

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway Stavanger Congregation

Stavanger Anglicans' website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8466/>

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***Sunday 28 th December 2025; The Holy
Innocents***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 31.15-17

1 Corinthians 1. 26-29

Matthew 2. 13-18



Reflection

“God Is With the Smallest and the Suffering”

Today’s Gospel is not an easy one to hear.

We begin with a newborn baby ‘Jesus, and we end with weeping, fear, and terrible loss. King Herod, afraid of losing power, orders the death of innocent children. And the Church calls these little ones holy. At first that may seem strange. They never preached. They never performed miracles.

They never even spoke a word. But they mattered to God. That is the heart of today’s feast. The Holy Innocents remind us that God’s love is not earned by achievement. It is given freely, especially to the smallest, the weakest, and the most vulnerable.



Matthew tells us that the Son of God begins life as a refugee. Mary and Joseph flee in the night. They leave home, family, and security, everything just to keep this child alive. Right from the start, Jesus enters a world where power hurts the powerless. A world where innocent people suffer because of fear and greed. And God does not stay far away from that suffering. He enters it. That means when we see suffering today in children, in families, in the poor, and in the forgotten. God is not absent. God is already there.



Matthew quotes the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation...” The Bible does not ignore grief. It does not rush past pain. It lets the tears be heard. Sometimes faith is not about having answers. Sometimes faith is about believing that God holds our tears when we have none left to explain.

The Holy Innocents tell us this: no suffering is invisible to God. This feast gently challenges us. If God stands with the innocent and the vulnerable, then so must we. Every time we protect a child, comfort the grieving, welcome the stranger, defend the weak, or refuse to let fear rule our hearts, we are living the Gospel of the Holy Innocents.

The children of Bethlehem had no voice, so today the Church gives them one. Their lives proclaim: God treasures the small. God hears the crying. God enters the danger. And love is stronger than fear. May this feast make our hearts softer, our faith deeper, and our love braver. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Contacts and Connections

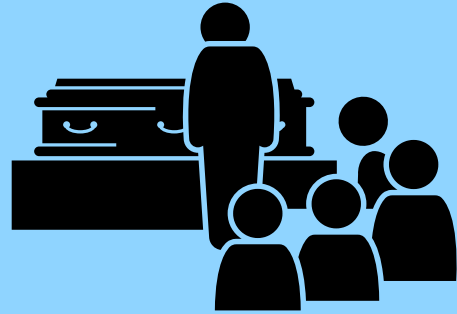


Father Martin

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For pastoral needs,
Baptisms
Blessing of Civil
Marriages
Funerals
Please contact the
Assistant Chaplain



Collect

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen



Notices

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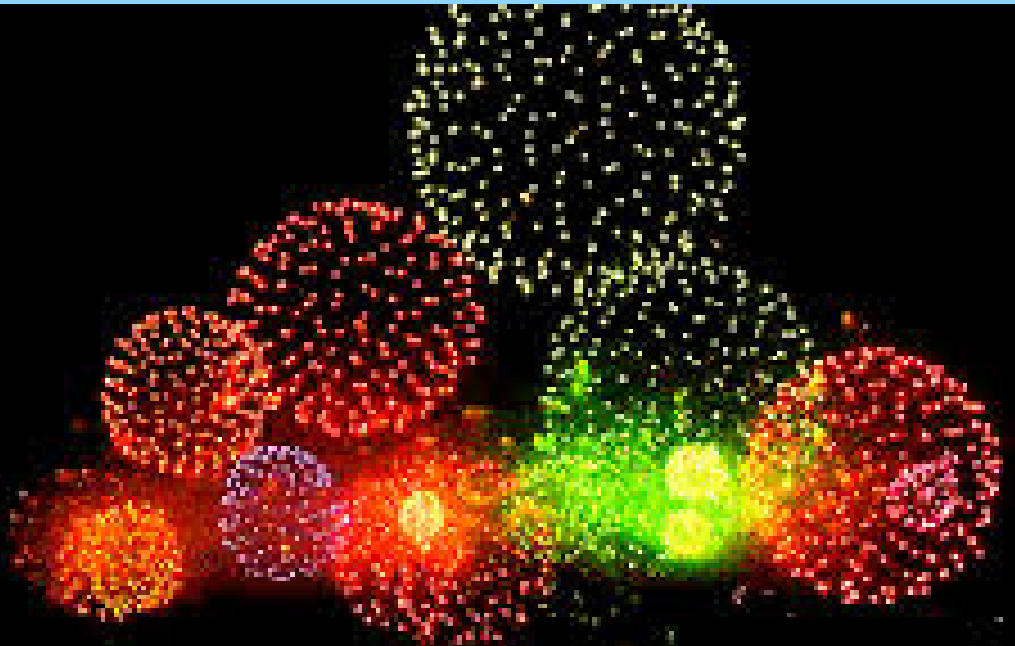
We are back at Menighetshus and we pay rentals.

Our finances are not looking good may you please help us by donating through VIPPS or Bank Account Number 3201 08 90631

Christmas Carols



The service of 9 Lessons and Carols was well attended and everything was above aboard.
Thank you



HAPPY NEW YEAR