

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

As we worship this morning, we are aware that through Lent we are moving towards Holy Week which will come very soon and which ends with Christ on the cross. Today's Gospel reading reminds us that Jesus is throwing down the gauntlet, setting us a challenge to face. Jesus said "take up your cross". In other words, pick it up yourself. This means we have a choice to make. When we take up our cross, we step out into the unknown, the less travelled road. It can be difficult because we don't know what is round the next corner. Taking up our cross and following him is about trust, and obedience, of giving ourselves, and knowing that wherever he leads will be a place of love and grace as we enter into a deeper relationship with Christ. It isn't easy, but it draws us closer to him and makes us more Christ-like, for never has such a symbol of pain and torture been transformed into a symbol of unending love and hope which is recognised the world over.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Bishop Christopher will commission Marie Williams as Croydon North Deanery Lay Vocations Champion at evensong in Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 3 March (3pm). We are all encouraged to attend the service and support Marie in this calling. Lay Vocations Champions are appointed by the Bishop of Southwark. Their task is enthusiastically to encourage clergy, church leaders and the laity to recognise the value of Lay Vocations and Lay Ministry, finding new ways by which lay vocations can be nurtured and affirmed. We ask God to bless Marie in her new ministry.

INVITATION FROM FR SAM DENNIS

St Luke's will be having a **Healing Service for Lent** at **6 pm TODAY**. As part of the service, there will be a time when people can receive various ministries (anointing/laying on of hands/ confession to a priest). It has never been a massive service, but those who go often get a lot out of it.

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Well-being and resilience in Zimbabwe

The project which the Zimbabwean Council of Churches wants to initiate will provide information on mental health disorders, strategies for stress management and reducing stigma associated with mental health as well as creating safe spaces for conversations about mental well-being. Once the Council has raised the money for the project – which they hope that the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call will be able to contribute to – they will start the training within three months. Find out more and how to donate:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/lent-call/>

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



25th February 2024

Vicar: Vacant

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

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds,

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*Genesis 17.1-7 15-16 * Psalm 22.23 * Romans 4.13-end * Mark 8.31-end*

Today we welcome at Holy Innocents Church, Mtr Linda Fox, Area Dean of Croydon Central Deanery

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.

The Benefice is now in vacancy. For Parish matters, please contact in the first instance, the respective church wardens, St Mark – Donald Ferguson (mr.dferguson@hotmail.com) Holy Innocents – John Gaisey (johngaisey1975@gmail.com) and Laurél Hird (lhird@btinternet.com)

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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 *Diocese of The Anglican Church of Tanzania*.

For St Andrew St Alban, Mottingham Ian Welch (R)

For the sick – Sharon, Marina, Richard, Alec, Malik, Simon, Caroline, Susan, Kay and Sacha.

The bereaved – the Elliott family and Mark Collymore and his family

The recently departed – Norman Elliott and Dorothy Collymore

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