

Intercessions Sunday 27th December 2020

'When Herod realised 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.' (Matthew 2: 16-18)

Tomorrow is the Commemoration of the Holy Innocents.

Today, we remember in our prayers children around the world whose lives have been cut short.

A sound is heard in Ramah,
The sound of bitter weeping,
Rachel is crying for her children;
she refuses to be comforted;
for they are dead.

Pray for the holy innocents of Israel,
victims of fear and anti-Semitism.

Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us.

A sound is heard in Gaza,
a sound of bitter weeping;
Pray for the holy innocents of the Palestinian
camps,
victims of displacement and injustice.

Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us.

A sound is heard in Juba,
the sound of bitter weeping.
Pray for the holy innocents of South Sudan,
victims of war, famine and disease.

Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us.

A sound is heard in Kankara,
the sound of bitter weeping.
Pray for the holy innocents of Nigeria,
victims of hatred and abduction.

Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us.

A sound is heard in Bangkok,
the sound of bitter weeping.
Pray for the holy innocents of Thailand,
victims of lust and exploitation.

Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us.

A sound is heard in London,
the sound of bitter weeping.
Pray for the holy innocents of Britain,
victims of violence and abuse.

Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us.

A sound is heard in Telford,
the sound of bitter weeping.
Pray for the holy innocents of Shropshire,
who did not live for long
or never saw the light of day.

Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us.

A sound is heard in Wolverhampton
the sound of bitter weeping.
Pray for the holy innocents in our midst,
victims of indifference and greed.

Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us.

Gracious God,
in your motherly heart,
you share and bear the pain
of all who grieve for lost children.

Keep in your kindness
those, whose names are written in our hearts,
or unknown to us but on our consciences,
until the day when we see them face to face,
and know that our grieving is over
and that all your promises are kept.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**