

As we celebrate **Black History Month (BHM) 2020**, I hope you were able to logon via Zoom to the Diocesan BHM Thanksgiving Day yesterday.

Why Black History Month is more important than ever this year? Catherine Ross - Editor BHM 2020



2020 has held a mirror up to the world and forced many to see the reality of racism in all its guises. From Black people dying disproportionately in the pandemic, to the

horrific murder of George Floyd and no justice for Breonna Taylor – the 26-year-old emergency medical worker killed by police in her own home. In the UK, the scale and impact of institutionalised racism has been laid bare, with young Black men stopped and searched 20,000 times in London during the coronavirus lockdown (the equivalent of 1 in 4 young Black men), along with Black MPs, barristers, senior police officers, sportspeople and many more.

#BlackLivesMatter protests around the world sparked a commitment among many individuals and organisations to educate themselves about Black history, heritage and culture – as part of understanding racism and standing in solidarity against it.

If that commitment is to transcend beyond social media into real change, everyone, from all communities, needs to embrace BHM as a starting point for exploring, discovering and celebrating Black history, heritage and culture – both past and contemporary. From the incredible achievements and contributions, to the many untold stories and barriers to progress – the day-to-day reality of institutionalised racism.

BHM 2020 is a time to shine a light on our shared British history and tell the whole story honestly and truthfully, to decolonise and reclaim history, and tell stories from the perspective of all people.

It is also a time to look forward and celebrate the here and now – and the future possibilities. Hopefully, the events of 2020 will be a catalyst for Black history to be shared much more widely – in museums, galleries, schools, universities, public spaces and communities. Black History Month 2020 is a time for people to come together and hopefully learn lessons for the present and the future. It's a time to honour the commitment to learning and standing united against racism. It's a time to reclaim history and re-imagine how our shared history will be told in the future.

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Annual Parochial Church Meetings: St. Mark - after the 10am Parish Mass next Sunday, 11th October (in St Mark's Church and via online access).

Holy Innocents - after the 10am Parish Mass on 18th October (in St Mark's Church and via online access).

If you wish to register your membership at either Church, then please add your name to the Church's Electoral Roll if you are aged 16 or over, baptised, a lay person and: a member of the Church of England and resident in the parish; or if not resident in the parish, but have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

To complete an enrolment form, please contact:
St. Mark, Cicelyn Hinds - cahinds@btinternet.com
Holy Innocents, Rita Low - relow@blueyonder.co.uk

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



4th October 2020

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

17th Sunday after Trinity

President, Mtr. Roxanne; Preacher, Ann Squirrel

8am and 10am Parish Mass

via:

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

or



This week's diary

While St. Mark remains open for Livestreamed 8am and 10am Sunday Services for both parishes, we continue to pray for all who are unable to return to the Church building at this time. We continue to give thanks for what God has done for us, in spite of 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 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 our bishops in this Diocese,** Christopher and Jonathan, Richard and Karowei. **For the sick** – Enid, Alec, Una, Ted, Mick, Linda, Helen, Jennifer and Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Kay, Wilfred, Vera, Claude, Bob, Merna, Barry and Valerie, Merna, Sheila, Evro. **The bereaved** – Claude and family, Michelle and family. **The recently departed** – Laure Rachel and Maude Helen, Donnell Rhule; **Years Mind.**



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

COLLECT

Almighty God,
 you have made us for yourself,
 and our hearts are restless till they find
 their rest in you:
 pour your love into our hearts and draw
 us to yourself,
 and so bring us at last to your heavenly
 city
 where we shall see you face to face;
 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 Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

PSALM Psalm 80:9-17

R *For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel.*

Restore us, O God of hosts;
 show the light of your countenance
 and we shall be saved.
 You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
 you cast out the nations and planted it.
 You prepared the ground for it;
 it took root and filled the land. **R**

The mountains were covered by its shadow
 and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea
 and its branches to the River. **R**

Why have you broken down its wall,
 so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
 and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down
 from heaven;
 behold and tend this vine;
 preserve what your right hand has planted. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the

goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:33-46

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

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

POST COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that your grace
 may always precede and follow us,
 and make us continually to be given to
 all good works;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.