

**Thy Kingdom Come 2020 – 21<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> May**

*This message from Reverend Canon Chris Russell, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor on Evangelism and Witness, explores this year's plans.*

In the past few years, the focus of our prayers in these days between Ascension and Pentecost has been for the coming of the God's Kingdom in the lives of family and friends, neighbours and colleagues that they might come to faith.

When we pray 'Come Holy Spirit' during Thy Kingdom Come 2020 we pray in this specific context of the COVID crisis, with all that we face, all that is unknown and all we are helpless before.

But however important prayer is we know the prayer is called to action. So, this year we will be encouraging all not simply to pray that friends and family, colleagues and neighbours might encounter the love of God in Christ, but that they would experience that love in action. We are calling this 'Prayer and Care'.

**This year as we pray for others, we pray that they would come to know Christ so that they may come to give their lives to serve God's Kingdom. We will once again encourage every person taking part in TKC to pray for 5 others who don't know the love of Christ and then to resolve to invite them along to something appropriate once our church buildings are reopened.**

All this prayer is reliant and expectant that the Holy Spirit would draw us more and more to encounter God's love in Christ, so we might be and bring the difference in the world he sends us to stake everything on.

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A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

*For those unable to access the internet and is feeling isolated, this is a free phone line of hymns, reflections, prayers and a choice of @churchofengland services – Tel. 0800 804 8044 - It's an excellent Resource!*

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**A reminder that all Sunday Services and Sunday school Lessons, Morning and Evening Prayer (Tues. – Thurs., Evening Prayer on Sunday) will remain on the YouTube, Spotify and Apple Podcasts for your viewing.**

**Do feel free to contact Mother Roxanne should you require prayers, a chat or need help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, etc. and we will make the appropriate arrangements.**

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

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



**17<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

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

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**President, Mother Roxanne**

**Preacher, The Rt. Revd. Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon**

**8am and 10am Parish Mass**

**plus Sunday School accessed via:**

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

[RmDQ](#)

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 07472 662323; email [mtrroxanne@gmail.com](mailto: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; Stephen, Archbishop Elect of York.

Christopher and Jonathan, Richard and Karowei, our bishops in this Diocese.

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

**For those in any kind of need** and those who've asked us to pray for them including the sick, the bereaved, the recently departed and for those whose Years Mind occurs at this time.

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**The 'Graveside' Funeral of the late Marlene Bogle (St Mark) will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm at Beckenham Cemetery.**

## COLLECT

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power  
of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of  
your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has  
recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he  
may raise us to eternal joy;  
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 17:22-31**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

## PSALM Psalm 66:7-18

**R** *[Bless our God, you peoples;]  
let the sound of his praise be heard.*

Bless our God, you peoples;  
make the voice of his praise to be  
heard.  
Who holds our souls in life,  
and will not allow our feet to slip. **R**

For you, O God, have proved us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.  
You brought us into the snare;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our  
backs.  
You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water;  
but you brought us out into a place of  
refreshment. **R**

I will enter your house with burnt-  
offerings  
and will pay you my vows,  
which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was  
in trouble.

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats. **R**

Come and listen, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell you what he has done  
for me.

I called out to him with my mouth,  
and his praise was on my tongue.  
If I had found evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me; **R**

But in truth God has heard me;  
he has attended to the voice of my  
prayer.  
Blessed be God, who has not rejected  
my prayer,  
nor withheld his love from me. **R**

## SECOND READING

**1 Peter 3:13-22**

*A reading from the first letter of Peter.*

Who will harm you if you are eager  
to do what is good? But even if you  
do suffer for doing what is right, you  
are blessed. Do not fear what they  
fear, and do not be intimidated, but  
in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.  
Always be ready to make your defence  
to anyone who demands from you an  
account of the hope that is in you; yet  
do it with gentleness and reverence.  
Keep your conscience clear, so that,  
when you are maligned, those who  
abuse you for your good conduct in  
Christ may be put to shame. For it  
is better to suffer for doing good, if

suffering should be God's will, than  
to suffer for doing evil. For Christ  
also suffered for sins once for all, the  
righteous for the unrighteous, in order  
to bring you to God. He was put to  
death in the flesh, but made alive in  
the spirit, in which also he went and  
made a proclamation to the spirits in  
prison, who in former times did not  
obey, when God waited patiently in  
the days of Noah, during the building  
of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight  
persons, were saved through water.  
And baptism, which this prefigured,  
now saves you – not as a removal of  
dirt from the body, but as an appeal to  
God for a good conscience, through  
the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who  
has gone into heaven and is at the right  
hand of God, with angels, authorities,  
and powers made subject to him.

## GOSPEL John 14:15-21

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love  
me, you will keep my commandments.  
And I will ask the Father, and he will  
give you another Advocate, to be  
with you for ever. This is the Spirit of  
truth, whom the world cannot receive,  
because it neither sees him nor knows  
him. You know him, because he abides  
with you, and he will be in you. I will  
not leave you orphaned; I am coming  
to you. In a little while the world will  
no longer see me, but you will see me;  
because I live, you also will live. On  
that day you will know that I am in my  
Father, and you in me, and I in you.  
They who have my commandments  
and keep them are those who love  
me; and those who love me will be  
loved by my Father, and I will love  
them and reveal myself to them."

## POST COMMUNION

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the  
water of eternal life:  
may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life and source of  
goodness,  
through him who is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever.