**Day 3**

**“When king Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him” (Mt 2:3)**

**The presence of Christ, turning the world upside down**

**Readings**

Psalm 2:1-10 Why do the nations conspire…?

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5 But the Lord is faithful, he will strengthen you

**Reflection**

**Christ’s coming disturbs the ways of the world.**

He comes in humility, denouncing the evil of injustice and oppression that accompanies the ambition for power, wealth and status. Jesus calls for a change of heart and a transformation of life, which will bring liberation from all that dehumanises. This creates disturbance precisely because he rocks the boat of those who seek only their own interests and neglect the common good. But for those who work for peace and unity,

**Christ’s coming brings the light of hope.**

We are invited to commit ourselves to act constructively to make justice a reality, acknowledging where we have strayed from God’s ways of justice and peace. Then the answer to our prayer for Christian unity becomes visible as others recognise in us Christ’s presence in the world. We can bring the light of hope to those living in the darkness of political unrest, social poverty, and structural discrimination. The Good News is that God is faithful, always strengthening and protecting us, inspiring us to work for the good of others, especially the victims of oppression, hatred, violence and pain.

**Prayer**

Lord, you led us out of darkness to hope in Jesus. Unite us in our commitment to establish your reign of love, bringing light to those living in the darkness of despair and disillusionment. Shine your light upon us and surround us with the warmth of your love. Lift us up to you, so that our lives may glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

**Verse / Poem**

In the school Nativity Play

they cast the class bully as Herod. Inspired.

No acting required.

Jesus, you ask

which role shall I play

in my world, your world, today.

And you will me to seek first your holy inspiration

that I might be just myself.