



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25 December 2016

A Very Happy Christmas to everyone and a warm welcome to our services today. At the 9.30 am Christmas Morning Communion, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 62 (omit*), 55, 63 (i) and 57

Setting: Christmas Carol Mass

No evening service.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Christians celebrating the birth of Jesus across the world.
All Christians who will find it hard to get to Church.
All suffering, persecuted, or refugee Christians.

The World: Peace and safety for all who celebrate Christmas.
Peace and safety for people of goodwill who are not Christians.
Peace and safety for all people everywhere.

The Community and Parish: A blessed Christmas for everyone who lives in our Parish.
Other Christian Churches and Groups which meet in our Parish,
Our visitors and returning friends, and members who are away.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Gavin Ashenden, Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Judith Degen, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Peter Hinchey, Kristine Jenkins, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

CHRISTMAS DAY

Collect

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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 52.7–10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
- 8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.
- 9 Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.
- 10 The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

SECOND READING Hebrews 1.1–4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- 1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,
- 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.
- 3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

GOSPEL John 1.1–14

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

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.
- 4 What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
- 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.
- 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
- 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.
- 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
- 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man but of God.
- 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

THIS WEEK

Mon	26	Dec	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers' Group	
Wed	28	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	29	Dec	NO Holy Communion Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm
Sat	31	Dec	(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	5.00pm – 11.00pm)
Sun	1	Jan	<u>NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST (President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation)	9.30am
			NO Evening Prayer	

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BOOKLETS: These are available at the back of church, as is a tub for donations for those who have an entry in the booklet.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the decoration of the church this Christmas by providing plants, greenery and so on. We also thank Fay for the time and thought that she gives to making our beautiful building look so special at this time.

WE WILL NOT BE HAVING THE “ANGEL TREE” THIS YEAR, but if people would like to continue the tradition of bringing presents for needy children and adults, they are very welcome. The presents will be given to families who are being supported by the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership at their party in February, so presents should be marked with who they are for, i.e. adult, child age, male/female etc., and not Christmas-specific.

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