

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 28th May 2018 to 4th June 2018



**Compiled by
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Day 1

Bethlehem

- Manger Square – Basilica of the Nativity and the Grotto (Birth place of our Lord Jesus)
- Church of St Catherine (**Chapel of Saint Catherine** is a religious building that is affiliated with the Catholic Church and is located in the northern part adjacent The Crusaders' Cloister
- The Chapel of St. Jerome
- The grotto of the Holy innocents (*Here the Massacre of the Innocents ordered by Herod the Great shortly after Jesus' birth is commemorated. In the first centuries, the memory of the Innocents was commemorated in an adjoining cave, which one can assume was a common grave in which numerous bones of corpses had been found*).

*The Shepherd's Field.- Franciscan Church (**Holy Communion at 4 pm**) and the old cave*

28th May 2018

Manger Square – Basilica of the Nativity



The **Church of the Nativity**, also **Basilica of the Nativity**. Is a basilica located in Bethlehem in the West Bank. The church was originally commissioned in 327 by Constantine the Great and his mother Helena on the site that was traditionally considered to be the birthplace of Jesus.



Day 1

The Grotto & The Manger–Birth Place of our Lord



We had the privilege to sing “O little Town of Bethlehem” & “பெத்தலையில் பிறந்தவரை”



Bible Reading: Luke 2:1-7

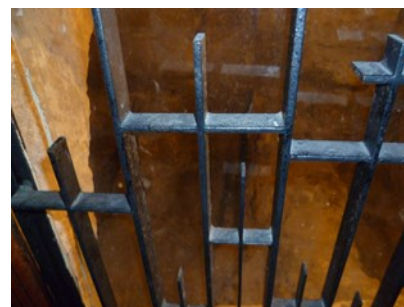
“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them”.



Grotto of the Holy Innocents, Chapel of Saint Catherine & Chapel of St. Jerome



The grotto of the Holy innocents (*Here the Massacre of the Innocents ordered by Herod the Great shortly after Jesus' birth is commemorated. In the first centuries, the memory of the Innocents was commemorated in an adjoining cave.*)



Bible Reading: Mathew 2:16-18

“When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

The Shepherd's Field.- Franciscan Church

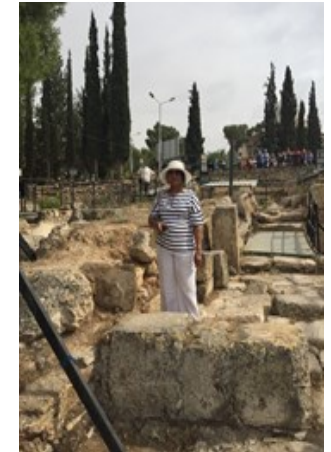
The **Shepherds' Field Chapel** is in southeast of Bethlehem in the West Bankin Palestine. The chapel marks the place where, according to Catholic tradition, the angels first announced the birth of Christ. We Sang “While Shepherds watched their flocks by night”



We had our Holy Communion in this simple hut where we had few wooden benches and a table for the Sacraments. Hot sunny day surrounded with trees, flowers and gentle breeze. We sang “My Jesus My Saviour” & “Father we Adore you” . Rev. Asir Anand conducted the service and I was blessed to participate in serving the wine with him. First time experience for me and I will treasure this moment.



The Shepherd's Field.- Franciscan Church



Bible Reading: Luke 2:8-20

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

