

Third Sunday of Advent

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is Latin and means "Rejoice". It is taken from the Introit antiphon "Rejoice, the Lord is near". Traditionally, this Sunday at the midpoint of Advent was celebrated as a joyous break in Advent fasting, and rose-coloured vestments were worn. Today, many churches, who have them, do use their rose vestments rather than purple on this Sunday.

A prayer for Advent

Give us grace, O Lord, to live each day as if it were the day of your coming. May we be urgent to prepare your way by overcoming evil, by preaching the Gospel, by feeding the hungry, by releasing the oppressed, by comforting the afflicted, and by healing the sick. So may we hasten the coming of your Kingdom, and bring glory to your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Season of Lay Ministries

The Season will take place between Sunday 7 January and Sunday 28 January, during Epiphanytide. The Season is designed to encourage people to think about whether God might be calling them into new things. We hope that the Season of Lay Ministries will encourage people to think about whether God is calling them into one of the recognised Lay Ministries that we offer here in the Diocese of Southwark, or simply into new things in their lives. Resources (including sample sermons and suggestions for all-age activities) will be available on the Diocesan website before the Season begins. You will be able to find them here: southwark.anglican.org/exploring-your-call/lay-ministries/

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

First Communion Classes, continue on **Thursday 21st December** at 6pm, **St. Mark's Church** - 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).

20th 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*

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 and St. Mark, South Norwood

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



17th December 2023

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end * Psalm 126 * 1Thessalonians 5.16-24 Peter 3.8-15 * John 1.6-8, 19-28*

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 mtroxanne@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 Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.

Plumstead Common United Benefice Vacancy (Vicar), Berhane Asmelash (Assistant Priest) **St Mark & St Margaret, Plumstead** St Margaret's CofE Junior School and **The Ascension, Plumstead.**

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 Powell and the Dempster families.

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

We are continuing to provide **sandwiches for Night Watch**, on **Friday nights** 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. Thank you very much indeed.