

Coronavirus update from the Diocese

With news of the Omicron variant, Bishop Sarah Mullally, who leads the Church of England's Covid Recovery Group, issued the following statement this week:

"The emergence of the omicron variant of Covid-19 is, understandably, a concern for all of us. We are grateful to the scientists around the world who have identified this strain so quickly and are working hard to learn more about it. As yet, little is known about its potential impact and we must exercise patience as we wait for further information. As we do so, there are important steps we should take now to protect ourselves and each another. The Government has outlined the return of compulsory face coverings in shops and on public transport in England and we should also continue to take other public health precautions that, by now, are very familiar, such as regular hand-washing, observing physical distancing and ensuring good ventilation indoors. If you are eligible, please also have your booster jab as soon as it is available. Meanwhile we are awaiting any new Government regulations and guidance and will update our advice for churches accordingly."

Face Coverings: You may want to take note that the Government has asked people to wear face coverings in a number of public contexts and so parishes, in reviewing their risk assessments, should give due thought for guidance on this matter. We would encourage you to use the language of 'request' over the wearing of face coverings. Attached is the latest guidance from the national Church. Here is a link:

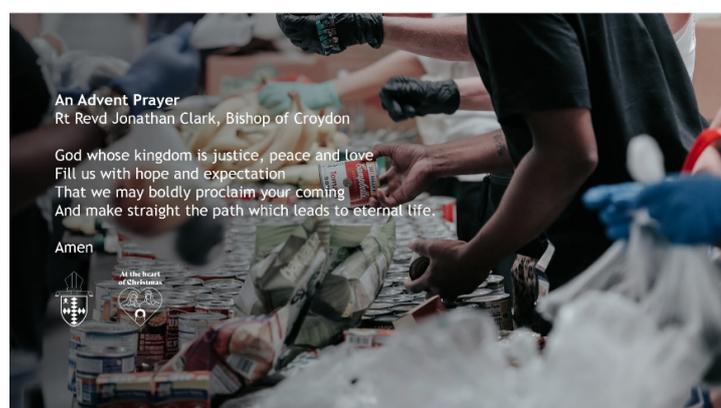
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance#na> Detailed Government information on face coverings can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Vaccinations and Boosters: You are encouraged to go forward for your vaccinations and boosters.

Security and staying safe: The current security threat level is SEVERE, meaning a terrorism attack is highly likely. We encourage you to take note of this and please think about security, particularly when the church is crowded with larger Advent & Christmas services. Please be vigilant. We encourage you to be confident and take necessary precautions.

Prayer for Advent 2 by Bishop Jonathan



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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



5th December 2021

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

Second Sunday of Advent

8am BCP Mass & 10am Parish Mass

President – Mtr. Roxanne * Preacher – Mtr. Susan

Brauch 5.1-9/Malachi 3.1-4 * Canticle * Philippians 1.3-11 * Luke 3.1-6

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

Today, 5 th December	Second Sunday of Advent	St Mark, 6pm Evening Prayer
Thursday 9 th December	Feria	Holy Innocents: 10.00am Said Mass
Sunday 12 th December	Third 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.

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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 Purley, St Barnabas Justine Middlemiss (PiC); Elizabeth Goodridge (AsstP); David Hadley (PTO); Susan Myers (SPA)

For the Bishops, priests & people of the Anglican Church of Burundi.

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: Bernicee and the Dundas family, Sharon and the Harris family. **For the recently departed:** Alvin Dundas, Joanne Harris. **Years Mind.**

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St Mark's Church Hall - Christmas Fair today from directly after the Parish Mass until 2pm. Please consider helping to clear up afterwards.

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Baruch 5:1-9**

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Or **Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

CANTICLE Luke 1:68-79 (Benedictus)

R *Blessed be the Lord, who sets his people free.*

Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant, David. **R**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us. He promised to show mercy to our forebears and to remember his holy covenant. **R**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight, all the days of our life. **R**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, To give his people knowledge of salvation, by the forgiveness of their sins. **R**

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your

sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.