

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

From the Coronavirus Group

As we celebrated the Ascension of our Lord last Thursday and the start of **Thy Kingdom Come** (the global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension Day and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus), it is our prayer that you are keeping safe and well.

More than 35 million people have received one dose of the vaccination and nearly 18 million have received both. This is welcome news!

Tomorrow will see further lifting of restrictions. Up to 6 people or 2 households will be able to meet indoors and up to 30 people outdoors. *This may allow others usually involved in your pastoral visiting to feel more able to take up this role in a more creative way once again.*

While we welcome all this, it is essential to remain vigilant, careful, safe and to continue with the relevant risk assessments when necessary.

Visitors to Church need to be kept safe and should maintain social distance. Face coverings should be worn (unless people are excused this requirement for health reasons), hand sanitiser is available on entrance and exit and the ability to 'check-in' using the NHS app and manual test and trace system are in place. Visitors should be asked not to touch objects and surfaces. However, we need to balance all this with a warm welcome to our historic and beautiful churches where there is still **no congregational singing** and we're asked to still **leave the church directly** after the Parish Mass.

In relation to Sunday School, groups for 4-18 years-old will be able to gather indoors and outdoors. The size of the group must take into account factors such as recommended occupancy levels of the room so that social distancing is maintained, plus the ability to ventilate the space. It is advised that parents and carers should not routinely be present, due to transmission risks and where parents do attend, they should be socially distanced.

Under the Step 3 easement of restrictions up to 30 people will now be able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events including wakes, as well as standalone life-cycle events. These can take place outdoors or at any indoor Covid-secure venue that is permitted to open.

The number of people able to attend a funeral will be determined by the number that can be safely accommodated in Church or at the Crematorium chapel with social distancing in place.

++++
The Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce has published its report proposing a suite of changes to begin bringing about a change of culture in the life of the Church of England. **From Lament to Action** can be read here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/news-releases/lament-action-archbishops-anti-racism-taskforce-calls-urgent-changes>

++++
A copy of the Southwark Diocesan ANTI-RACISM CHARTER is at the back of the church for your perusal.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



16th May 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley

Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10.00am Parish Mass

President – Mother Susan Preacher – Cicelyn Hinds

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26 * Psalm 1 * 1John 9-13 * John 17.6-19

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

Thursday 20 th May	Alcuin of York, Abbot, 804	10.00am Mass at Holy Innocents
Sunday 23 rd May	Pentecost (Whitsunday)	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.

++++

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 Thy Kingdom come, St Andrew, South Wimbledon** Charles Lamont (PiC); Santhosh Thomas (AsstP at Dundonald) **For the Bishops, priests & people of the Anglican Church of Korea** **For the sick** – Enid, Alec, Richard, Helen, Jennifer and Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Sheila, Rose, Allison, Caroline, Gillian, Sigi, Anecka, Monica, Shirley, Lynn, Dennis, Rosemary, CP, Joanne, Melanie, Ronald, Faye, Tommy, Ena, Adeline and Akos. **For the bereaved** – Doris and the Lawrence family; **the recently departed** – Murphy Lawrence.

++++

Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing: "Our vision is that the work of supporting clergy in their ministry will become an integral part of the life of the Church and part of the DNA of every aspect of our mission and ministry."

The Revd Canon Simon Butler, Head of the CofE Clergy Covenant Working Group

The Covenant is the expressed view of the mind of the Church of England on issues relating to clergy care and wellbeing. There are resources designed to help initiate and guide discussions around clergy care and to engage all parts of the church including Parish level stakeholders.

Here is the link for the congregation's reflection:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/clergy-resources/national-clergy-hr/supporting-clergy-health-and-wellbeing/covenant#na>

COLLECT

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus
Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom
in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not
comfortless, but send your Holy
Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our
Saviour Christ is gone before,
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 (1.15-17, 21-26)*

In those days Peter stood up among the
believers (together the crowd
numbered about one hundred and
twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the
scripture had to be fulfilled, which the
Holy Spirit through David foretold
concerning Judas, who became a guide
for those who arrested Jesus— for he
was numbered among us and was
allotted his share in this ministry.'
So one of the men who have
accompanied us throughout the time
that the Lord Jesus went in and out
among us, beginning from the baptism
of John until the day when he was taken
up from us—one of these must become
a witness with us to his
resurrection.' So they proposed two,
Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also
known as Justus, and Matthias. Then
they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know
everyone's heart. Show us which one of
these two you have chosen to take the
place in this ministry and apostleship
from which Judas turned aside to go to
his own place.' And they cast lots for
them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and
he was added to the eleven apostles.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PSALM I

*The Lord knows the way of the
righteous.*

Blessed are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked, nor
lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

Their delight is in the law of the
Lord and they meditate on his law day
and night.

Like a tree planted by streams of
water bearing fruit in due season, with
leaves that do not wither,
whatever they do, it shall prosper.

Refrain

As for the wicked, it is not so with
them; they are like chaff which the
wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not be able
to stand in the judgement, nor the
sinner in the congregation of the
righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall perish.

Refrain

SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of John
(5.9-13)*

If we receive human testimony, the
testimony of God is greater; for this is
the testimony of God that he has
testified to his Son.

Those who believe in the Son of God
have the testimony in their hearts.

Those who do not believe in God have
made him a liar by not believing in the
testimony that God has given
concerning his Son.

And this is the testimony: God gave us
eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever
does not have the Son of God does not
have life.

I write these things to you who believe
in the name of the Son of God, so that
you may know that you have eternal
life.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (17.6-19)*

Glory to you, O Lord.

'I have made your name known to
those whom you gave me from the
world. They were yours, and you gave
them to me, and they have kept your
word. Now they know that everything
you have given me is from you; for the

words that you gave to me I have given
to them, and they have received them
and know in truth that I came from you;
and they have believed that you sent
me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not
asking on behalf of the world, but on
behalf of those whom you gave me,
because they are yours. All mine are
yours, and yours are mine; and I have
been glorified in them. And now I am
no longer in the world, but they are in
the world, and I am coming to you.
Holy Father, protect them in your name
that you have given me, so that they
may be one, as we are one. While I was
with them, I protected them in your
name that you have given me. I guarded
them, and not one of them was lost
except the one destined to be lost, so
that the scripture might be fulfilled. But
now I am coming to you, and I speak
these things in the world so that they
may have my joy made complete in
themselves. I have given them your
word, and the world has hated them
because they do not belong to the
world, just as I do not belong to the
world. I am not asking you to take them
out of the world, but I ask you to
protect them from the evil one. They
do not belong to the world, just as I do
not belong to the world. Sanctify them
in the truth; your word is truth. As you
have sent me into the world, so I have
sent them into the world. And for their
sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also
may be sanctified in truth.

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

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into
all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we
proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.