

**On the Feast of the Epiphany, the Church has a custom of blessing homes.**

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 + 23. 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 2023 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 + 23** while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty three 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 (Deuteronomy 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 South Norwood Holy Innocents and St. Mark

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



**8<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Vicar:** The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley

**Asst. Priest:** Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

**Reader:** Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

## THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

**8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)**

**10am Parish Mass (both Parishes)**

Isaiah 60.1-6 \* Psalm 72 \* Ephesians 3.1-12 \* Matthew 2.1-12

Access online worship via

[www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood](http://www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood)

## CHURCH NOTICES

**Pastoral Care:** Mother Roxanne is on holiday next Sunday. In her absence and should you need to, please direct enquiries to the Churchwardens (Donald – 07904 226264, Laurél – 07904 237272 or John – 07455 599909), Cicelyn – 07484 677951 or Mother Susan - 07890 780572, noting she is not available on Fridays.

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**We pray:** for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; for our Bishops in this diocese - Christopher, Rosemarie, Karowei and Bishop Designate of Kingston, Martin Gainsborough; for the Bishops, clergy and people in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

For the Bishops, priests, deacons & people of the Diocese of The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma).

**For St Stephen, South Dulwich** Bernhard Schunemann (Vicar); Tomos Reed (Assistant Curate); Trot Lavelle (Reader) (PTO); Sandra Patterson (Reader)

**For the sick** – Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Rose, Caroline, Susan, Pauline, Sigi, Marie-Gabrielle, Colin (Castle), Carmen, Rodney, Marina, Karen, Linda, Fred and Fr. Tom Hurcombe.

**The bereaved** – the Onyiaike, Irono and Maginley families. **The recently departed** – Fidelia Onyiaike and Elecia Maginley. **Years Mind.**

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**If you were still able to provide items from the list below to Nightwatch, they can be dropped off any Sunday after 8.30pm to Friends Meeting House, 60 Park Lane, Croydon CR0 1JE:**

Tinned meat soup (they have loads of veg); Jars of pasta sauce (they give out a lot of pasta in the grocery bags they distribute); Packets of pasta; Tinned meals (meatballs, pies, spaghetti bolognese); Pot noodles; Individual care packages typically including a few masks, hand gel, soap, deodorant; Pack of tissues; Drinks - water or cans; blankets and sleeping bags, coats, hats, scarves, gloves and new underwear.