

GOSPEL PEARLS

The need to do something

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After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

Herod was furious when he realised that he had been outwitted by the wise men, and in

Bethlehem and its surrounding district he had all the male children killed who were two years old or under, reckoning by the date he had been careful to ask the wise men. It was then that the words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah were fulfilled: A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loudly lamenting: it was Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because they were no more. (Matthew 2, 13-18)

Herod is so obsessed with the idea of losing power that he has no qualms about killing innocent and defenseless children. We mustn't make the mistake of thinking that today we are governed by better people or that we are ourselves: how many injustices do we see being done every day towards meek and faultless people? Do you realise that you shouldn't turn away, as if nothing has happened? Jesus put you in this precise situation to do something. If it is not possible to avoid acts of evil, at least try to bring comfort to the injured person.