

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On this second Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves once again on the banks of the River Jordan with John the Baptist. All four Gospel writers agree that there is no good news – without John the Baptist. Jesus himself describes John as the greatest of prophets. John took his mission, which was to declare the imminent arrival of the coming Messiah, very seriously. Advent is a time for all of us to make ready and John gives us just a few ideas of where we should start. Advent is the time to prepare for the time of the Lord's nativity, for our encounter with the Lord Jesus. It is a time for all of us to determine what needs straightening, what needs levelling, both in us and around us. The whole geography of our lives should be changed by Christ, the valleys lifted up and the mountains laid low.

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+++ THANK YOU +++

Thank you to everyone who helped out at and attended the St Mark's Christmas Fair yesterday.

Continued thanks too, to those who are volunteering to make the sandwiches for Croydon Nightwatch, each Friday night.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please hold in your prayers the candidates for the post of Vicar to this Benefice. They will be interviewed on **Wednesday 10th December**, and pray for all who are involved in the selection process.

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Sunday 14th December – St Mark's Sunday School Nativity presentation. This will be held during the 10.00am Eucharist. Thank you to the Sunday School leaders as they prepare the children for the annual nativity which brings Christmas even closer.

Thursday 18th December – at Holy Innocents church, after the 10.00am Mass, a new Community Café will be launched at 11.00am with a Christmas celebration. The Café will be open for all ages, especially babies, toddlers and their parents/carers – everyone will be welcomed.

Also on Thursday 18th, from 6.00pm, Community Carol Singing led by Imprint Church and Holy Innocents Church outside Aldi in Station Road. All welcome to join in the festive spirit and celebrate this holy season with some wonderful singing.

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The Benefice Interregnum Prayer

Heavenly Father, we glorify Your name for Your blessings upon us. We pray for guidance and wisdom, Holy Spirit, in the process of appointing a new vicar for our United Benefice. Give us the right person to help us fulfil our vision here in South Norwood. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

United together in Christ, shining Christ's light in our community



7th December 2025

Vicar: Vacant

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

Priest (PTO): Revd. Ada Onyekwelu

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds,

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10.00am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*Isaiah 11.1-10 * Psalm 72.1-7. 18-19 * Romans 15.4-13 *
Matthew 3.1-12*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: for enquiries regarding Holy Innocents, please contact Mother Susan 07890780572 fs.kiley@btinternet.com and for St Mark, please contact Mother Ada 07961728618 a_onye@yahoo.co.uk or Cicelyn Hinds (both churches) 02086562474 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) and Cicelyn Hinds (cahinds@btinternet.com) Holy Innocents – Church.warden@holynnocentschurch.co.uk

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We pray: For the Archbishop of Canterbury elect, Sarah Mullally, 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 Church of Bangladesh.

St Swithun, Purley Fiona Weaver (Vicar) and Julian Pearcey (Reader).

For the sick – Richard, Barbara, Emma, Rona, John, Leonard, Reiss, Malik, Simon, Fred, Ethel, Terri-Ann, Marcia, Caroline, Revd Barbara, Shirley, Luke, Beverley a Rowena.

The bereaved – Jackie and David Underwood.

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

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