

Introduction to Year B, at Advent 2023

ADVENT is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

*Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty. (Charles Wesley)*

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. **The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation**, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent.

The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

Church decorations are simple and spare, and **purple is the traditional liturgical colour**.

The lighting of candles on an **Advent wreath** was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice.

The Moravian custom of the **Christingle** has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the **Children's Society**; Christingle services may take place before or after Christmas.

The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (**Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday'**), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

First Communion Classes, continue on **December 7th at 6pm, St. Mark's Church and every Thursday until 21st December** - for children from 8 years old, culminating in their *Reception to Communion before Confirmation* on Advent 4, Sunday 24th December during the 10am Parish Mass (at St. Mark's church).

Today 3rd December, directly after the 10am Parish Mass at St Mark, the Christmas Fayre will take place in the Church Hall. See you there for lunch and other goodies! **Please stay around if you can to help with packing away.**

24th December, we celebrate **Advent 4 at the 10am Mass** (both Parishes) and at **11pm it's Christmas Eve Joint Midnight Mass at St Mark.**

31st December (New Year's Eve), 11pm, Watch Night Mass at Holy Innocents. The Eucharist will be followed by 'Farewell' drinks and nibbles in the Church – as it will be Mother Roxanne's last working day in the United Benefice.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



3rd December 2023

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley
Priest (PTO): Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley
Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*Isaiah 64.1-9 * Psalm 80.1-8,18-20 * 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 * Mark 13.24-37*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is usually available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or at mtrroxanne@gmail.com but N/A on Mondays. Mother Susan is contactable on 07890 780572; and she's not available on Fridays.

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 of The Church of North India (United).

St John the Evangelist, Coulsdon Vacancy (Rector) Susan Thomas (Assistant Priest), Christine McCutcheon (Reader, PTO), Coulsdon CoE Primary School.

For the sick – Richard, Jennifer & Reuben, Rose, Caroline, Susan, Sigi, Marie-Gabrielle, Colin (Castle), Carmen, Marina, Linda, Fred, Peter, Kay, Simon, Alec, Naomi, Michael, Rudolph, Malik, Dionne, Roy and Mick.

The bereaved – the Appiah, Gaisey, Robinson and Brown families; Patsy and the Williams family.

The recently departed – George Kojo Appiah; Ruth Robinson; Donna Brown; and Hatford Williams (whose *Funeral takes place at St. Mark on Tuesday 5th Dec. at 11am*). **Years Mind.**

We are continuing to provide **sandwiches for Night Watch**, on **Friday nights** from **8th Dec** right through to **29th Dec**. We need ideally **3 people per week**, to provide sandwiches from **4 loaves of bread**, each so we deliver **12 loaves of sandwiches** – 4 loaves of cheese, 4 loaves of chicken, 2 loaves of vegan and 2 loaves of your choice of filling. Do let Mother Roxanne know, if you are able to help in this way. If you're able to provide the sandwiches, that's great but if you need to be refunded for bread and/or the filling, then do let her know and she will arrange for you to be reimbursed. Thank you very much indeed.