

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Our readings today remind us that we are approaching Pentecost and the changes which came upon the Church setting the path for the future. On our journey of faith God is preparing us all the time for the next stage. Our faith grows out of the things we learn, the experiences we have and the people we meet. We may not understand where it's all leading, but when we look back along the path we've travelled, it may twist and turn all over the place but there will be some sort of discernible pattern which shows our lives as an evolving event, not a series of random and isolated events which have no meaning.

Walking with God requires faith and commitment on our part and the words of Jesus prepare us for what it will involve. He talks about keeping his commandments, dwelling in his love, loving each other and living in fellowship with him and with his Father. And if we do set out on that journey, we can see that Jesus has already been there before us, showing us what it means to love by loving us.

It's a lifetime's work to learn what it means to be so perfectly in tune with God but it's a lifetime's work with God alongside us now, God preparing us for the next step and God ahead of us preparing the way and waiting for us to join him there.

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

St Mark's APCM will be held during the 10.00am mass on **Sunday 12th May** in the sermon slot. It will be chaired by the Area Dean. The booklets containing the Reports for 2023 are at the back of the church. Please pick one up and read the reports in advance of the meeting.

Holy Innocents APCM will be held on **Tuesday 14th May** at 7.00pm in the Church Hall. The Area Dean will chair this meeting also. Reports for 2023 will be available on Sunday 12th May. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

ASCENSION DAY

Thursday 9th May is Ascension Day. Said Mass will be celebrated at Holy Innocents Church at 10.00am, all are invited.

We are also invited to celebrate with the congregation at St Luke's Church at 7.30pm.

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NOW RECRUITING!

Have you thought about where God may be leading you?

Both churches are in need of people to lead the Readings, lead intercessory prayer, be a Chalice Minister. If you would like to consider taking up any of these important ministries please speak to Robert McCann, Laurel Hird, or Mother Susan. Training will be provided.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



5th May 2024

Vicar: Vacant

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

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds,

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*Acts 10.44-end * Psalm 98 * 1 John 5.1-6 * John 15.9-17*

Today we welcome **Mother Jean Yearwood** at the **10.00am Mass at St Mark**

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: for enquiries regarding baptism, confirmation, weddings, blessings, house blessings, renewal of marriage vows, thanksgiving for the birth of a child, to make your confession, or to request a home or hospital visit, 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 – Church.warden@holyinnocentschurch.co.uk

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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 *Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil*.

Merton Priority Team Ministry St John the Divine, Merton, Alison Judge (Team Vicar)

For the sick – Fred, Revd Andy Dovey, Joy, Sharon, Marina, Richard, Alec, Malik, Simon, Mei, Caroline, Susan, Kay, Sacha, Marlise and Amanda.

The recently departed and those whose Years Mind falls at this time.