

From the Bishops of Southwark, Croydon, Kingston and Woolwich to the Licensed Clergy, Lay Ministers, and Churchwardens of Southwark Diocese

We write in response to the terrible tragedy of the murder of three young girls in Southport last week - and the subsequent violence that has erupted throughout our nation over the following days.

We are heartbroken for those girls, for their families and those injured in the attack. We are heartbroken, too, to see how this terrible crime is being used by some people to stir up racist violence and hatred on our streets. The riots and racist attacks of recent days are a smear on our nation - they are neither patriotic nor Christian. Violence is not a legitimate form of protest and has no place in our society.

We condemn both these actions and the poisonous rhetoric of those who seek to stir up hatred and division. We stand with those who feel targeted - especially our Muslim brothers and sisters and those who are seeking asylum on our shores. We stand with people of peace from all faiths and none - and we commit ourselves to working together to challenge racism and hatred wherever we find it. Jesus was himself a refugee - and the commitment to welcoming the stranger, uplifting the downtrodden and supporting the marginalised lies at the very heart of our faith. We are ready to offer support and care to those from any community or background who have been affected or feel scared by what is happening.

We pray for the families of Bebe King, Elsie Dot Stancombe and Alice Dasilva Aguiar. We pray for the children and adults injured in the attack. We pray for the community of Meols Cop, as they come to terms with what has happened. We pray, too, for our nation and our leaders - for wisdom, peace and justice. We pray for all who are afraid - especially those who fear becoming the target of violence because of their ethnicity, heritage or faith.

In Southwark Diocese, we rejoice in our diversity - which is a gift of God for the enrichment of his Church and his world. We encourage people across our communities to share in this joy, to resist division and respond to one another with care and kindness. Christ teaches us that perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18) - and we ask all in our churches to commit themselves afresh to live out this reality for their communities - now more than ever.

For our clergy and all in local church leadership: be assured of our prayers for you and your parishes. Please do what you can to keep yourselves and others safe - and don't hesitate to get in touch with your Area Dean, Archdeacon or members of the Diocesan Staff team if you need additional support.

Reporting hate crime is the first step to bringing perpetrators to justice - if you have witnessed or experienced hate crime of any kind, you can report it immediately by speaking to a police officer or calling 101. In an emergency, always dial 999.

With our prayers and blessing

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



11th August 2024

Vicar: Vacant

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

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds,

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*1 Kings 19.4-8 * Psalm 34.1-8 * Ephesians 4.25-5.2 * John 6.35, 41-51*

Today we welcome **Father Kayode** who will be presiding and preaching at Holy Innocents

Access online worship via
www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: for enquiries regarding baptism, confirmation, weddings, blessings, house blessings, renewal of marriage vows, thanksgiving for the birth of a child, to make your confession, or to request a home or hospital visit, 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 in vacancy. For Parish matters, please contact in the first instance, the respective church wardens, St Mark – Norma McKnight (ndwillis12@outlook.com) and Cicelyn Hinds (cahinds@btinternet.com) Holy Innocents – Church.warden@holyinnocentschurch.co.uk

We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; for the Bishops in this diocese, Christopher, Martin, Rosemarie and Alastair. **For** the Bishops, priests, deacons and people in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe and The Anglican Church of Korea,

St Mary, Beddington Andrew Fenby (Rector); Alison Hargreaves (Reader) (PTO) Maud Adams (SPA)

For the sick – John, Emma, Sharon, Marina, Richard, Alec, Malik, Simon, Caroline, Kay, Sacha, Marlise, Amanda, Sigi, Barbara, Anthony, Myrna, Peter, Martyn, Luther, Genevieve, Roma and Colleen.

The bereaved – Legay and McCann families.
The recently departed - Laurent **and those whose Years Mind falls at this time.**