

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Today on this last Sunday of Advent, we celebrate Mary, the Mother of our Lord.

In the words of the Magnificat today we see Mary turn to God in what we would see as a mighty big problem and recognises that God is bigger still. Mary is not daunted by the challenge of those who will look down on her because she sees that God is on the side of those who are at the bottom of the social ladder. Mary's voice rings out in the words of a subversive song, using words which are a magnificent radical agenda for social change. Mary's song is a statement of what she believes about God. Like the song of Hannah on which it is modelled, it celebrates the character of God as the great turner of tables. The whole of the history of Israel is about God tearing down the arrogant and lifting up those who are down. He is the God of the poor and the oppressed, under his hand the meek inherit the earth. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

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### **DATES FOR CHRISTMASTIDE AT HOLY INNOCENTS AND ST MARK**

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 11.00pm, Midnight Mass at St Mark

Christmas Day Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 8.00am, BCP Communion at St Mark

Christmas Day family Eucharist, 10.30am (please note the start time), with blessing of Christmas presents, at Holy Innocents Church.

New Year's Eve Watchnight service, 11.00pm at Holy Innocents Church

Copies of the December/January Bridge are at the back of both churches

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### **CROYDON NIGHT WATCH**

Thank you to everyone, Ann and her team, who has played a part in preparing and delivering the sandwiches for Croydon Nightwatch. One of the recipients sleeps in the porch of Holy Innocents Church, and he much appreciates the opportunity to rely on food each night.

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Mother Susan, Laurel, Cicelyn and Norma, take this opportunity to wish everyone at Holy Innocents and St Mark a Peaceful and Blessed Christmas when it arrives.**

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

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



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### **22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**

**Vicar:** *Vacant*

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

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

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## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

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

*Baruch 5 \* Canticle Luke 1.68-79 \* Philippians 1.3-11 \* Luke 3.1-6*

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*Today we welcome **Mother Linda Fox** who will be preaching and presiding at the 10.00am service at St Mark.*

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**Access online worship via**  
[www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood](http://www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood)

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## **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 Diocese of The Church of the Province of Uganda.

**Pray for those in hospitals and hospices over Christmas and all chaplaincy teams serving those places.**

**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 and those whose Years Mind falls at this time.**