

**Letter from The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett,  
Bishop of Croydon**

The season of Advent is upon us, as we once again mark the beginning of the liturgical year, and prepare ourselves, our parishes, and our churches to celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world at Christmas. Advent is a time that focusses our attention on our need – both personal and collective – for hope of redemption and habits of hopefulness in changing and challenging times. As Christians, we find ourselves looking out from a world with many fractures and problems upon which the light of Christ, our coming king, will shine.

As the body of Christ, we are praying for peace and justice for the people and places suffering from war and oppression in the various conflicts in the world, and especially at this time in the Holy Land. In our own country, and here in Croydon, there are so many problems that people are dealing with, including poverty, homelessness, mental ill health, and increasing levels of violence on our streets. I am thankful that many of our churches are responding in loving action to help and support local people and I have already seen some of the plans for community engagement for the Advent and Christmas period.

As sisters and brothers in Christ, we are all members of the body of Christ, and as Paul reminds us, when one part of the body is hurting, we are all hurting. It is Christ who is the source, focus, and guarantor of our unity – he is the author and perfecter of our faith – and in him each of us can find our home and our hope. We live in a world of suffering – into which Christ is coming, bringing his light and hope and healing. We, too, need this healing. We thank God for the gift of Christ – in and through Christ we can turn our faces to the future with both hope and hopefulness.

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**First Communion Classes**, continue on **December 14<sup>th</sup>** at **6pm**, **St. Mark's Church** and every **Thursday until 21<sup>st</sup> December** - for children from 8 years old, culminating in their *Reception to Communion before Confirmation* on Advent 4, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December during the 10am Parish Mass (at St. Mark's church).

**20<sup>th</sup> December Carol Singing on the Wards** with our *Chaplains and the Mayor of Croydon*. *Joining at St Barnabas Worship Centre at 6.15pm for 7 pm at Croydon University Hospital*

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

**31<sup>st</sup> 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 and  
St. Mark, South Norwood**

*Sharing God's grace and love in our community*



**10<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Vicar:** The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley

**Priest :** Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley TSSF

**Reader :** Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)**

**10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)**

*Isaiah 40.1-11 \* Psalm 85.1-2,18-end \* 2 Peter 3.8-15 \* John 1.6-8 19-28*

**Access online worship via**

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

*We welcome Mother Linda Fox who will be presiding and preaching today. Linda has served in South Croydon Benefice and is now at St Matthew, Croydon. Her ministry is focused on working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Croydon area.*

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

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

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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 of The Church of Pakistan (United).

**St Mary, Sanderstead** Grant Cohen (Vicar), Robert Radley (Reader, PTO) and Julia Storey (SPA).

**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, Mick and Norman.

**The bereaved** – the Appiah, Gaisey, Robinson, Brown and the Powell families.

**The recently departed** – George Kojo Appiah; Ruth Robinson; Donna Brown and Lee Powell. **Years Mind**.

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We are continuing to provide **sandwiches for Night Watch**, on **Friday nights** right through to **29<sup>th</sup> 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. Thank you very much indeed.