

Inclusive : Faithful : Radical

The three words used by our Cathedral here in the Diocese of Southwark, to describe themselves and to capture something of their mission and ministry. The Dean, the Very Revd. Andrew Nunn said, "I hope that whatever it is that we are doing we are being true to those values." He continues, "One of the amazing features of this year that is drawing to its close has been the development of Southwark 'online' and the wonderful community that has gathered from places far beyond the Cathedral who share our values and want to pray with us. Twice a day we have gathered to pray - Morning Prayer and Night Prayer - every day without fail. During Advent at Night Prayer we have chosen to read 'Frequencies of God' by Carys Walsh. Carys, a priest in the Diocese of Peterborough, has selected poems by one of my favourite poets, R S Thomas, to be the starting points for our reflections. So we invited Carys to join us for a conversation. The group that gathered was amazing, even someone who joins us every day from the north-west pacific coast of the USA, asking his questions, for once with us in real time. We engaged with these, at times, complex and challenging poems, that draw us deeper into what being faithful really means. It was incredibly enriching."

Also, on Friday 11th Dec in the Cathedral, there was a special Choral Evensong to mark the 850th anniversary of St. Thomas Becket preaching his final sermon in London at the Priory of St Mary Overie, what is now Southwark Cathedral, to the Augustinians gathered there. Becket was on his way to Canterbury and he would be pursued by knights who would, on the 29 December, kill him in front of members of his Benedictine community.

The Archbishop of Canterbury preached an amazing, hard-hitting and radical sermon. In it, he said, 'When children go hungry in 21st century Britain, we must speak – because God says so in scripture. When aid to the world's poorest is cut, we must speak – because Christ commands a bias to the poor, not the trickle-down theory of economics; to love our neighbours like the Good Samaritan did when the 'neighbour' was just a human being in trouble from an enemy country of which he knew little. When the refugee or the immigrant are vilified. When a Muslim woman cannot go on public transport without insult, or a Christian cannot read a bible without persecution. When a man has his neck knelt on till he suffocates. When a pastor is arrested for speaking of Christ, the Church of that and every country must say this is wrong, whatever the democratic vote or popular thinking or Government collusion.'

"Inclusive, faithful, radical. They can just be words on a letterhead, a line on a website. But this week we have been Living Southwark! Those who say, what does it mean, just look at what we do," says the Dean.

Let us pray: Living, Loving God, as we have witnessed in the past, may we live your gospel today with passion and courage and integrity. **Amen.**

Thank you to Ann, Maureen and all who helped to make today's Sunday School production such a successful event.

This year's **Midnight Mass on Thursday 24th December**, will be held at the earlier time of **9pm**. We look forward to seeing you then, if you're able to attend.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



20th December 2020

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

President, Mother Susan
NATIVITY PLAY (instead of Sermon)

8.00am and 10.00am Parish Mass
via:

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

or



Welcome to our Parish Mass at Church and livestreamed at 8am (BCP) and 10am (Common Worship). Prayers continue for all of you who are unable to return to the church building. We continue to put our trust in God who is faithful **in season and out of season.**

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is still available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or Mobile 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com Mother Roxanne is not available on Mondays; or Mother Susan (07890 780572) on Fridays.

For your prayers

For Archbishops Justin and Stephen. For the bishops in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe; and Fr. Dupwa and the people of St. Philip, Mkoba Gweru, our link parish in the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe. For our bishops in this Diocese, Christopher and Jonathan, Richard and Karwei. For **THAMESMEAD TEAM MINISTRY** Patrick Eggleston (TR) (AsstAD); Jonathan Macy (TV); Bisi Akano-Adesoye (AsstC) **Thamesmead, St Paul Abbey Wood, William Temple** Karen Saunders (CA) (Pioneer Evangelist to Young People) **Thamesmead, Church of the Cross** Bishop John Robinson School: Matthew Harris (Headteacher) **West Thamesmead Community Church** Andrew Willett (EPURC); Sally Willett (EPURC). Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

For those in any kind of need – Enid, Alec, Una, Ted, Mick, Linda, Helen, Jennifer and Reuben, Claude, Marie-Gabrielle, Vera, Barry and Valerie, Sheila, Rose, Andrew Scorgie, Rhoma, Joanna Simpson, Allison, Caroline.

The bereaved – the Burke family **The recently departed** - Hubert Burke **Years Mind.**

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming
as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING**2 Samuel 7:1-11. 16**

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house

and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

CANTICLE OR PSALM**Either Luke 1:46b-55***R. My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.***Or Psalm 89:1-4. 19-26**

*R. Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing.
Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens. R.*

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
'I will establish your line for ever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.'" R

You spoke once in a vision
and said to your faithful people:
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him. R

My hand will hold him fast
and my arm will make him strong.
No enemy shall deceive him,
nor the wicked bring him down.
I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him. R

My faithfulness and love shall be with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name.

I shall make his dominion extend
from the Great Sea to the River.
He will say to me, 'You are my Father,
my God and the rock of my salvation.'" R

SECOND READING**Romans 16:25-27**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but

is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised
saviour;
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your
holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

