



Today is the last Sunday of Advent. For the rest of this week we look forward once again, with excitement to receiving the Christ Child in our hearts, next Sunday,

Christmas day! As we do so, we remember our fellow Christians who are grieving and struggling to find joy and hope during this season. Some Churches host what is called **Blue Christmas**, a gentle, contemplative Service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. Earlier this month, Bishop Christopher consecrated the **Chapel of Reconciliation** at Southwark Cathedral, in remembrance of the **Victims of violent crime and terrorism**.

In his Homily, Bishop Christopher paid tribute to the victims of the London Bridge Terror Attack, "We do so with great sadness and heavy hearts because not only do we bear the scars of the London Bridge Terror Attack more than five years ago, remembering those who perished, those who endured life changing injuries, those who were traumatised along with their families, colleagues and friends. But we do so with renewed sorrow because only last week two more young people from South London, became themselves tragic victims of knife crime – and we pray for them and their families in their devastating loss and grief".

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Thank you to those who have been providing sandwiches for Nightwatch on Friday nights since November – we finish next Friday 23rd December.

Nightwatch will be grateful if you were able to provide items from the list below:

- Meat soup (they have loads of veg)
- Jars of pasta sauce (they give out a lot of pasta in the grocery bags they distribute)
- Packets of pasta
- Tinned meals (meatballs, pies, spaghetti bolognese)
- Pot noodles
- Individual care packages typically including a few masks, hand gel, soap, deodorant
- Pack of tissues
- Fruit (on the evening you're making sandwiches)
- Drinks - water or cans

They are also grateful for donations of blankets and sleeping bags in good used condition all year round. Also coats, hats, scarves, gloves and new underwear.

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St Mark's 170th Anniversary - please do continue to peruse the exhibition of 'historical documents' and as well as the items for sale in our display cabinet, including the **£5 Anniversary magazine**.

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Last Quarterly magazine for 2022 – please collect your copies as you leave today.

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Are any of you adult male parishioners who live close to St. Mark's church willing to lock up the Hall at 11pm when there are 'late' party bookings? Please do let Donald, Simon, Cicelyn or Jan know if you're able to help.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



18th December 2022

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (both Parishes)

*Isaiah 7.10-16 * Psalm 80 * Romans 1.1-7 * Matthew 1.18-25*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Today, at St Mark, in place of the sermon, we will be treated to **Songs of Joy at Christmas**, the **Nativity Production** delivered by the young people from our Sunday School.

A Huge Thank You to our wonderful Sunday School teachers, Ann, Patsy, Sharon and Maureen for their patience and perseverance in getting the young people ready for this performance.

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Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is available (except on Mondays) on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com

Mother Susan, on 07890 780572 or email fs.kiley@btinternet.com (not available on Fridays).

To hire the Church Halls, please call:

Jan on 020 8653 0447 for St Mark; and Annette on 020 8771 5779 for Holy Innocents.

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We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen.

For the Bishops in this Diocese - Christopher, Karowei, Rosemarie (and the vacant See of Kingston).

For the bishops in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe, their clergy and people.

For St Nicholas, Plumstead Andrew Stevens (Vicar)
For the Bishops, priests, deacons & people of The Anglican Church of Korea

For the sick – Claude & Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Anecka, Lynn, Ronald, Tommy, Ena, Rudolph, Pamela, Barry, Dennis, Linda, David, Adrian, Jacqueline, Colin (Castle), Carmen, Annetta, Fay, Marina, Pauline (Riches), Karen, Rodney, Fred and Fr. Tom Hurcombe.

The bereaved – the Onyiaike, Irono, Gittens and Maginley families.

The recently departed – Fidelia Onyiaike, Iona Gittens and Elecia Maginley.

Years Mind (those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time).