

Letter from the Diocese (Bishop Christopher) updating us on the use of Face coverings

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Following the Government's announcement last weekend that face coverings were to be mandatory in places of worship, we wanted to share with you the guidance which has been developed by the Recovery Group. Bishop Christopher and the Coronavirus Task Group commend this pattern to you all, asking you to make local decisions concerning distancing and whether face coverings are necessary in certain situations.

Face coverings during worship

In England, face coverings are currently required by law to be worn in shops, supermarkets, indoor transport hubs, indoor shopping centres, banks, building societies, post offices and on public transport. From 8 August, face coverings are also required by law to be worn in a greater number of public indoor settings including places of worship, museums, galleries, cinemas and public libraries.

There are valid exemptions for some individuals and groups not to wear a face covering in these settings. In particular, those who are leading services or events in a place of worship, and those who assist them (for instance by reading, preaching, or leading prayer), do not always need to wear a face covering, although one should be worn especially if physical distancing cannot be maintained (for example, when distributing consumables). This exemption does not apply to worshippers, who should wear face coverings consistent with the requirements for any other public space unless they have a valid reason for not wearing a face covering.

Face coverings during weddings

In England, face coverings are currently required by law to be worn in shops, supermarkets, indoor transport hubs, indoor shopping centres, banks, building societies, post offices and on public transport. From 8 August, face coverings are also required by law to be worn in a greater number of public indoor settings including places of worship, registry offices, museums, galleries, cinemas and public libraries.

There are valid exemptions for some individuals and groups not to wear a face covering in these settings - in particular, those who are leading services or events in a place of worship. Those exemptions will also cover the bride and groom at a wedding and those officiating/leading the wedding. This exemption does not apply to those observing the wedding, who should wear face coverings consistent with the requirements for any other public space.



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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



9th August 2020

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

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

President, Mother Roxanne
Preacher, Mother Susan

Both the 8am and 10am Parish Mass are now being Livestreamed and can be accessed via:

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

or



This week's diary

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 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com Mtr. Roxanne is not available on Mondays; or Mother Susan (07890 780572) on Fridays.

For your prayers

For Archbishops Justin and Stephen. For Christopher and Jonathan, Richard and Karowei, our bishops in this Diocese. For the bishops in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe; and 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 including **the sick** – Enid, Alec, Una, Ted, Mick, Linda, Helen, Jennifer and Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Wilfred, Kay, Vera, Claude and Bob; **the bereaved** – the Rayner, Arthur, Savoury and Corbin families; **the recently departed** – June Rayner, Colin Bovill, Frank Savoury; **Years Mind**.

As you tune in to the Livestreamed Sunday Services and/or the Service of Night Prayer /Compline from Monday through Friday each week, please free to send feedback so we can improve our service to you.

FIRST READING

*A reading from first Kings
(1 Kings 19.9-18)*

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

*This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God*

PSALM 85.8-13

Refrain: Show us your mercy, O Lord.

I will listen to what the Lord God will say, for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly. Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. *Refrain*

Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other; Truth shall spring up from the earth and righteousness look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed give all that is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before him and direct his steps in the way. *Refrain:*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter to the Romans
(10.5-15)*

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL Matthew 14.22-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ*

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your
Church: open our hearts to the riches
of your grace, that we may bring forth
the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy
and peace; 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.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION

Holy Father, who gathered us here
around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole
household of God: in that new world
where you reveal the fullness of your
peace, gather people of every race
and language to share in the eternal
banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.