

Bishop Christopher writes:

Our first concern in a crisis is for the health, safety and well-being of those we love, and those entrusted to our care. In the past few days and weeks we have been reminded that we are part of a global community as the threat of Coronavirus has become clear and, nation by nation, emergency measures have transformed the daily lives of us all. I became aware of the rapid spread of the disease at the beginning of Lent, whilst co-leading the first Ecumenical Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The night before we were due to visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the West Bank was locked down and our happy band of 70 pilgrims was barred from going there. We were one of the last Pilgrimage groups to fly out. Since then, my concern and prayers have been for the Diocesan family of parishes and other communities of faith, indeed for all people who have been affected by the virus.

The message from our Government has been very simple and very clear: **Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives.** The simplicity of this message is its greatest compelling strength. It has needed to be, given the risk to life and the danger of stretching the capacity of our NHS to breaking point. The impact on lives and livelihoods, and the mental health of many people, particularly those who are isolated or vulnerable, or living in cramped accommodation, is also considerable.

In all this, much is being threatened and endangered; but there is much to be gained as well. It is wonderful to learn that in the past 24 hours, at the time of writing, more than half a million people have offered voluntary service to support the NHS. I also know that in many of our parishes the Church is at the heart of emerging local networks which will reach out to those most in need. I express my thanks and appreciation especially for all that is being extended in prayer and pastoral care. Many of us are able to put a renewed focus on home and family as we take this opportunity to give precious time to each other. Equally, many of us are living alone and relying on other networks of support.

We are also recovering the New Testament understanding of Church as people, not buildings, and as believers drawn together by their shared faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ. We are finding new ways in which we can worship in our homes, and making ever more creative use of social media and other helpful technologies. Just as the Government message is simple and compelling, let us take this opportunity to look at the world around us more simply: the simple beauty of springtime, with trees bursting into blossom, is very apparent in the many open spaces of South London which people are accessing for exercise and recreation, whilst observing proper social distancing; the simple peace of a world in which there is less traffic and less pollution; above all, the simple peace that is to be found in prayer, and in our eternal hope, new every morning as in this Easter season, we proclaim, Christ is Risen!

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Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Please remember that all Sunday Services (8am BCP Mass, 10 am Parish Mass, 6pm Evening Prayer) and Daily Prayers (Tuesday – Thursday) will remain on the YouTube, Spotify and Apple Podcasts for your viewing.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



26th April 2020

Parish Priest: Mother Roxanne Hunte
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

Third Sunday of Easter
President, Mother Roxanne

Acts 2.14a, 36-41; Psalm 116.1-3, 10-17; 1 Peter 1.17-23;
Luke 24.13-35

8am and 10am Parish Mass
plus Sunday School accessed via:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoyzfpScnrT4W9D8X11RmDQ>

or



This week's diary

This is to let you know that while the Churches are closed as all public worship is suspended, we continue to pray for all who live, 'work', worship and indeed 'visit' these parishes, as together we give thanks for what God has done for us, despite the unprecedented times in which we find ourselves.

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care:

Mother Roxanne is still available on
Tel. 020 8916 1830 or Mobile no. 07472 662323;
email mtrroxanne@gmail.com

Mother Roxanne is not available on Mondays;
or Mother Susan (07890 780572), on Fridays.

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For your prayers

Justin Welby and John Sentamu, our Archbishops; Christopher and Jonathan, Richard and Karowei, our bishops in this Diocese.

For Bishop Ignatios, Fr. Dupwa and the people of St. Philip, Mkoba Gweru, our link parish in the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe.

For the sick – Barry and Nikki, Ruth, Linda, Helen, Mick, Diane, Enid and Alec; and those suffering as a result of contracting COVID-19.

For the bereaved – Abdul and the Conteh family, Marcia and the Bogle family, Deepa and family, the Forbes family and the Ledeatte family.

For the recently departed – Pa Alhaji, Marlene, Sharma and David, Maggie, Ruth.

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
 who in your great mercy gladdened the
 disciples with the sight of the risen
 Lord:
 give us such knowledge of his presence
 with us,
 that we may be strengthened and
 sustained by his risen life
 and serve you continually in
 righteousness and truth;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a. 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added to their number.

PSALM Psalm 116:1-3. 10-17

R *Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
 [our God is full of compassion].*

I love the Lord,
 because he has heard the voice of my
 supplication,
 because he has inclined his ear to me
 whenever I called upon him. **R**

The cords of death entangled me;
 the grip of the grave took hold of me;
 I came to grief and sorrow.
 Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
 "O Lord, I pray you, save my life." **R**

How shall I repay the Lord
 for all the good things he has done for
 me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
 and call upon the name of the Lord.
 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
 in the presence of all his people. **R**

Precious in the sight of the Lord
 is the death of his servants.
 O Lord, I am your servant;
 I am your servant and the child of your
 handmaid;
 you have freed me from my bonds. **R**

I will offer you the sacrifice of
 thanksgiving
 and call upon the name of the Lord.
 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
 in the presence of all his people.
 In the courts of the Lord's house,
 in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
 Alleluia! **R**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-23

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

GOSPEL Luke 24:13-35

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

On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" Jesus asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how

our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

POST COMMUNION

Living God,
 your Son made himself known to his
 disciples
 in the breaking of bread:
 open the eyes of our faith,
 that we may see him in all his redeeming
 work;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.