



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
28 February 2016

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Service Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 469, Psalm 63, 306 (t.AMR413), 467 and 252

Setting: Oldroyd

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service - please stay on.

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00 pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Michael and All Angels Bedford, in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of the Congo, Archbishop Kahwa Henri Isingoma, and all the people there.
Church Army's Centres of Mission in Wales..

The World: The work of the Churches supported by Us in fighting human trafficking and slavery.
A good observance of Fairtrade Fortnight.
Research into rare diseases.

The Community and Parish: The work of the Charities we support as a Church.
Residents and staff at River Court and Fairhaven.
Our friends of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Tina Bennett, Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Simon Fowle, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride and Nicholas Weeks.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life 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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55.1–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this:

- ¹ Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 10.1–13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- ¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,
- ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
- ³ and all ate the same spiritual food,
- ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck
down in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as
they did.

7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat
down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.'

8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three
thousand fell in a single day.

9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by
serpents.

10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written
down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.

12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and
he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also
provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL Luke 13.1-9

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

1 There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate
had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 He asked them 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they
were worse sinners than all other Galileans?

3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you
think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?

5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

6 Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he
came looking for fruit on it and found none.

7 So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for
fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting
the soil?"

8 He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure
on it.

9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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WATCH IN THE LADY CHAPEL 24-25 March - please sign list by the Mildred Ave
door if you wish to take part.

THIS WEEK

Mon	29	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
			Lent Study Group	2.30pm
Tue	1	Mar	<i>St David's Day</i>	
			Lent Study Group	7.30pm
			River Court Service	2.30pm
Wed	2	Mar	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	3	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Fairhaven	morning
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	4	Mar	(Women's World Day of Prayer Service – see Notices	2.00pm)
Sun	6	Mar	<u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			United Evening Service at St Michael's	6.00pm

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commences on Sunday 13th March and finishes on Sunday 3rd April. A copy of the current Roll is on the notice board at the back of the Church for you to check. If anyone would like their name added to the Roll, please get a form from Fr Geoff, a Churchwarden or Henry or Sylvia Moring. If you have changed your email address or telephone number could you also inform us please.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES: We would like to collect these on Mothering Sunday (6 March) at the 9.30 Service. Please bring your box then. Thank you.

SIMNEL CAKES: Following tradition we would like to serve simnel cake on Mothering Sunday. Anyone who would like to provide one please see Sylvia Moring.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This year the service has been written by the women of Cuba, and the service will be held at The Church of Our Lady and St. Michael, Crown Rise, Garston, WD25 0NE, at 2 pm on Friday 4th March. A children's choir will be taking part and the theme of the service is 'children'.

AGAPE PASSOVER MEAL - on Monday 21st March (Monday in Holy Week), at 7.00pm, we will be sharing an agape (Christian Love-Feast) in the form of a Passover Meal. This was the meal Jesus shared with his disciples, and the early Christians shared together in Christ. A meal with meaning! Tickets £5.00 available from members of the Social Committee.

FINAL COPY DATE for March Sword is today, 28 February Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk.

MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES If you are able to help make these next Saturday, 5 March, please see Fay Storey.