

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

### From the Coronavirus Group

As we celebrated the Ascension of our Lord last Thursday and the start of **Thy Kingdom Come** (the global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension Day and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus), it is our prayer that you are keeping safe and well.

More than 35 million people have received one dose of the vaccination and nearly 18 million have received both. This is welcome news!

**Tomorrow** will see further lifting of restrictions. Up to 6 people or 2 households will be able to meet indoors and up to 30 people outdoors. *This may allow others usually involved in your pastoral visiting to feel more able to take up this role in a more creative way once again.*

While we welcome all this, it is essential to remain vigilant, careful, safe and to continue with the relevant risk assessments when necessary.

**Visitors to Church** need to be kept safe and should maintain social distance. Face coverings should be worn (unless people are excused this requirement for health reasons), hand sanitiser is available on entrance and exit and the ability to 'check-in' using the NHS app and manual test and trace system are in place. Visitors should be asked not to touch objects and surfaces. However, we need to balance all this with a warm welcome to our historic and beautiful churches where there is still **no congregational singing** and we're asked to still **leave the church directly** after the Parish Mass.

**In relation to Sunday School**, groups for 4-18 years-old will be able to gather indoors and outdoors. The size of the group must take into account factors such as recommended occupancy levels of the room so that social distancing is maintained, plus the ability to ventilate the space. It is advised that parents and carers should not routinely be present, due to transmission risks and where parents do attend, they should be socially distanced.

**Under the Step 3 easing of restrictions** up to 30 people will now be able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events including wakes, as well as standalone life-cycle events. These can take place outdoors or at any indoor Covid-secure venue that is permitted to open.

**The number of people able to attend a funeral** will be determined by the number that can be safely accommodated in Church or at the Crematorium chapel with social distancing in place.

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The Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce has published its report proposing a suite of changes to begin bringing about a change of culture in the life of the Church of England. **From Lament to Action** can be read here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/news-releases/lament-action-archbishops-anti-racism-taskforce-calls-urgent-changes>

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A copy of the Southwark Diocesan ANTI-RACISM CHARTER is at the back of the church for your perusal.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley

Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10.00am Parish Mass

President – Mother Susan Preacher – Cicelyn Hinds

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26 \* Psalm 1 \* 1John 9-13 \* John 17.6-19

Access online worship via

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

### This week's diary

Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Alcuin of York, Abbot, 804	10.00am Mass at Holy Innocents
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Pentecost (Whitsunday)	8am BCP Mass 10am Parish Mass

### CHURCH NOTICES

**Pastoral Care:** Mother Roxanne is available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or

[mtrroxanne@gmail.com](mailto:mtrroxanne@gmail.com) Mother Roxanne is not available on Mondays.

Mother Susan (07890 780572) not available on Fridays.

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We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; the Bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. **For Thy Kingdom come, St Andrew, South Wimbledon** Charles Lamont (PiC); Santhosh Thomas (AsstP at Dundonald) **For the Bishops, priests & people of the Anglican Church of Korea** **For the sick** – Enid, Alec, Richard, Helen, Jennifer and Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Sheila, Rose, Allison, Caroline, Gillian, Sigi, Anecka, Monica, Shirley, Lynn, Dennis, Rosemary, CP, Joanne, Melanie, Ronald, Faye, Tommy, Ena, Adeline and Akos. **For the bereaved** – Doris and the Lawrence family; **the recently departed** – Murphy Lawrence.

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**Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing:** "Our vision is that the work of supporting clergy in their ministry will become an integral part of the life of the Church and part of the DNA of every aspect of our mission and ministry."

**The Revd Canon Simon Butler, Head of the CofE Clergy Covenant Working Group**

The Covenant is the expressed view of the mind of the Church of England on issues relating to clergy care and wellbeing. There are resources designed to help initiate and guide discussions around clergy care and to engage all parts of the church including Parish level stakeholders.

Here is the link for the congregation's reflection:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/clergy-resources/national-clergy-hr/supporting-clergy-health-and-wellbeing/covenant#na>

## COLLECT

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus  
Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom  
in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not  
comfortless, but send your Holy  
Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place where our  
Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the Acts of the  
Apostles (1.15-17, 21-26)*

In those days Peter stood up among the  
believers (together the crowd  
numbered about one hundred and  
twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the  
scripture had to be fulfilled, which the  
Holy Spirit through David foretold  
concerning Judas, who became a guide  
for those who arrested Jesus— for he  
was numbered among us and was  
allotted his share in this ministry.'  
So one of the men who have  
accompanied us throughout the time  
that the Lord Jesus went in and out  
among us, beginning from the baptism  
of John until the day when he was taken  
up from us—one of these must become  
a witness with us to his  
resurrection.' So they proposed two,  
Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also  
known as Justus, and Matthias. Then  
they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know  
everyone's heart. Show us which one of  
these two you have chosen to take the  
place in this ministry and apostleship  
from which Judas turned aside to go to  
his own place.' And they cast lots for  
them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and  
he was added to the eleven apostles.

*This is the word of the Lord*  
**Thanks be to God**

## PSALM I

*The Lord knows the way of the  
righteous.*

Blessed are they who have not walked  
in the counsel of the wicked, nor  
lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

Their delight is in the law of the  
Lord and they meditate on his law day  
and night.

Like a tree planted by streams of  
water bearing fruit in due season, with  
leaves that do not wither,  
whatever they do, it shall prosper.

*Refrain*

As for the wicked, it is not so with  
them; they are like chaff which the  
wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not be able  
to stand in the judgement, nor the  
sinner in the congregation of the  
righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the  
righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall perish.

*Refrain*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of John  
(5.9-13)*

If we receive human testimony, the  
testimony of God is greater; for this is  
the testimony of God that he has  
testified to his Son.

Those who believe in the Son of God  
have the testimony in their hearts.

Those who do not believe in God have  
made him a liar by not believing in the  
testimony that God has given  
concerning his Son.

And this is the testimony: God gave us  
eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever  
does not have the Son of God does not  
have life.

I write these things to you who believe  
in the name of the Son of God, so that  
you may know that you have eternal  
life.

*This is the word of the Lord*  
**Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John (17.6-19)*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

'I have made your name known to  
those whom you gave me from the  
world. They were yours, and you gave  
them to me, and they have kept your  
word. Now they know that everything  
you have given me is from you; for the

words that you gave to me I have given  
to them, and they have received them  
and know in truth that I came from you;  
and they have believed that you sent  
me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not  
asking on behalf of the world, but on  
behalf of those whom you gave me,  
because they are yours. All mine are  
yours, and yours are mine; and I have  
been glorified in them. And now I am  
no longer in the world, but they are in  
the world, and I am coming to you.  
Holy Father, protect them in your name  
that you have given me, so that they  
may be one, as we are one. While I was  
with them, I protected them in your  
name that you have given me. I guarded  
them, and not one of them was lost  
except the one destined to be lost, so  
that the scripture might be fulfilled. But  
now I am coming to you, and I speak  
these things in the world so that they  
may have my joy made complete in  
themselves. I have given them your  
word, and the world has hated them  
because they do not belong to the  
world, just as I do not belong to the  
world. I am not asking you to take them  
out of the world, but I ask you to  
protect them from the evil one. They  
do not belong to the world, just as I do  
not belong to the world. Sanctify them  
in the truth; your word is truth. As you  
have sent me into the world, so I have  
sent them into the world. And for their  
sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also  
may be sanctified in truth.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into  
all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we  
proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**