

**Light a candle of hope: A national call to prayer**  
*Presidents of Churches Together in England have issued a call to prayer in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. This is for all churches and people of prayer to join on **Sunday 22nd March, Mothering Sunday.***

They write....

This Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, we are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer and Action. At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.

At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Whether you are continuing to worship as congregations or not, we have the great privilege and freedom to be able to call upon God, wherever we are, individually and corporately, for healing in our nation.

We would pray for all in leadership at this time, making decisions about the containment of the COVID-19 virus, for those working in health and social care, and especially for the most vulnerable, whether elderly or those with underlying health conditions.

There are already stories being told of wonderful acts of kindness across neighbourhoods. Alongside your prayers, take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, or offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour. We may not be able to touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways.

In the meantime, do please attend to all **the government health advice** that will be issued, and look out for resources from your specific church governing bodies. At least for those of us in the global North, we do seem to be in unusual times, and wisdom and flexibility about worship gatherings are a key part of our Christian discipleship during this period.

We note that this call to prayer and action comes on Mothering Sunday: a time of thankfulness, remembering especially mothers who have served us, often in very costly ways. It is also a very mixed day for many. For some the remembrance is painful, and for others Mothering Sunday is a reminder of disappointment or loss. In many ways, this period under the shadow of the coronavirus will be prompting similarly diverse reactions and so it seems especially appropriate that the call to prayer is made this Sunday.

At this time of uncertainty join in with the National Day of Prayer and Action, lighting a candle of hope\*.

*"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you"*  
1 Peter 5.7

**Presidents of Churches Together in England**

**Archbishop Justin Welby**, *The Archbishop of Canterbury*  
**Cardinal Vincent Nichols**, *The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster*

**The Revd. Dr. Hugh Osgood**, *The Free Churches*  
Moderator

**Archbishop Angaelos of London**, *CTE President for the Orthodox Churches*

**Pastor Agu Irukwo**, *CTE Pentecostal President*

**\*Safety note** - please take all necessary fire precautions when using a lit candle. Ensure you remain with the lit candle at all times, and do not leave it to burn if you leave the room. Ensure there are no fabrics or materials such as curtains near the candle. If you are able to use a small electric 'candle' instead, that will be safe to leave unattended.

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

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



**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

**Parish Priest:** Mother Roxanne Hunte  
**Asst. Priest:** Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**8am BCP Mass & 10am**  
**Parish Mass plus Sunday School can be accessed via:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoyzfpScnrT4W9D8X11RmDQ>

or



**Mothering Sunday**

**President, Mother Roxanne**

**This week's diary**

This is to let you know that while all public worship is suspended, please free to stop by for private Prayer when you notice the Church open. We continue to pray for all who live, 'work', worship and indeed 'visit' these parishes, as together we give thanks not only for all in the business of Mothering today but also for those for whom this day brings sadness.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**Pastoral Care:** for enquiries regarding baptism, Confirmation, weddings, wedding blessings, renewal of marriage vows, thanksgiving for the birth of a child, to make your confession, or to request a home or hospital visit, **please contact Mother Roxanne on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or Mobile no. 07472 662323;** email [mtrroxanne@gmail.com](mailto:mtrroxanne@gmail.com) *Mother Roxanne is not available on Mondays; and Mother Susan (07890 780572), on Fridays.*

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**For your prayers**

Justin Welby and John Sentamu, our Archbishops; Christopher and Jonathan, our bishops in this Diocese. **For the sick, especially sufferers of COVID-19, the bereaved & the recently departed.**

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*Loving God, source of healing and comfort, fill us with your grace, that the sick may be made whole, that those who care for us may be strengthened, that the anxious may be calmed, and those most vulnerable be protected in the power of Spirit in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*