

Clergy Well-Being and the Reopening of Church Buildings – The Bishops in the Diocese

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
We are immensely grateful to you all for the efforts that have been made, and the imagination and creativity that have been shown, in sustaining the worshipping life of our parishes. This has taken a great many different forms, and we know that it has been welcomed and valued by congregations, as well as giving glory to God. Now we are moving into a phase where we can once again, step by step, open our church buildings for worship. This is a cause of rejoicing, but we want to say clearly that whilst some parishes will be ready to re-start public worship in the coming days, we fully realise that for others it will of necessity be a longer journey to reopening. Above all, our commitment is to ensure that our churches re-open as safely as possible. We are encouraging Clergy to factor in the need to take annual leave and consider directing congregations to online alternatives should they decide to take their leave before reopening for worship.

We would encourage Deaneries to work together and co-ordinate the worship that is available both online and in churches over this period. To help with this, the Archdeacons will be making available a series of online sermons which they hope will be a useful resource for parishes during the summer.

In deciding when to reopen churches, Clergy well-being is an important factor as we know that in order to minister to others we have to allow God and his people to minister to us. Let us be not anxious. Ministry is a marathon and not a sprint. Congregations have, during the weeks of lockdown, been loyal and supportive, and with the creativity shown in providing online worship so widely new worshippers have been drawn in. The Church of England is not going away. We are particularly grateful to Churchwardens and we express thanks and appreciation for all that has been done to sustain parish life and ministry through this time – and we are mindful of the burdens borne by all our Church Officers, not least those whose churches are in vacancy. Please take good care of yourselves as we now look to the next stage of recovery, though our worship will look very different from what we are accustomed to.

Please circulate it widely.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel,

**The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun,
Bishop of Southwark**

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

**The Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham,
Bishop of Kingston**

**The Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu,
Bishop of Woolwich**

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We will test our social-distancing and other preparations for Public Worship, next Sunday, 12th July, at St Mark for the 10am Parish Mass to which you are all invited (both Parishes). The online 8am BCP and 10am Common Worship Services will remain as is for the time being.

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



5th July 2020

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

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

**President, Mother Susan
Preacher, Mother Roxanne**

**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

Our Archbishops; our bishops in this Diocese and the bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. **For those in any kind of need in both parishes including the sick; the bereaved – the Sinckler family; Romeo, Nicole and Rhianna; the recently departed – Monica and Samantha.**

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The following Sunday, 19th July, you are all invited (both Parishes) to join me at Holy Innocents for the 10am Parish Mass. At these Services, there will be no congregational singing, sharing of the Peace or personal greetings via hugs, etc. Collection will be taken at the front or as you enter, so one person can bring up the Offering for a blessing and take it away for counting. And of course, you will be asked to use hand sanitizer as you enter the Church.

COLLECT

O God,
the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong,
nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your
mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things
temporal that we lose not our hold
on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophecy of
Zechariah (9.9-12)*

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot
from Ephraim and the warhorse from
Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be
cut off, and he shall command peace to
the nations; his dominion shall be from
sea to sea, and from the River to the
ends of the earth.
¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood
of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the
waterless pit.
¹² Return to your stronghold,
O prisoners of hope; today I declare
that I will restore to you double.

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

PSALM 145.8-15

Refrain: *Great is the Lord and
highly to be praised.*

8 The Lord is gracious and
merciful, long-suffering and of great
goodness.
9 The Lord is loving to everyone
and his mercy is over all his creatures.

10 All your works praise you, O
Lord, and your faithful servants bless
you.

11 They tell of the glory of your
kingdom and speak of your mighty
power, **Refrain**

12 To make known to all peoples
your mighty acts and the glorious
splendour of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting
kingdom; your dominion endures
throughout all ages. **Refrain**

14 The Lord is sure in all his words
and faithful in all his deeds.

15 The Lord upholds all those who
fall and lifts up all those who are
bowed down. **Refrain**

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Romans (7.15-25a)*

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions.
For I do not do what I want, but I do
the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what
I do not want, I agree that the law is
good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that
do it, but sin that dwells within
me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good
dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I
can will what is right, but I cannot do
it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want,
but the evil I do not want is what I
do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it
is no longer I that do it, but sin that
dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I
want to do what is good, evil lies close
at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of
God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my
members another law at war with the
law of my mind, making me captive to
the law of sin that dwells in my
members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am!
Who will rescue me from this body of
death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through
Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

GOSPEL Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

*Alleluia. Alleluia.
Speak Lord, for your servant is listening,
you have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.*

*The Lord be with you
And also with you.*

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

16 'But to what will I compare this
generation? It is like children sitting in
the market-places and calling to one
another,
¹⁷ "We played the flute for you, and you
did not dance; we wailed, and you did
not mourn."
¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor
drinking, and they say, "He has a
demon"; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating
and drinking, and they say, "Look, a
glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-
collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is
vindicated by her deeds.'

25 At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you,
Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things
from the wise and the intelligent and
have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes,
Father, for such was your gracious
will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over
to me by my Father; and no one knows
the Son except the Father, and no one
knows the Father except the Son and
anyone to whom the Son chooses to
reveal him.

28 'Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I
will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon
you, and learn from me; for I am gentle
and humble in heart, and you will find
rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is
easy, and my burden is light.'

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

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
comfort of the afflicted and healer of
the broken,
you have fed us at the table of life and
hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and
peace,
that all the world may acknowledge
the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**