

Today, on the First Sunday of Advent, we begin the new year C, the new year of the Church.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

*Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty. (Charles Wesley)*

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent.

The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society; Christingle services may take place before or after Christmas.

The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.


An Advent Prayer
Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

*For he comes, he comes to judge the earth.
(Psalm 96.13)*

God of our expectation,
fill us with pregnant hope
as the day draws near,
that we may birth
Advent hope into
Christmas joy.

Amen.

At the heart
of Christmas



CHURCH NOTICE

Please support the Parish Christmas Fairs:
Holy Innocents Church Hall: next Saturday, 4th December from 12noon to 4pm.
St Mark's Church Hall: next Sunday, 5th December from 11am to 2pm. Help is needed to set up, man/woman the stalls and to clear up afterwards.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



28th November 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley
Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

First Sunday of Advent

8am BCP Mass & 10am Parish Mass

President and Preacher - Mother Roxanne

*Jeremiah 33.14-16 * Psalm 25.1-10 * 1Thess. 3.9-13 * Luke 21.25-36*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

Today, 28 th November	Advent	St Luke: 5pm <i>Advent Carol Service</i>
Thursday 2 nd December	Feria	Holy Innocents: 10.00am Said Mass
Sunday 5 th December	Second Sunday of Advent	8am BCP Mass 10am Parish Mass

CHURCH NOTICES

Until further notice, both Parishes will continue to meet for worship at Saint Mark for the 8am & 10am Sunday Masses; and at Holy Innocents for the weekday Mass on Thursdays at 10am.

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com She is not available on Mondays or Mother Susan (07890 780572) on Fridays.

We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; and the Bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

For those who fight intolerance, ignorance and neglect in all shapes and forms.

For the Bishops, priests & people of the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil (The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil)

For the sick: Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Amanda, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Anecka, Monica, Shirley, Lynn, Ronald, Tommy, Ena, Adeline, Akos, Peggy, Rudolph, Stephanie, Pamela, Barry, Marlise, Dennis, Linda, Greta, David, Oslene, Shelly, Anthony, Adrian.

For the bereaved: Beverley Herbert and the Grant family; Angela and the Fenton family.

For the recently departed: Jenny Grant, Stedroy Fenton. **Years Mind** – Bertram Peck, Alford Mullings.

Many Congratulations and Every Blessing to the newly weds, Joseph and Karen Mullings who got married here at St Mark, yesterday.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the
works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty to judge the
living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

PSALM Psalm 25:1-10

R *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to
shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed
in their schemes. **R**

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day
long. **R**

Remember, O Lord, your
compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth
and my transgressions;
remember me according to your
love
and for the sake of your goodness,
O Lord. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in
his way.
He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly. **R**

All the paths of the Lord are love
and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and
his testimonies.
For your name's sake, O Lord,
forgive my sin, for it is great. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-end

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused

by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us
faithful
as we await the coming of your Son
our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.