

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Racial Justice Sunday has been observed ecumenically in Britain and Ireland since 1995. Originally celebrated in September, it is now observed on the second Sunday in February.

The theme this year, on February 9th on the 30th anniversary is the coat of many colours. Reflecting on the fact that many of our churches and communities are becoming more diverse.

Racial Justice Sunday is an invitation for churches to reflect on the importance of racial justice, to give thanks for the beauty and gifts of human diversity and to commit to end racism and discrimination. Racial Justice is not the preserve of any one group, an issue that only affects them and therefore only something that they should be concerned with.

Racism and racial discrimination are issues of justice precisely because they deny basic human dignity for men and women made in God's image. If God is a God of justice, then any justice, whether for the earth or for oppressed women, should be on our hearts too. The prefix we place before the word justice should not determine our level of concern and engagement. As Christians we are called to partner with God in repairing the world and one of the ways we can do this is to be in solidarity with those who suffer racial injustice.

We demonstrate our solidarity when we confront the idolatry of racism, when we proclaim justice and mercy and walk humbly with our God. Our worse sin can be the sin of omission, when we do nothing, an extreme form of this led to millions being murdered in Nazi concentration camps, simply because they were seen as being different.

Lastly, the words of Jesus "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". It is Jesus we serve when we align ourselves with those who suffer racial injustice. Jesus extends open arms to the whole world and says no matter your human identity, your identity is found in me, first and foremost. You are all one in me.

Just as Jesus extends his love, his peace and his grace to us all, then so may we extend that same love to all our brothers and sisters in all the ways we can.

PCC REMINDER

A reminder to both PCCs of the Mission Action Planning meeting to be held at St Luke's Church Room, Portland Road, on, **Saturday 15th February**, 9.30am to 1.30pm.

THE BRIDGE

The February copies of The Bridge are available at the back of each church. Please pick up a copy.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



9th February 2025

Vicar: Vacant

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

Priest (PTO): Revd. Mother Ada Onyekwelu

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*Malachi 3.1-5 * Psalm 24.1-end * Hebrews 2.14-end * Luke 2.22-40*

Today we welcome **Mother Barbara Gentilella** who will be presiding and preaching at St Mark at the 10.00 am Mass

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: for enquiries regarding Holy Innocents, please contact Mother Susan 07890780572 fs.kiley@btinternet.com and for St Mark, please contact Mother Ada 07961728618 a_onye@yahoo.co.uk or Cicelyn Hinds (both churches) 02086562472 cahinds@btinternet.com.

The Benefice is in vacancy. For Parish matters, please contact in the first instance, the respective church wardens, St Mark – Norma McKnight (ndwillis12@outlook.com) and Cicelyn Hinds (cahinds@btinternet.com) Holy Innocents – Church.warden@holyinnocentschurch.co.uk

We pray: for Archbishop Stephen; for the Bishops in this diocese, Christopher, Martin, Rosemarie and Alastair. For the Bishops, priests, deacons and people in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe and the Diocese of The Anglican Church of Australia.

Pray for Charlton Deanery Simon Winn (Area Dean), Laura Faturoti (Assistant Area Dean), Liz Newman (Assistant Area Dean), Wendy Foreman (Lay Chair) **Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust:** Steve Thomas (Trust Chaplain and Team Leader).

For the sick - Barbara, Emma, Santosh, Rona, Don, John, Richard, Alec, Leonard, Marina, Reiss, Malik, Simon, Janet, Graham and John.

The bereaved – Martyn and Cassandra and the Dixon-Baker family; Rita, Paul and Sarah and the Low family. **The recently departed** – Marcelle Dixon-Baker and Brian Low **and those whose Years Mind falls at this time.**