

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

THREE things are called “great” in this Gospel: the storm, the calm, and the fear of the disciples. There are many things in scripture which are alien to modern taste and mores. Acknowledging fear in the presence of God should not be one of them. For one thing, we can pile up quotations showing that “the fear of the Lord” is a positive, not a negative, thing: for instance, “the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 110.10; Job 38.38). In Proverbs 19.23, fear and security are bound tightly together: “The fear of the LORD is life indeed; filled with it one rests secure and suffers no harm.”

At every confirmation service, we are taught that “fear of the Lord” is one of the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit. Having “fear of the Lord” does not necessarily mean being afraid of him in the sense of feeling terror or trepidation. People who have transgressed and fear the Lord, like Adam (Genesis 3.10), do indeed feel terror. But there is no reason that terror should be felt by the righteous.

“The fear of the Lord” has two elements to it. First, it is an acknowledgement that his power is real. Second, that acknowledgement shades into the only reasonable response: “fear of the Lord” becomes a virtual synonym for “worship of the Lord”. And this worship excludes the worship of other gods.

Mark does not use the regular word for fear, *phobos*, to describe how the disciples were feeling when the storm threatened to sink the boat and drown them all. He keeps it for the emotion that comes upon them after they have been rescued by Jesus’s word of power. Nor does Mark use the language of fear when Jesus asks them why they reacted as they did: the English, “Why are you afraid?”, is translating a Greek word, *deilos*, which means something more like “cowardly”.

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### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**South Norwood Community Fair** will be held on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July**, South Norwood Recreation Ground.

St Mark’s will be having a stall at the fair, selling cakes. Donations of homemade cakes will be gratefully received, as will offers of help on the day, to set up, staff the stall and to clear up again afterwards.

**Deanery Synod** is on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July** at St Luke’s Church, Woodside.

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

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



**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**

**Vicar:** Vacant

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

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

### **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

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

*Job 38.1-11 \* Psalm 107 \* 2 Corinthians 6.1-13 \* Mark 4.35-end*

Today we welcome **Father Paul Smedley** who will be presiding and preaching at the 10.00 am Mass at St Mark

**Access online worship via**

[www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood](http://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](mailto:fs.kiley@btinternet.com) or Cicelyn Hinds 07484 677951. Please note that Mother Susan’s day off is Friday.

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 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 the Church of England.

**St Mary, Battersea** Stephen Taylor (Priest in Charge)

**For the sick** – John, Emma, Revd Andy Dovey, Sharon, Marina, Richard, Alec, Malik, Simon, Ken, Caroline, Susan, Kay, Sacha, Marlise, Amanda, Sigi, Barbara, Anthony and Myrna.

**The bereaved** – Jenny Cross and Family.

**The recently departed** – Harry Cross - **and those whose Years Mind falls at this time.**