



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Served by the Jesuits in Southern Africa

Sermon Outline

Christmas 2024

Fr Russell Pollitt SJ

Luke 2:1-14

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

(Translation: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

1. Jesus belongs in time and space: a precise time and geographical place

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. (Luke 2:1-2)

- Emperor Augustus instructs "all the world". Jesus comes for "all the world"
- Do we believe that Jesus is for **all**?

2. Jesus' birth is a reversal of values – a *Magnum Mysterium*

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)

- Every detail of the birth shows us a reversal of values and power. What do we learn?

3. The angels and the sign

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. (Luke 2:12)

- The sign for St. Luke is the "non-sign"
- God's poverty is the sign. **This** scene is the sign.

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