

The Birth of Jesus

Lk 2: 1-8



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 was Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to his own town to register.



Border of Israel and Syria today

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee



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to Judea,



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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.



*Brass plated
image on door of
the Church of the
Annunciation,
Nazareth.*

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.



A stable was the back room of a home in a cave.

She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger because there was no room for him in the inn.

Sacred site of the Birth



Sacred Site of the Manger



Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, West Bank

The Shepherds and the Angels

Lk 2: 8- 20



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby,



keeping watch over their flocks at night.

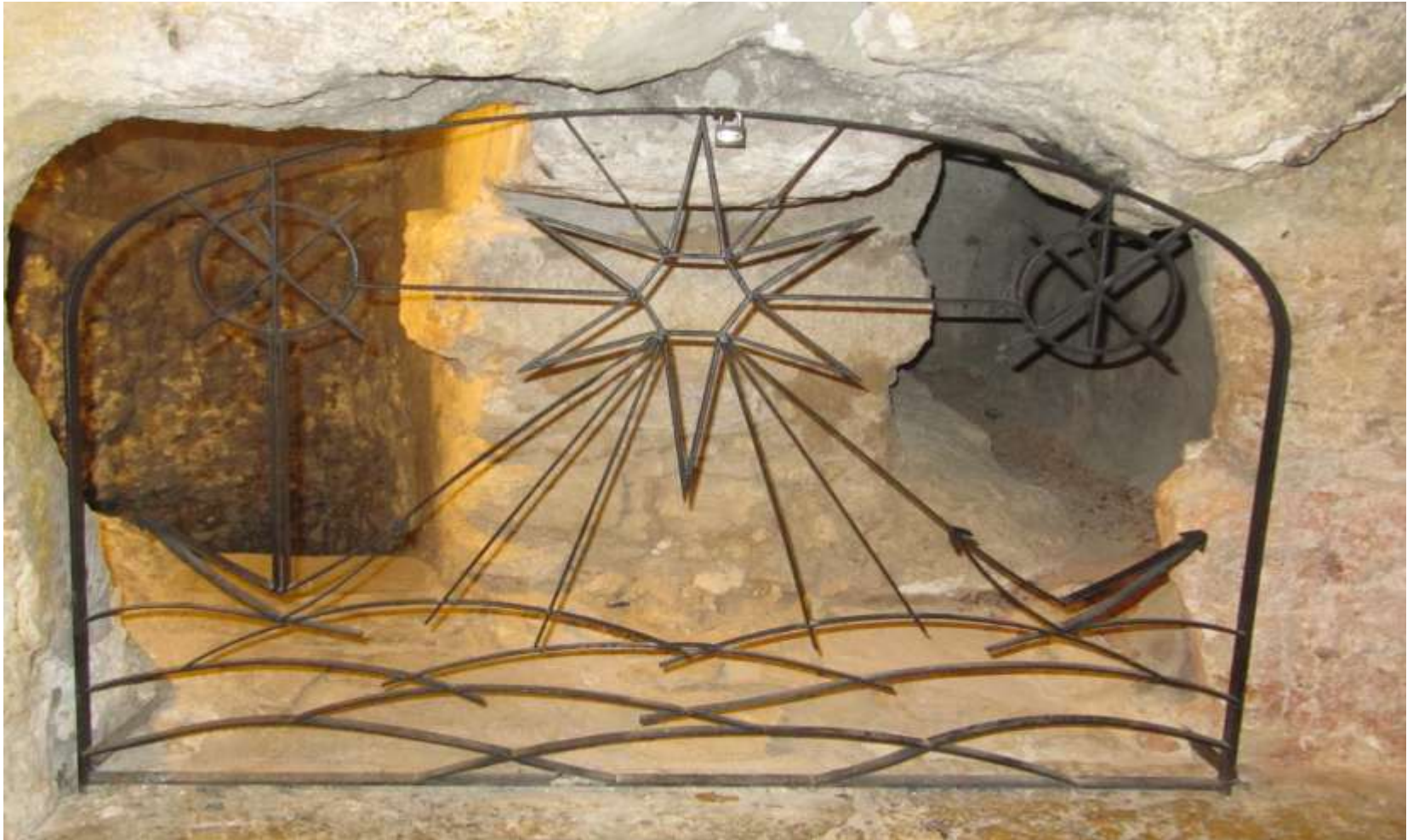


Shepherd's Fields Cave model, Bethlehem

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 of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.



This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”



A stable under the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people on whom his favour rests.”



*Image on ceiling of Church of the Angels,
Shepherd's Fields, Bethlehem*

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.



Replica model in cave at Shepherd's Fields, Bethlehem

When they had seen him they spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.



Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, West Bank.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.



One image of Mary surrounding the Church of the Annunciation. Each country of the world, including Australia has created an image of Mary which is represented here at this Church.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



*Image on ceiling of St Catherine's Chapel -
Bethlehem*