

In today's Gospel, Matthew 2:13-23, we hear of Joseph being told in a dream to take Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary and flee to Egypt until it was safe for Him to return. Herod, out of his anger, ordered all male children in Bethlehem that were two years old or under to be killed. There was great "wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children." But when Herod died, an angel appeared in a dream to Joseph and told him to take Jesus and the Virgin Mary to Israel, being warned again, he took them to the district of Galilee, to the city of Nazareth. It was there that the prophecy became actuality, that the Christ shall be called a Nazarene.

As we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ, we jointly remember His ministry, crucifixion and resurrection bestowing eternal life to the world! In return of this great love for us all, we are to follow Him which sometimes leads to martyrdom, but always leads to salvation!

Dearest ones, God so loved us that he became incarnate. Following Christ means to pick up our cross, deny ourselves and follow Him! This is what the blessed Joseph did when he took the Virgin Mary as his betrothed, when he took Christ and the Virgin Mary out of Egypt for protection, and then after the threat of death had ceased, brought them back to Israel.

As we celebrate the 14,000 infants, the Holy Innocents tomorrow, slain by Herod in Bethlehem, we are given yet another example of following Him Who was incarnate for our salvation! Christ is born! Let us glorify Him! Let us follow Him! Amen.