

Happy New Year! (Igbo) Ezi Afo Oḥurū!
(Afrikaans) Gelukkige Nuwe Jaar!
(Lugandan) Nkwagaliza Omwaka Omulungi!
(Portuguese) Feliz Ano Novo!

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Epiphany liturgy and write above the home's entryway, 20 + C + M + B + 22. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2022 is the year.

Blessing the Chalk

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:

R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

R. From this time forth for evermore.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Instructions for Blessing your home

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 22 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty one years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year.

Amen.

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. **Amen.**

At times God has commanded his people to mark their doors. The Israelites marked their doors with the lamb's blood on the night of the passover. A similar command was given with the **Shema Yisrael**:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart ... and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deut. 6:4-6, 9)

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the symbols written, sink into the depths of our hearts and be manifest in our words and actions.

**Welcome to the United
Benefice of Holy Innocents &
St. Mark, South Norwood**

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



2nd January 2022

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne Eversley

Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

THE EPIPHANY

President and Preacher * Mother Susan

*Isaiah 60.1-6 * Psalm 72.1-9, 10-15 * Ephesians 3.1-12 * Matthew 2.1-12*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Until further notice, both Parishes will continue to meet for worship at Saint Mark for the 8am & 10am Sunday Masses; and at Holy Innocents for the weekday Mass on Thursdays at 10am.

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is away after Watchnight Mass on 31st Dec, back on 12th January. Should you need to, please contact the wardens, Cicelyn or Mother Susan (except Fridays 07890 780572).

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We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; and the Bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

For St Barnabas, Dulwich John Watson (V); Elizabeth Barnett (AsstC); Rachel Gledhill (AsstC); Timothy Buckler (AsstP); Liz Lander (AsstP) Christ's Chapel of Alleyn's College of God's Gift Dulwich Village Infants' School Dulwich College: Timothy Buckler (Chaplain) James Allen's Girls' School: Cécile Schnyder (Chaplain) James Allen's Preparatory School Alleyn's School: Liz Lander (Chaplain)

For the Bishops, priests & people of the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

For the sick: Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Amanda, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Anecka, Lynn, Ronald, Tommy, Ena, Adeline, Akos, Peggy, Rudolph, Stephanie, Pamela, Barry, Dennis, Linda, Greta, David, Oslene, Anthony, Adrian, Barbara, Jacqueline, Jackie. **For the bereaved:** Ann and the Mulholland family. **For the recently departed:** Kenny Mulholland. **Years Mind.**

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'NAME A STAR' AT CHRISTMASTIDE

Following the success of last year's 'Name a Star' fundraiser, **this year's Appeal** will run until Sunday 6th February. You're invited to purchase stars, at the cost of £5 each in the name of a loved one who has been and/or still is a Star which brightens up your life – see the stars on the Christmas tree. **No video** this year I'm afraid but do feel free to take photos /make videos of your Stars on the tree. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED!**

COLLECT

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the
peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face
to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen
upon you. For darkness shall cover the
earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and
his glory will appear over you. Nations
shall come to your light, and kings to
the brightness of your dawn. Lift up
your eyes and look around; they all
gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on
their nurses' arms. Then you shall see
and be radiant; your heart shall thrill
and rejoice, because the abundance
of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come
to you. A multitude of camels shall
cover you, the young camels of Midian
and Ephah; all those from Sheba
shall come. They shall bring gold and
frankincense, and shall proclaim the
praise of the LORD.

PSALM Psalm 72:1-9. 10-15

R *Kings bow down before him;
all the nations do him service.*

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's
son;
that he may rule your people
righteously
and the poor with justice;
that the mountains may bring
prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**

He shall defend the needy among
the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the
oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and
moon endure,
from one generation to another. **R**

He shall come down like rain upon the
mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles
shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba
offer gifts.
All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries
out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.
He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
He shall redeem their lives from
oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his
sight. **R**

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus
for the sake of you Gentiles – for
surely you have already heard of
the commission of God's grace that
was given me for you, and how the
mystery was made known to me by
revelation, as I wrote above in a few
words, a reading of which will enable
you to perceive my understanding
of the mystery of Christ. In former
generations this mystery was not made
known to humankind, as it has now
been revealed to his holy apostles
and prophets by the Spirit: that is,
the Gentiles have become fellow-
heirs, members of the same body, and
sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus
through the gospel. Of this gospel
I have become a servant according
to the gift of God's grace that was
given me by the working of his power.
Although I am the very least of all
the saints, this grace was given to me
to bring to the Gentiles the news of
the boundless riches of Christ, and
to make everyone see what is the
plan of the mystery hidden for ages
in God who created all things; so that
through the church the wisdom of God
in its rich variety might now be made
known to the rulers and authorities
in the heavenly places. This was in
accordance with the eternal purpose
that he has carried out in Christ Jesus
our Lord, in whom we have access

to God in boldness and confidence
through faith in him.

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus
was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise
men from the East came to Jerusalem,
asking, "Where is the child who has
been born king of the Jews? For we
observed his star at its rising, and
have come to pay him homage."
When King Herod heard this, he was
frightened, and all Jerusalem with
him; and calling together all the chief
priests and scribes of the people, he
inquired of them where the Messiah
was to be born. They told him, "In
Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been
written by the prophet: 'And you,
Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are
by no means least among the rulers
of Judah; for from you shall come a
ruler who is to shepherd my people
Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called
for the wise men and learned from
them the exact time when the star
had appeared. Then he sent them to
Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search
diligently for the child; and when you
have found him, bring me word so that
I may also go and pay him homage."
When they had heard the king, they
set out; and there, ahead of them,
went the star that they had seen at its
rising, until it stopped over the place
where the child was. When they saw
that the star had stopped, they were
overwhelmed with joy. On entering the
house, they saw the child with Mary
his mother; and they knelt down and
paid him homage. Then, opening their
treasure-chests, they offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And
having been warned in a dream not to
return to Herod, they left for their own
country by another road.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations
seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in
your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our
Lord.