesus born? (He was born in a stable in Bethlehem.)
5. Now baby Jesus had visitors, who were the 1st visitors? (Shepherds) And who were the 2nd visitors? (The three wise men.) There was someone else who wanted to visit him. The wicked King Herod. He did not like to think that Jesus was to be a king. He wanted to kill baby Jesus.
6. When Joseph went to sleep he had another dream. An angel came to Joseph and said ' Get up, take the child and his mother Mary and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you: (for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him. He did not like to think that Jesus was to be a king.)
7. Mary Joseph and baby Jesus travelled as quickly as they could out of Bethlehem and towards Egypt. It took them a good few days to get there and they had to find somewhere to live.
8. After a while the wicked King died and when Joseph heard this he decided it was time to take Mary and Jesus back to their own land. Joseph did not want to go back to Jerusalem or Bethlehem because he thought it was too dangerous. They went to live in Nazareth where Joseph worked as a carpenter.
9. Jesus lived in Nazareth with Joseph and Mary until he had grown up and set out to work for God his Father.

**3rd Hymn 330** The Tyrant issues his decree

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY**

How many of us like the glitter of Christmas? However we have to remember that Jesus did not live in tinsel town. Jesus was born into a turbulent world where there was oppression and rebellion, cruelty and evil.

King Herod typifies the times. Herod was appointed 'king of the Jews' by the Roman Senate and was quite paranoid about anyone who challenged his position or power. Friends, courtiers, priests, nobles, were often killed on the suspicion that they might oppose him.

That the wise men went to him and enquired about the 'king of the Jews' was unfortunate. This brought about the massacre of the children at Bethlehem. As Bethlehem was not all that large, it would probably amount to 20 to 30 children.

Fortunately, Joseph had another dream of an angel who said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and flee into Egypt.' The baby Jesus escaped the tyrant, the baby Moses had escaped Pharaoh. Joseph made the journey into Egypt where long ago another Joseph cared for his family in time of trouble.

When Herod died, the kingdom was divided between his three sons: Archelaus ruled in Judea, Herod Antipas ruled Galilee and Perea, Philip ruled Iturea, Trachonitis and the territory in the north-east.

Joseph had another dream while in Egypt and this time the angel told him to return to Israel because Herod was dead. Joseph once again obeyed but decided that Archelaus was still a danger, so he took Jesus to Galilee and to Nazareth. This was only slightly safer. Herod Antipas was the one who had John the Baptist beheaded. This Herod would meet Jesus briefly at Jesus' trial.

We do not know how long the Holy Family were in Egypt but it would not have been very long. It must have been a great relief to the parents of Mary when they saw her again and found not only was she safe but so was the baby Jesus. From the very beginning Jesus shares in our sorrows as well as our joys. His family are homeless and refugees. It would take a while for Joseph to build up his work in Egypt and again in Nazareth, and without work they would not eat.

The shadow of the cross often touched the carpenter's workplace. Let us give thanks that Jesus shares in our humanity and understands our

troubles. Our God is not a God who is far-off but a God who loves us and comes among us.

Amen

## **INTERCESSIONS**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
For you are always ready to help and protect us. You are a present help in all our needs and troubles. Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God our Redeemer, we thank you for the Church throughout the whole world. We remember especially today all Christians who are being persecuted or penalised for their faith. We pray for Christians who are exiled or imprisoned for their beliefs. We remember all who are struggling with doubt and those who lack any teaching in the faith.

We give thanks for our land and its freedom. We remember in your presence all who are refugees or homeless at this time. We ask Your blessing upon the world poor and all who are unable to use their abilities and talents. Bless the work of Fair Trade organisations and all who strive to relieve injustice and poverty.

We give thanks for the love and protection of parents. We ask your blessing on all homes and loved ones, that they may live in peace and be free from poverty. We remember all children who have been taken into care and all families who find it difficult to cope. We pray for any parents who have lost a child over this last year.

We give thanks for the medical profession and for all who care for our well-being. We ask your blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. We remember any who have been injured in accidents or through acts of violence. We pray especially for families where there is a child who is ill or suffering.

We give thanks that you are our Redeemer; that you seek that we should not perish but have everlasting life. We remember friends and loved ones who are departed from us.

We pray for our King and Queen Consort and their families.  
Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

And we say together,

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen

**Our closing Hymn 331** Unto us a boy is born,

please remain standing following this Hymn for the BENEDICTION

### **Christmas Blessing and BENEDICTION**

May the joy of angels, the humility of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ-Child be God's gift to us all this Christmas season and New Year.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you.

Amen

**We sing Hymn 786 May the God of Peace**