

Saint Mark the Evangelist

Today, on this Feast Day of Mark the Evangelist, we commemorate the Patronal Festival of St Mark's church, without the customary celebration afterwards. Happy Feast Day, nonetheless!

John Mark was a Jew and, according to Paul's letter to the Colossians, was cousin to Barnabas. He accompanied Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey. Afterwards, he went to Cyprus with Barnabas and to Rome with first Paul and then Peter.

Mark's gospel is generally regarded as the earliest and was most likely written whilst he was in Rome. It was probably based as much on Peter's preaching of the good news as on Mark's own memory.

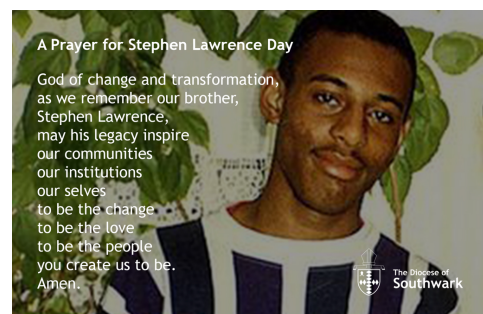
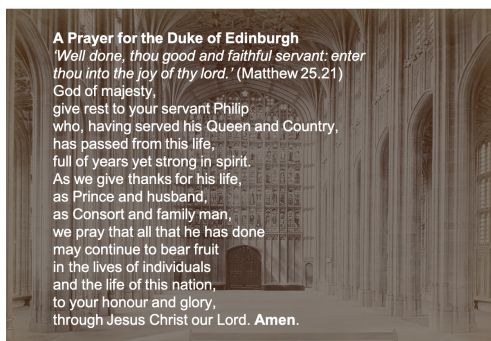
Mark's gospel has a sharpness and an immediacy about it and he does not spare the apostles in noting their weaknesses and lack of understanding that Jesus the Christ would suffer for the world's redemption. Sharing in the glory of the resurrection means sharing in the giving of self, both in body and spirit, even to death; sharing the gospel was, for all, in essence both excessively generous and ultimately sacrificial.

+++++ Undocumented People and COVID-19 vaccine

You might have seen some misleading reports in the media that some migrants, such as those here illegally, without documentation or with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), are not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. This is not true. We have had assurances directly from Lord Greenhalgh, Minister of State for Communities that:

- no immigration checks will be carried out on those coming forward for a vaccine
- no personal data will be shared outside the NHS as a result of someone having a vaccine or treatment related to a vaccine or coronavirus
- you do not need to be registered with a GP or have an NHS number to be vaccinated or to make arrangements for the second vaccine.

Please take every opportunity to encourage people you know in this position to come forward for vaccination, both for their own health and that of the community – **Thank you.**



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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



25th April 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley
Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST

10.00am Parish Mass

President and Preacher – Mother Roxanne

Acts 15.35-41 * Psalm 119 * Ephesians 4.7-16 * Mark 13.5-13

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

Thursday 29 th April	Catherine of Siena, Teacher, 1380	10.00am Mass at Holy Innocents
Sunday 2 nd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	8am BCP Mass 10am Parish Mass

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com

Mother Roxanne is not available on Mondays.

Mother Susan (07890 780572) not available on Fridays.

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We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; the Bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

For The Holy Redeemer, Streatham Vale
 Ian Gilmour (Vicar). **For the Bishops, priests & people of the Diocese of The Nippon Sei Ko Kai.**

For the sick – Enid, Alec, Una, Claude & Richard, Helen, Linda, Jennifer and Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Vera, Barry & Valerie, Sheila, Andrew (Scorgie), Rose, Allison, Caroline, Gillian, Donald & Sigi, Anecka, Monica, Lynn, Dennis, Rosemary, CP, Joanne, Melanie, Ronald, Faye and Tommy.
For the bereaved – the Allen, Black, Heslop and Stratton families. **For the recently departed** – Linton Allen, Roy Black, Oswald Heslop and Pat Stratton. **Years Mind.**

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Saturday, 1st May @7pm: St Mark's Bank Holiday 'online' Quiz Night. 'Entry' fee is £10 per household which will include £5 for 5 strips of raffle tickets for a £20 Tesco voucher. Feel free to buy more tickets for the raffle - £5 for 5 strips.

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St Mark's APCM this year will take place on 9th May after the 10am Parish Mass.

I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

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PLEASE follow the COVID-19 guidelines for public worship – please wear a mask unless exempt, hand sanitise, register your presence either through your NHS APP or by adding your name and contact number to the Register, maintain your distance and remember **NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING.** Please **LEAVE** the building **DIRECTLY** after the Mass.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who enlightened your holy Church
through the inspired witness
of your evangelist Saint Mark:
grant that we, being firmly grounded
in the truth of the gospel,
may be faithful to its teaching both in
word and deed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
(15.35-41)*

Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, and there, with many others, they taught and proclaimed the word of the Lord. After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Come, let us return and visit the believers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul decided not to take with them one who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work. The disagreement became so sharp that they parted company; Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and set out, the believers commending him to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PSALM 119

The light of the eyes rejoices the heart [and good news refreshes the body].

How shall the young cleanse their way?
By keeping to your words.
With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not stray from your commandments. *Refrain*

I treasure your promise in my heart,
that I may not sin against you.
Blessèd are you, O Lord;
instruct me in your statutes. *Refrain*

With my lips will I recite
all the judgements of your mouth.
I have taken greater delight in the way
of your decrees
than in all manner of riches. *Refrain*

I will meditate on your
commandments
and give attention to your ways.
My delight is in your statutes;
I will not forget your word. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter to the
Ephesians (4.7-16)*

Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

Mark 13.5-13

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.' **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to Peter, James, John and Andrew: "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. "As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**