



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
PASSION SUNDAY
13 March 2016**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Service Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Graham Mordue leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 499 (omit *s), Psalm 126,125, 432 and 122 (ii)

Setting: Oldroyd

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00-5.00 pm)

Evening prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Church of the Transfiguration, Kempston, in our Diocese.

The Church Army's Mission Community.

The Anglican Church in Hong Kong, Paul Kwong the Archbishop and all its people.

The World: The fight against people-trafficking in South Africa.

The people of Syria who have been forced to leave their homes.

Awareness of children with autism and their needs.

The Community and Parish: Our Mothers' Union members.

St Anthony's School Lent Retreat Day.

The work of New Hope Trust.

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, Sandra Fullerton, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Christina Simon, Mark Simon and Karen Stride.

The Departed: Jenny Houghton, Ethel Deacon.

Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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 43.16–21

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,
17 who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
18 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
20 The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,
21 the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

SECOND READING Philippians 3.4b–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 4 If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
5 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;
6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.
8 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,

- 9 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.
- 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
- 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- 12 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.
- 13 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,
- 14 I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL John 12.1-8

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

- 1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
- 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.
- 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
- 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said,
- 5 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?'
- 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)
- 7 Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.
- 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

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

VOLUNTEERS for Readings and Foot Washing in Holy Week are also required please.

THIS WEEK

Mon	14	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
			Lent Study Group	2.30pm
Tue	15	Mar	Lent Study Group	7.30pm
Wed	16	Mar	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	17	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			attended by Mothers' Union and followed by coffee for all	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	18	Mar	St Anthony's School Retreat Day	9.00am – 3.00pm
Sat	19	Mar	(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	9.00am – 9.00pm)
Sun	20	Mar	<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST with Passion Narrative according to St	
			Luke: President: Fr Geoff	9.30am
			followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			NO Messy Church	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commences today, 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.

EASTER FLOWERS: If you would like to make a donation towards the Easter flowers, please give this to Jean Alexander or Fay Storey. If you would like the name of someone to be associated with your gift, please put the name on paper and give it to them.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES: Please return these as soon as possible if you still have one. Thank you.

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 are available from members of the Social Committee.

THE FAURE REQUIEM & CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE will be sung at Holy Rood Church, Market Street, on Friday, 18 March, at 8 pm and will be followed by cheese and wine in the Parish Centre. No admission charge but donations in aid of The Peace Hospice and the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010