

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

What is a Christian? If you had to define what a Christian person was, how would you do it? Would they believe certain creeds, worship in particular ways, or would they have a certain spiritual model or belief system? It is a fascinating question and one which Jesus tackles in our reading today from John's Gospel. Jesus makes it clear that Christianity is not to be identified by a particular set of beliefs, a body of doctrines, membership of a certain church or denomination, or adherence to the Bible.

A Christian is fundamentally identified by love. Loyalty to our church, knowledge of scripture, religious devotion, all of this is incidental to the importance of being loving people. A Christian is recognised not by their creed but by their ability to reflect the love of God in their life.

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**Thy Kingdom Come Here - prayer walk your street** What would it look like for the whole church in London, to pray for the whole city street by street? The Thy Kingdom Come Here is a London wide initiative, ([www.thykingdomcomehere.uk](http://www.thykingdomcomehere.uk)) taking place this May and June, to prayer-walk the whole M25 region. It is an invitation for Christians to turn their everyday journeys into a prayer walk, and to record them on a map. Individual journeys are then logged on a digital map so individuals can see how their own prayer journeys are part of a collaborative effort to cover their area or city in prayer, street-by-street. As each street is prayed for, it changes colour so users are able to see which areas near them have been, or are waiting for someone to pray there. As more people pray "Your kingdom come here" on their journeys, the city changes colour but, more importantly, the city will be changed through prayers.

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**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May** is Ascension Day. Mass will be said at Holy Innocents Church at 10.00am, and in the evening all are invited to St Luke's Church, Woodside, time to be confirmed.

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**Congratulations** to all those who were elected or re-elected as PCC members and Sidespeople at St Mark's APCM last Sunday.

### **The Benefice Interregnum Prayer**

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

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

*Sharing God's grace and love in our community*



**18<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Vicar:** Vacant

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

**Priest (PTO):** Revd. Ada Onyekwelu

**Reader (PTO):** Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds,

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)**

**10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)**

*Acts 11.1-18 \* Psalm 148 \* Revelation 21.1-6 \*  
John 13.31-35*

**Access online worship via**  
[www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood](http://www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood)

## **CHURCH NOTICES**

**Pastoral Care:** for enquiries regarding Holy Innocents, please contact Mother Susan 07890780572 [fs.kiley@btinternet.com](mailto:fs.kiley@btinternet.com) and for St Mark, please contact Mother Ada 02086574018 or Cicelyn Hinds (both churches) 02086562474 [cahinds@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:ndwillis12@outlook.com)) and Cicelyn Hinds ([cahinds@btinternet.com](mailto:cahinds@btinternet.com)) Holy Innocents – [Church.warden@holynnocentschurch.co.uk](mailto:Church.warden@holynnocentschurch.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 the Diocese of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

**St Luke, Wimbledon Park** Vacancy (Vicar).

**For** our young people, Teddy and Lizzie, and others, preparing for their GCSEs, till after the exams.

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

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

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----- **CRYSTAL PALACE FC** -----

Whether you are a football fan or not, congratulations to "Palace" for making it to the final at Wembley. You will know the result by the time this pew sheet is circulated!

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