

## Reflection Thursday 30 December 2021

The Holy Family had to present their firstborn child to God. They were greeted by two elderly members of the community very close God, so close they recognised Jesus, as his name implied, as the promised Messiah. Soon they would flee to Egypt as refugees. Fortunately, they did not have to go through interrogation or incarceration in order to stay. They would have been truly grateful for being protected and cared for throughout these early days of Jesus life in the face of so many dangers. As we approach the end of 2021, it is time to look back and reflect on the many, many ways we have been blessed despite the difficulties, challenges and dangers that Covid19 has caused us. There will be too many to remember but, in the future, let us be more open and generous to the refugee and those fleeing terror and injustice, for they might also be for us a saviour.

### **The Fight into Egypt**     Malcolm Guite

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,  
or cosy in a crib beside the font,  
but he is with a million displaced people  
on the long road of weariness and want.  
For even as we sing our final carol  
his family is up and on that road,  
fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,  
glancing behind and shouldering their load.  
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower  
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,  
the lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,  
and death squads spread their curse across the world.  
But every Herod dies, and comes alone  
to stand before the Lamb upon the throne.