

BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

I lift my grateful heart to the Christ child,
 who set aside the riches of heaven
 to lie in a manger, helpless and among strangers.
 I lift my heartfelt prayers to the Christ child,
 from the comfort of my home this Christmas,
 for the children growing up in poverty, without the
 education and care they need.
 I lift my celebrating voice to the Christ child,
 thankful for the food and the colour and excitement,
 and wanting the good things I enjoy to be shared fairly
 throughout the world.
 I lift my hopes and fears to the Christ child,
 longing for a world in which violence is at an end,
 and pleading for those who have known nothing but
 brutality all their lives.
 To the Christ child of Bethlehem I pray:
 out of injustice, out of warfare, out of fear,
 lift every human heart this Christmas. **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021

Date	Time	Service	Location
Saturday 25th Dec. Christmas	8.00am	BCP Mass	St. Mark
Sunday 26th Dec. St. Stephen's Day	10.00am	Parish Mass and Holy Baptism	St. Mark
Thursday, 30th December	10.00am	Patronal Festival Mass	Holy Innocents
Friday, 31st December	11.00pm	Watchnight Mass	St. Mark

'NAME A STAR' AT CHRISTMASTIDE

Following the success of last year's 'Name a Star' fundraiser, **this year's Appeal** will run until Sunday 6th February at Candlemas (or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple which actually falls on Wednesday, 2nd February).

You're invited to purchase a star, at the cost of £5 in the name of a loved one who has been and/or still is a Star which brightens up your life.

You can of course, purchase as many stars as you would like and we will hang them on the Christmas tree. The only difference to last year is that there won't be a video of the Named Stars but that doesn't prohibit you from taking photos /videos of your Stars on the tree. **THANK YOU!**

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



24th-25th December 2021

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

CHRISTMAS

11pm Midnight Mass * Christmas Eve
8am BCP Mass * Christmas Day

President, Mtr. Roxanne * Preacher, Mtr. Susan

*Isaiah 52.7-10 * Psalm 98 * Hebrews 1.1-12 * John 1.1-14*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Until further notice, both Parishes will continue to meet for worship at Saint Mark for the 8am & 10am Sunday Masses; and at Holy Innocents for the weekday Mass on Thursdays at 10am.

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.

We pray thee, O Lord, to purify our hearts that they may be worthy to become thy dwelling place. Let us never fail to find room for thee, but come and abide in us, that we may also abide in thee, who as at this time wast born into the world for us, and dost live and reign, King of kings and Lord of lords, now and for evermore. Amen. (William Temple)

We pray for all who cannot share the joy of Christmas and for all who are facing their first Christmas alone.

For the Bishops, priests & people of the Diocese of Ilesa South West – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

For the sick: Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Amanda, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Anecka, Lynn, Ronald, Tommy, Ena, Adeline, Akos, Peggy, Rudolph, Stephanie, Pamela, Barry, Dennis, Linda, Greta, David, Oslene, Anthony, Adrian, Barbara, Jacqueline, Jackie. **For the bereaved:** Ann and the Mulholland family. **For the recently departed:** Kenny Mulholland. **Years Mind.**

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A huge Thank You to Cicelyn and her crew of chefs, drivers and logistic assistants who will be delivering Christmas Day meals to those in our parishes and beyond, who are on their own this Christmas.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten
Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a
pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born
again
and made your children by adoption
and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy
Spirit;
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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who
announces peace, who brings good
news, who announces salvation, who
says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their
voices, together they sing for
joy; for in plain sight they see the
return of the LORD to Zion. Break
forth together into singing, you
ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD
has comforted his people, he has
redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has
bared his holy arm before the eyes
of all the nations; and all the ends of
the earth shall see the salvation of our
God.

PSALM Psalm 98

R *All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory. **R**

The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly
shown
in the sight of the nations.
He remembers his mercy and
faithfulness
to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God. **R**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you
lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.
Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the
horn
shout with joy before the King, the
Lord. **R**

Let the sea make a noise and all that
is in it,
the lands and those who dwell
therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy
before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the
world,
and the peoples with equity. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors
in many and various ways by the
prophets, but in these last days he
has spoken to us by a Son, whom he
appointed heir of all things, through
whom he also created the worlds.
He is the reflection of God's glory
and the exact imprint of God's very
being, and he sustains all things by
his powerful word. When he had
made purification for sins, he sat
down at the right hand of the Majesty
on high, having become as much
superior to angels as the name he
has inherited is more excellent than
theirs. [For to which of the angels did
God ever say, "You are my Son; today
I have begotten you"? Or again, "I
will be his Father, and he will be my
Son"? And again, when he brings the
firstborn into the world, he says, "Let
all God's angels worship him." Of the
angels he says, "He makes his angels
winds, and his servants flames of fire."
But of the Son he says, "Your throne,
O God, is for ever and ever, and
the righteous sceptre is the sceptre
of your kingdom. You have loved
righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has
anointed you with the oil of gladness

beyond your companions." And, "In
the beginning, Lord, you founded the
earth, and the heavens are the work
of your hands; they will perish, but
you remain; they will all wear out like
clothing; like a cloak you will roll them
up, and like clothing they will be
changed. But you are the same, and
your years will never end."]]

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John.*

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in the
beginning with God. All things came
into being through him, and without
him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him
was life, and the life was the light
of all people. The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness did not
overcome it. There was a man sent
from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify to the
light, so that all might believe through
him. He himself was not the light, but
he came to testify to the light. The
true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world. He was in
the world, and the world came into
being through him; yet the world did
not know him. He came to what was
his own, and his own people did not
accept him. But to all who received
him, who believed in his name, he
gave power to become children of
God, who were born, not of blood or
of the will of the flesh or of the will
of man but of God. And the Word
became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory
as of a father's only son, full of grace
and truth.

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our
hearts and shine in our words and
deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.