



Words for Wondering

An Advent to Epiphany Course from the
Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Monday 29th December – Holy Innocents
Innocent



“York Mystery Plays 2010 : Massacre of the Innocents : An Innocent” by John Robinson, CC BY 2.0 (via <https://www.flickr.com/photos/robbophotos/4810474650/>)

Scripture: **Matthew 2:16-18**

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, 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 magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “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.”

Reflection

Herod 'the Great' was appointed King of the Jews by the Roman authorities in Palestine and he proved to be ruthlessly efficient in his thirty-three years of dealing with his subjects. Herod's desire was to eliminate Jesus and, when he realised that the Magi had tricked him and left the country without reporting back to him, Herod poured out his wrath on all the male infants in the land. These were God's 'innocent' ones. The story of children suffering due to unjust rulers is not one limited to first century Palestine, but many places around the world in the twenty-first century. Today you're invited to pray for Holy Innocents, for children in danger in the world today.

To Listen

The Coventry Carol (traditional) and Rachel, Weeping for her Children by William Chatterton Dix.