

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

The fig tree in the parable today is planted in the vineyard and it should be a cause of blessing and joy. However it has been barren for years and the owner tells the gardener to cut it down. The gardener appeals for clemency, a stay of execution for a year during which time it will be given special treatment to make it fertile. The words of Jesus today are not just a warning to Israel and Jerusalem, they are a warning to us all that we should live productive lives.

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+ DATE FOR YOUR DIARY+

Are you interested in being part of one or more of the important ministries in either Holy Innocents or St Mark, for example, leading prayers on Sundays, reading the lessons from scripture, being an all important Welcomer (Sidesperson), or are you new to the role and would like to know more. If so, then you are invited to a friendly training and getting to know "how to" session. This will be happening on **Saturday 5th April**, the time to be confirmed, at St Mark's church. The session will be no longer than one and a half hours, and there will be refreshments! We will pray together and get to know and support each other, too. If you have any queries please ask Mother Ada or Mother Susan.

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FROM THE BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK'S LENT CALL

Lent is a time to reflect on how we spend time with God and with others in our Christian community. It is also a good time to begin to think about what God might be calling us to do. This week, Bishop Christopher encourages us to spend time with God – and consider what we are being called to do by Him.

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Tuesday 25th March – The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

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The Benefice Interregnum Prayer

During the remainder of the interregnum, both churches will be praying the following at each service and church meeting.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we glorify your holy name. Thank you for your love and care. Heavenly Father, as we journey through this period of interregnum, we pray for wisdom, patience, guidance, and renewed hope. Help us to work together in love and unity. And as we seek to find a new Vicar for this United Benefice of St. Mark's and Holy Innocents, we pray O Lord, for someone filled with compassion, Godly love, and is steadfast in prayer, passionate in growing the Church, children and youths work and able to work collaboratively with others. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, Amen

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Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship (both churches)

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



23rd March 2025

Vicar: *Vacant*

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

Priest (PTO): Revd. Ada Onyekwelu

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds,

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*Isaiah 55.1-9 * Psalm 63.1-9 * Corinthians 10.1-13 *
Luke 13.1-9*

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) 02086562474 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

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We pray: for Archbishop Stephen; for the Bishops in this diocese, Christopher, Rosemarie, Alastair and Martin.

For the Bishops, priests, deacons and people in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe and Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

St Paul, Deptford Paul Butler (Rector) Deptford Reach: Day Centre helping people rebuild lives that have been damaged by poverty and injustice, homelessness, illness, drug or alcohol abuse and social exclusion.

For the sick – Barbara, Emma, Santosh, Rona, Don, John, Richard, Leonard, Marina, Reiss, Malik, Simon, Janet, Graham, Luke, Linda, Fred and Maxine.

The bereaved – for Penny and the Smith-Orr family, the Meeson and Allen families, Cheryl, Marcia and the Scantlebury and Avery families, Claude, Renette and the Provence and Curpen families, Grace Coward and Family, Greta Farley and family and the Allen family.

The recently departed – Pamela Blomfield, Sheila Scantlebury, Sheila Curpen, Marion Allen - **and those whose Years Mind falls at this time.**