

that this led to John's beheading. Herodias' daughter had danced so pleasingly to Herod that he swore to give her whatever she wished. Herodias incited her to demand John's head on a platter. When Jesus began His ministry, Herod believed that He was John raised from the dead. Some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill Him, and Jesus referred to Herod as a "fox" (Luke 13:32). St. Luke implicates Herod Antipas in Jesus' trial (23: 1-12). Pilate, on hearing that Jesus was a Galilean, sent Him to Herod as ruler of Galilee. Herod questioned Jesus but Jesus made no answer. Herod then mocked Him and sent Him back to Pilate. Antipas was deposed and exiled by the emperor Caligula and his territory given to his nephew, Herod Agrippa I.

**Herod Agrippa I (ruled A.D. 37-44 [41-44 in Judea])** Agrippa I is referred to in Acts chapter 12. He killed St James and imprisoned St Peter, though Peter was liberated by angels. He came to an unpleasant end when *"...an angel of the Lord smote him...and he was eaten by worms and died"*.

**Herod Agrippa II (ruled A.D. 50s; died c A.D. 92)** Agrippa II was the son of Herod Agrippa I and the last in the Herodian dynasty. When St Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea (about 59-60 A.D.) Agrippa II interviewed him (Acts 25-26) before Paul claimed the right to trial in Rome.

*-Stephen S*

**Entrance antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!**

**First Reading: Isaiah 49:3,5-6**

**Psalm 39: Response: Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.**

**Second Reading: 1Corinthians 1:1-3**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!**

**Gospel: John 1: 29-34**

**Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

**Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**



## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Cycle A, 2023 Weekly Reflection

**The Kings Herod – a thumbnail sketch:** The name Herod appears often in the New

Testament but refers to different family members. This is a quick guide to who was who.

**Herod the Great (ruled 37-4 B.C.)** Herod was appointed King of the Jews by the Romans in about 40 B.C., after fleeing to Rome once Antigonus had taken power in Judea. In 37 B.C. Mark Antony sent Herod with a large army to recapture Jerusalem. This he did and he ruled as the Roman Jewish client king for the rest of his life. This included the time of Jesus' birth. It was Herod who tried to find out about Jesus from the three wise men. When they did not return to him, he ordered the massacre of the male babies in and around Bethlehem, though the Holy Family had earlier fled to Egypt. On Herod's death the Holy Family returned to Israel. (Matthew chapter 2). Herod died about 4 B.C. There is real uncertainty about the date of Jesus' birth. The traditional date, 25<sup>th</sup> December 1 B.C., is an estimate of a 6<sup>th</sup> century monk.

**Herod Archelaus (ruled 4 B.C.-A.D. 6)** Archelaus was one of Herod the Great's sons. After his father's death he ruled over Judea and Samaria. Matthew (2:22-23) says that after the Holy Family returned to Israel, when Joseph: *"... heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father, Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to ... Galilee...and dwelt in a city called Nazareth..."*. Archelaus divorced his wife to marry the widow of his deceased brother. This contravention of Mosaic law caused a scandal in Jerusalem. As a result of this, and of Archelaus' continued cruelty, the Jews complained to Augustus and Archelaus was deposed and exiled. Judea and Samaria then came under direct Roman rule, Pilate being their 5<sup>th</sup> governor.

**Herod Antipas (ruled 4 B.C.-A.D. 39)** Antipas was another son of Herod the Great. He inherited Galilee. He married the wife (Herodias) of his half-brother. According to Luke (3:1), John the Baptist began preaching in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of Tiberius' reign - about 28/29 A.D. Mark (6:14-29) recounts how John had denounced the marriage to Herodias as violating Jewish law and