



Episcopus Esboensis

ANNO DOMINI

*" In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree..."*

*These familiar words at the beginning of St. Luke's Christmas gospel (Luke 2) define the moment of an important event in the course of world history. Attention is given first to the emperor and a little later to the governor of Syria. There were no chronometers or other developed and uniform methods to measure time. It was practical to refer to reigns of rulers.*

*We do not know the exact moment of Jesus' birth. In spite of that, the message of Luke's Christmas gospel is clear: God was born a human being in a specific time and a specific place. Jesus is God's unique commitment to us humans and our lives - God left majesty and assumed lowliness.*

*The Christian message of God who was born a human being in Jesus discloses a very radical event in history - so radical that our present chronology is based on it. In order to express dates we do not need to refer to reigns of rulers any more. It is sufficient to indicate the year.*

*I wish you a merry Christmas, blessed by God, in this year,  
year 2017 Anno Domini, year of the Lord.*

Tapio Luoma  
Bishop of Espoo Diocese

