

Today is also Racial Justice Sunday

Last year, 2020, marked the 25th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday (RJS) in Britain and Ireland. This significant anniversary also coincided with the tragic killing of African American, George Floyd and the re-emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement with its various protests on both sides of the Atlantic. All this coincided with the emergence of a pandemic that continues to wreak havoc in societies around world, ruining lives in the process. The COVID-19 crisis has also highlighted the existing inequalities in our society; the poorer, more marginalised communities are disproportionately impacted by this pandemic. In due course, all these events served to demonstrate the need for greater racial justice in Britain and Ireland. These events also caused much soul-searching and anxious conversations within the Church, as to how it should respond to what has taken place. In the aftermath of George Floyd's killing, many denominations issued statements condemning the killing; some called for changes in society as well as the Church, while others had conversations about its significance. Practically all recognised that this was a Kairos moment in which inaction or indifference was not an option.

From a Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) perspective, we believed this was a moment for Christians to be bold and prophetic – for us to look to Christian scriptures which speak of a God who loves justice, and a Saviour who was “sent...to set the oppressed free”.

We also recognised that the journey toward racial justice would not be easy, but one that can be achieved with courage, conviction and faith. All journeys begin with steps, and for us, those steps involve the Three ‘Rs’ of **Remembering, Reflecting and Responding**: **Remembering** the importance of racial justice **Reflecting** on human diversity and thank God for it **Responding** by working to end injustice, racism and ignorance through prayer and action.

They are known as the **Three ‘Rs’** because education in its broadest sense, plays such a key role in racial justice.

As a result, we have decided to re-publish the wealth of material that has been created over 25years to celebrate RJS, to the Silver Jubilee anniversary. These resources are diverse in nature and explore the issue of racial justice from various perspectives. Some of these resources were produced by CTBI sponsoring churches, while others were written by key figures from within ecumenical movement in Britain and Ireland. What they all have in common is their pertinence and prescience on the important matter of racial justice, and the need for brothers and sisters in Christ to engage with it.

These resources celebrate the work of racial justice pioneers; it will also encourage the Church to raise up and support a new generation of racial justice champions who will be proactive (rather than reactive) to racism in Church and society.

These Resources can be viewed here:
<https://ctbi.org.uk/rjs-2021-resources/>

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



14th February 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

(St. Valentine's Day)

The Sunday Next before Lent

10.00am Parish Mass

President, Mother Roxanne Preacher, Mother Susan
2Kings 2.1-12 * Psalm 50.1-6 * 2Corinthians 4.3-6 * Mark 9.2-9

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

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| Today, 14 th February | Racial Justice Sunday | 6pm National Prayer |
| Wednesday 17 th February | Ash Wednesday | 8pm Mass ONLY Livestreamed |
| Thursday, 18 th February | Feria | 10.00am Mass at Holy Innocents |
| Sunday, 21 st February | First Sunday of Lent | 8am BCP Mass 10am Parish Mass |

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or Mobile 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com Mother Roxanne is not available on Mondays; or Mother Susan (07890 780572) on Fridays.

For your prayers: Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; and the bishops in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe. **For EAST GREENWICH TEAM MINISTRY** Margaret Cave (TR) (AD); Jane Petrie (TV); Dominic Hubbuck (AsstP); John Philpott- Howard (AsstP); Cynthia Finnerty (PTO); Barbara Moss (PTO); Tim Cave (Reader); Julie Mason (Reader); Esther Whittlesea Reed (Reader) **Christ Church, St Andrew and St Michael, East Greenwich; St George, Westcombe Park; Holy Trinity, Greenwich Peninsula** Koinonia CofE Schools Federation with Christ Church CofE Primary School, St Mary Magdalene CofE All-Through School and St Mary Magdalene CofE Sixth Form. **For the Bishops, priests and people of the Anglican Church of Canada**

For the sick – Enid, Alec, Una, Claude, Helen, Linda, Mick, Jennifer and Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Vera, Barry and Valerie, Sheila, Andrew (Scorgie), Joanna (Simpson), Rose, Allison, Caroline, Gillian, Donald & Sigi, Anecka, Monica, Dennis and Rosemary. **For the bereaved** – the Davies, Aberdeen, Stephens, Webley, Ferguson, Caines and Harris families. **For the recently departed** – Olu Aberdeen, Marvin Stephens, Len Webley, Alanzo Ferguson, Michael Rennie and Norman Caines. **Years Mind.**

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the
cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to
suffer with him

and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory;

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 2 Kings 2:1-12

A reading from the second book of Kings.

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the

water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

PSALM Psalm 50:1-6

R *Our God will come and will not keep silence.*

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory. **R**

Our God will come and will not keep silence; before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm. He calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgement of his people. **R**

"Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice." Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; for God himself is judge. **R**

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In

their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Mark 9:2-9

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

POST COMMUNION

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ;
may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.