

## Reflection Tuesday The Holy Innocents 28 Dec 2021

The Holy Innocents are the children slaughtered by King Herod, who believed that by killing every boy born in Bethlehem at the same time as Jesus, he would kill the new-born King of the Jews. None of those baby boys deserved death. The Holy Innocents can stand for the “unimportant” and “unnecessary” pawns, child and adult alike, who permeate history, the ones sacrificed because they “don’t really matter”. This feast reminds us that in God’s eyes *no-one* is unimportant, *no-one* is unnecessary, *no-one* “doesn’t really matter.” However meaningless their lives and deaths may seem to us, they shine glorious in heaven.

The Holy Innocents are those who die everyday from starvation, the innocent victims of war, oppressions and injustice. The many who are aborted before being given an opportunity to live. They challenge us to treat everyone with dignity, honour and respect. Jesus is born among us to teach us these values. It is because he valued the lives of all who live, have lived and those of the future, that he wanted to become one of us.

[Christina Rossetti](#) 1830 - 1894

Sleep, little Baby, sleep;  
the holy Angels love thee,  
and guard thy bed, and keep  
a blessed watch above thee.  
No spirit can come near  
nor evil beast to harm thee:  
sleep, Sweet, devoid of fear  
where nothing need alarm thee.

The Love which doth not sleep,  
the eternal Arms surround thee:  
the Shepherd of the sheep  
in perfect love hath found thee.  
Sleep through the holy night,  
Christ-kept from snare and sorrow,  
until thou wake to light  
and love and warmth to-morrow.