

Advent 4B 2023

Recently I was in Rome and the Churches were filled with ornate images painted by Genius, and mounted upon great architectural features.

But the image often was a mother, and a baby.

This image rings true

Throughout the world

It does not need the Gold

It is an image which is of beauty

In Kenya

I saw small families

People with nothing other than the love and culture they shared

They understood the image

Of the baby with its mother, and St Joseph

In this country I have seen families with every modern convenience

Surround the new cot, with monitors and, fresh clothing

Beyond the wealth

They understand the image

Of the baby with its mother, and St Joseph

There is no country in this world where this image has not been seen and understood

Indeed we as a church

Touch by our presence

The whole Globe

But it is not power we share

It is not the arrogance of clever teaching, or clever acts

The Church is universal because of love
Seen at this time of year quite simply
As an image of the baby with its mother, and St Joseph

Throughout the world it is Love we proclaim
Practical love
Such as a baby with its mother, and St Joseph.