

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

The first Sunday in Lent is at the beginning of the forty days of Lent, a season of penance and preparation for Easter. It is known as Quadragesima Sunday or Invocavit Sunday, from the Latin words for "fortieth" and "he calls".

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

BISHOP'S LENT CALL FOR 2024

The Bishop's Lent Call for 2024 is raising funds for projects that focus on peace with justice in the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, and resilience and well-being across our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. As we spend time in prayer and contemplation this Lent, it is hoped that you will feel able to generously support the projects that have been chosen this year.

You can find more information on this year's projects and how to donate on Southwark Diocese website www.southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/leat-call or speak to Mother Susan.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Lent Study Group will commence on **Wednesday 21st February**, 7.30 pm and the first session will be via Zoom. We will be following the Church of England book **Tarry Awhile**. Please see Mother Susan or leave your contact details at the back of the church.

Give Lent – St Mark's Church is launching a Stewardship Campaign during this Lent. We hope this is an opportunity to enable the church to grow and develop during this time of interregnum. Please see Penny Smith-Orr.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



18th February 2024

Vicar: Vacant

Priest (PTO): Revd. Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley, TSSF, SCP

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds,

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*Genesis 9.8-17 * Psalm 25 1-9 * 1 Peter 3.18-end * Mark 1.9-15*

Today we welcome Fr Tomos Reed at the 8.00am BCP Mass, and Mtr Barbara Gentilella at the 10.00am Mass at St Mark

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Funerals, baptisms, weddings, please contact Mother Susan 07890 780572, fs.kiley@btinternet.com or Cicelyn Hinds 07484 677951. Please note that Mother Susan's day off is Friday.

The Benefice is now in vacancy. For Parish matters, please contact in the first instance, the respective church wardens, St Mark – Donald Ferguson (mr.dferguson@hotmail.com) Holy Innocents – John Gaisey (johngaisey1975@gmail.com) and Laurél Hird (lhird@btinternet.com)

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 *The Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan*.

For Eltham and Mottingham Deanery Annette Rose (Area Dean), Caroline Risdon (Assistant Area Dean), Elaine McNaughton (Lay Chair), Sue Charles (PTO), John Francis Friendship (PTO), William David (PTO), Christine Latham (PTO) and Peter Charles (Deanery Reader).

For the sick – Marina, Richard, Alec, Malik, Simon, Caroline, Susan, Norman, Kay and Sacha.

The bereaved – Mark Collymore and his family

The recently departed – Dorothy Collymore
Years Mind (those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time).