



This month marks the annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** which is traditionally held from 18-25 January each year.

Christians worship a God who creates all things, makes himself known in Jesus Christ and is active in the world through the work of the Holy Spirit. Churches may differ in their worship style, their theology and their organisational structures but their members all live in relationship with God. Our unity as Christians stems from that common relationship of love and is rooted in the very life of God. In today's world it is important to recognise that there is more to unite Christians than to divide them. We value each and every Christian tradition for the insights and understandings it contributes to our common pilgrimage of faith.

One of the great joys of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is discovering something of the situation of the people who have prepared the study material for our use. With a focus on the parable of the Good Samaritan, in 2024 the Churches of Burkina Faso are challenging Christians around the world to ask themselves what it means to love their neighbour. For them, this challenge comes in the midst of extreme political instability and a serious security crisis. Our context is very different, but the call of Christ to each and every one of us is the same, **'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself'** (Lk 10:27). Let's use this year's Week of Prayer to prayerfully ask ourselves what that call means to us and to our church, wherever we are.

Prayer for Day 4 (Sunday) of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

Lord Jesus Christ, may our eyes not look away, but be wide open to the world around us. As we travel through life, may we stop and reach out, bind up the wounded and in so doing experience your presence in them. Give us a renewed commitment to journey with you towards unity. Amen.

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

26 January, Holocaust Memorial Day, will be held in the Council Chambers at 12.00 noon. The theme this year is "The Fragility of Freedom". Please respond to communityrelations@croydon.gov.uk if you wish to attend.

27 January, All Saints Concert Band are presenting an evening of "magic". The programme 'A Kind of Magic' will include music from films such as The Lion King, How to Train your Dragon. Interactive and lots of audience participation for the young and the young at heart.
Venue: Holy Innocents Church, 6.30pm for 7.00pm, entry free, but donations welcome. For more information contact Mother Susan.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



21st January 2024

Priest (PTO): Revd. Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley, TSSF, SCP

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds,

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*Genesis 14.17-20 * Psalm 128 * Revelation 19.6-10 * John 2.1-11*

*Today we welcome **Mother Barbara Gentilella**, who will be presiding and preaching at Holy Innocents Church. Mother Barbara is from St Mary Addington, and has until recently been helping out during the interregnum at St Matthew, Croydon. Among her many other duties, she is the Chaplain to the Royal Naval Reserves in Croydon.*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Funerals, baptisms, weddings, please contact Mother Susan 07890 780572, fs.kiley@btinternet.com or Cicelyn Hinds 07484 677951. Please note that Mother Susan's day off is Friday.

We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; for the Bishops in this diocese, Christopher, Rosemarie and Martin.

For the Bishops, priests, deacons and people in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe and The Church of the South India (United).

St Augustine, Lee Gavin Berriman (Vicar)

For the sick – Marina, Richard, Alec, Malik, Caroline, Susan, Norman, Simon, Sacha and baby Mabel.

The bereaved – Sarah and the Cromwell-Price families.

The recently departed – Kyria Cromwell.

Years Mind (those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time).
