

Bishop Christopher signs letter with other London Church leaders urging the government to act swiftly and without delay to provide protection and hospitality to Ukrainian refugees.

We London Church Leaders met today at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Family to pray with Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski and his people and to share our concerns at the greatest humanitarian crisis since the end of the Second World War now unfolding in Europe. We are encouraged by the government's family sponsorship programme and welcome the intention to establish a pathway to humanitarian sponsorship.

As the number of Ukrainian citizens seeking shelter outside the borders of Ukraine is estimated to reach close to two million, we cannot but emphasise the urgency to act swiftly and without delay.

As the children and grandchildren of those who experienced the horror of war seven decades ago, it is our moral obligation to provide protection and hospitality to those who are undergoing the same horrors today, unthinkable as that may seem in the 21st century.

Just as so many British children were sent to the countryside far from harm's way during the bombing of London, so today tens of thousands are hoping to find refuge far from Russia's relentless, unconscionable, and indiscriminate attacks on homes, hospitals and schools throughout their homeland. Surely, we feel compassion today for Ukrainian mothers with young children, the elderly and those with disabilities, who have undertaken dangerous and arduous travel, and look to the United Kingdom with hope and are now reaching out to us in Ukraine's greatest hour of need. How can mothers with young children, the elderly and the disabled, who have travelled a thousand miles be expected to complete online application forms in a language foreign to them? Times of war require swift action and flexibility, the easing of normal procedures and the removal of complex bureaucratic obstacles that can easily turn hope into despair and resignation.

We would ask that sponsorship not be limited to those with family members in the UK, but that those sponsorship criteria be expanded to include all Ukrainian refugees on humanitarian grounds, allowing them to enter the UK as quickly as possible.

Those attending the meeting and sharing in this letter: Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster; Archbishop Nikitas, Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain; Bishop Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark; Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese of London; Rev Phil Barnard, Team Leader London Baptist Association; Rev Dr Jongikaya Zihle, Methodist Conference; Revd George Watt, Moderator URC Thames North; Lt Colonel David Shakespeare, Salvation Army; Les Isaac OBE, President of the Ascension Trust; Andy Frost, Moderator of Free Churches Group Jesus International; Bishop Lynne Cullens, Bishop of Barking; Rev Msgr Kevin Hale, Vicar General Diocese of Brentwood; Ven Elwin Crockett, Archdeacon of West Ham; The Ven Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London.

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**For those in Year 7 and upwards, Public Spirit Listening Dinner: 5.30pm, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, Saint Stephen's Church Hall, Warwick Road, CR7 7NH.** Please see Ann Squirrel if you wish to attend.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



13<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne Eversley  
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley  
Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

The Second Sunday of Lent  
10.00am Parish Mass

President and Preacher, Mother Roxanne

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18 \* Psalm 27 \* Phil.3.17-4.1 \* Luke 13.31-35

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

## CHURCH NOTICES

Until further notice, both Parishes will continue to meet for worship here at Saint Mark at 8am and 10am on Sundays; and at Holy Innocents for the weekday Mass on Thursdays at 10am.

**Pastoral Care:** Mother Roxanne is available (except on Mondays) on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or [mtrroxanne@gmail.com](mailto:mtrroxanne@gmail.com) Mother Susan (07890 780572 [fs.kiley@btinternet.com](mailto:fs.kiley@btinternet.com) not available on Fridays.

To hire the Church Halls, please call:  
Jan on 020 8653 0447 for St Mark; and  
Annette on 020 8771 5779 for Holy Innocents.

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**We pray:** for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Richard and Karwei in this Diocese, for the appointment of the new Bishop of Croydon; and for the Bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.  
**For Christ Church, Camberwell** Hugh Balfour (V)  
**For** the Bishops, priests & people of the Anglican Church of Melanesia

**For the sick:** Claude & Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Amanda, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Anecka, Lynn, Ronald, Tommy, Ena, Adeline, Peggy, Rudolph, Stephanie, Pamela, Barry, Dennis, Linda, David, Oslene, Anthony, Adrian, Barbara, Jacqueline, Pauline, Anne, Mark, Jean.

**For the bereaved:** the Shaw and Afare families.

**For the recently departed:** Ben Shaw, Stephen Afare.  
**Years Mind**

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## A Prayer for Ukraine

O Prince of Peace, we watch the news from Ukraine with dismay, anger and heartbreak: confound all those who seek to change the world through violence; prosper all those whose hearts are set upon reconciliation; protect all those who live in fear; and teach us, when confronted by evil, how to respond with both the strength and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Here is an on-line option for monetary donations to Ukraine, as advised by the BBC: [DEC.org.uk](http://DEC.org.uk)**

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the  
light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of  
righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are  
agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

**Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

## PSALM Psalm 27

**R** *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?  
the Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?  
When evildoers came upon me to eat up  
my flesh,  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries,  
who stumbled and fell. **R**

Though an army should encamp against me,  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;  
And though war should rise up against me,  
yet will I put my trust in him. **R**

One thing have I asked of the Lord;  
one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life;  
To behold the fair beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple. **R**

For in the day of trouble  
he shall keep me safe in his shelter;  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his  
dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock. **R**

Even now he lifts up my head  
above my enemies round about me;  
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling  
an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord. **R**

Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.  
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek  
my face."  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.  
Hide not your face from me,  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure. **R**

You have been my helper;  
cast me not away;  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.  
Though my father and my mother  
forsake me,  
the Lord will sustain me. **R**

Show me your way, O Lord;  
lead me on a level path, because of  
my enemies.  
Deliver me not into the hand of my  
adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and also those who speak malice. **R**

What if I had not believed  
that I should see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living!  
O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;  
be strong and he shall comfort your heart;  
wait patiently for the Lord. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Philippians 3:17 – 4:1**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.*

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me,  
and observe those who live according to  
the example you have in us. For many live  
as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have  
often told you of them, and now I tell you  
even with tears. Their end is destruction;  
their god is the belly; and their glory is in  
their shame; their minds are set on earthly  
things. But our citizenship is in heaven,  
and it is from there that we are expecting  
a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will  
transform the body of our humiliation  
that it may be conformed to the body of  
his glory, by the power that also enables  
him to make all things subject to himself.  
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I  
love and long for, my joy and crown, stand  
firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## GOSPEL Luke 13:31-end

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

At that very hour some Pharisees came  
and said to him, "Get away from here, for  
Herod wants to kill you." He said to them,  
"Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am  
casting out demons and performing cures  
today and tomorrow, and on the third  
day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow,  
and the next day I must be on my way,  
because it is impossible for a prophet  
to be killed away from Jerusalem.'  
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills  
the prophets and stones those who are  
sent to it! How often have I desired to  
gather your children together as a hen  
gathers her brood under her wings, and  
you were not willing! See, your house is  
left to you. And I tell you, you will not  
see me until the time comes when you  
say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the  
name of the Lord.'"

**Or Luke 9:28-36** (RCL only)

## POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of  
ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all  
adversities which may happen to the  
body,  
and from all evil thoughts  
which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.