

Today, the **Beheading of John the Baptist** is commemorated as a Lesser Festival:

The main celebration for John the Baptist is on 24 June, the date observing his birth but, John was also the forerunner of Christ in his death and, as the gospels of Matthew and Mark relate it, followed his denouncing of immoral ways and his call to repentance.

On hearing of John's arrest, Christ's first words immediately take up John's call: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near; repent, and believe the good news.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God,
who called your servant John the Baptist
to be the forerunner of your Son in birth and death:
strengthen us by your grace
that, as he suffered for the truth,
so we may boldly resist corruption and vice
and receive with him the unfading crown of glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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Also, on Friday 3rd September, the Lesser Festival of **Gregory the Great, Teacher of the Faith** is celebrated:

Gregory was born in 540, the son of a Roman senator. As a young man he pursued a governmental career, and in 573 was made Prefect of the city of Rome. Following the death of his father, he resigned his office, sold his inheritance, and became a monk.

In 579 he was sent by the Pope to Constantinople to be his representative to the Patriarch. He returned to Rome in 586, and was himself elected Pope in 590. At a time of political turmoil, Gregory proved an astute administrator and diplomat, securing peace with the Lombards. He initiated the mission to England, sending Augustine and forty monks from his own monastery to refound the English Church.

His writings were pastorally oriented. His spirituality was animated by a dynamic of love and desire for God. Indeed, he is sometimes called the 'Doctor of desire'. For Gregory, desire was a metaphor for the journey into God.

As Pope, he styled himself 'Servant of the servants of God' -- a title which typified both his personality and ministry. He died in 604.

THE COLLECT

Merciful Father,
who chose your bishop Gregory
to be a servant of the servants of God:
grant that, like him, we may ever long to serve you
by proclaiming your gospel to the nations,
and may ever rejoice to sing your praises;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



29th August 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley

Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Parish Mass

President, Mtr Susan * Preacher – Rachel Gardner

*Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9 * Psalm 15 * James 1.17-end * Mark 7.1-23*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

Thursday 2 nd September	<i>The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea</i>	Holy Innocents: 10.00am Said Mass
Sunday 5 th September	14 th Sunday after Trinity	8am BCP Mass 10am Parish Mass

A special welcome to **Rachel Gardner, our preacher** who concludes her Placement with us today too.

We say **Farewell to Malaki** who leaves for Ardingly College and a choral scholarship at The Prebendal School, Chichester Cathedral and Salisbury Cathedral School. We send him off with our blessing as he takes the light of St Mark with him to Chichester Diocese.

CHURCH NOTICES

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

mtrroxanne@gmail.com She is not available on Mondays or Mother Susan (07890 780572) on Fridays.

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We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; and the Bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

For The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Lifeguards, Mountain Rescue Teams and all emergency services, and for those who keep us safe when away from home

For the Bishops, priests & people of the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

For the sick – Alec, Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Amanda, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Michael, Anecka, Monica, Shirley, Lynn, Joanne, Melanie, Ronald, Faye, Tommy, Ena, Adeline, Akos, Peggy, Rudolph, Stephanie, Pamela, Barry, Marlise and Rosemarie.

For the bereaved – the Desire family; the Bradshaw family; the Lynch and Williams families, the Mahoney family, Colin and the Smith family.

For the recently departed – Jim Desire, Sheila Bradshaw, Penny Lynch, Leisha Mahoney, Sally Smith.
Years mind (including) Colin Squirrel.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear
witness
that you were in Christ reconciling
the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news
of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to
you;
through him who was lifted up on
the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-9

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people; he said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

PSALM Psalm 15

R *Those who do what is right
will dwell in the presence of the
Lord.*

Lord, who may dwell in your
tabernacle?
who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and
does what is right,
who speaks the truth from his
heart. **R**

There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend;
he does not heap contempt upon his
neighbour.
In his sight the wicked are rejected,
but he honours those who fear the
Lord. **R**

He has sworn to do no wrong
and does not take back his word.
He does not give his money in hope
of gain,
nor does he take a bribe against the
innocent.
Whoever does these things
shall never be overthrown. **R**

SECOND READING James 1:17-end

A reading from the letter of James.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress,

and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

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

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" Jesus said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true
manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through
our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place where
hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.