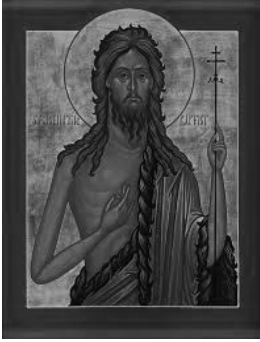


## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



In the gospel this Sunday, we meet John the Baptist again. Last Sunday, he asked us to repent, change our ways and prepare a way for the Lord. In this Sunday's gospels, the people ask him what they need to do to prepare for the Lord. He told them, if you have two

coats, give one to a person who has none. The tax collectors who were known for stealing and cheating, were told not to take more than their legal right. The soldiers were told not to bully or beat people. Three times different groups asked what they had to do and three times John found the answer in justice, mercy and compassion; obey the law, treat each other fairly and care for those who are poor. Perhaps this gospel holds a mirror up to each of us and presents us with the question; what do we have to do today ourselves to prepare a way for the Lord?

Today is Gaudete Sunday, celebrated on the third Sunday of Advent, and holds a significant place in the liturgical calendar, marking a joyful midpoint in the season of anticipation before Christmas. The term "Gaudete" is derived from the Latin word for "rejoice," taken from the entrance antiphon for the day, which begins with the words "Gaudete in Domino semper" or "Rejoice in the Lord always." The third Sunday of Advent serves as a brief respite from the more sombre aspects of the season, allowing believers to rejoice in the imminent arrival of the Christ child.

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**This morning at St Mark's Church we welcome our young people as they present for us the story of the Nativity – The First Christmas**  
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### DATES FOR THE DIARY

On **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**, we welcome the pupils and teachers from South Norwood Primary School to St Mark's Church for their annual Christmas concert.

There is still time to catch the St Alban's Church Christmas Tree Festival, open until **4.00pm this afternoon**, or you could join the Community Carol service at St Luke's Church, starting at 4.00pm.

A reminder about carol singing on the wards at Croydon University Hospital on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**, starting at 6.00pm in the Barnabas Chapel.

Details of all our Christmas and New Year services in both churches will be available soon.

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

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



**15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

*Vicar: Vacant*

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

*Reader (PTO):* Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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

*Zephania 3.14-end \* Psalm 146.4-end \* Philippians 4.4-7 \* Luke 3.7-18*

Today we welcome **Father Tomos Reed** at the 8.00 am Mass at St Mark and **Mother Barbara Gentilella** at Holy Innocents

**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@holyinnocentschurch.co.uk](mailto:Church.warden@holyinnocentschurch.co.uk)

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**We pray:** for Archbishop Stephen; for the Bishops in this diocese, Christopher, Martin, Rosemarie and Alastair. For the Bishops, priests, deacons and people in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe and The Anglican Church of Tanzania.

**All Saints, Plumstead** Herbert Aparanga (Vicar)

**For the sick** - John, Emma, Marina, Richard, Alec, Malik, Simon, Caroline, Kay, Amanda, Sigi, Barbara, Anthony, Maxine, Peter, Martyn, Luther, Reiss, Roma, Colleen, Leonard, Leon, Jason, Michael, Graham, Orlando, Richard and Santosh.

**The recently departed** David Rumsby, RIP. David, was a longstanding member of St Luke's Church, Woodside. David was a volunteer driver for Christmas at Woodside, and latterly a guest at Christmas at St Mark's. David passed peacefully, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. He will be sadly missed. May he Rest in Perfect Peace and Rise in Glory.