



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

Sunday 26 February 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions

Hymns: 2, 248, 414 (ii) and 396 (t.530)

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Mark, Bedford, in our Diocese.
The Diocese of Malek (Sudan), Peter Joh Mayom its Bishop, and all its people.

Christians seeking to deepen their discipleship during Lent.

The World: People who are lonely, bereaved, or feel isolated.
Greater awareness of Fairtrade fortnight, and products available.
The work of the National Health Service.

The Community and Parish: A good keeping of Lent in our Church.
Our witness to Christ in the wider community.
Lent groups running in the Churches of Watford.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, 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, Pat Ricketts, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever.

FIRST READING Exodus 24.12–18

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹² The LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’
- ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.
- ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’
- ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.
- ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.
- ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.
- ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 1.16–21

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

- ¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.
- ¹⁷ For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

- 18 We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.
- 19 So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
- 20 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,
- 21 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

GOSPEL Matthew 17.1-9

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

- 1 Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.
- 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.
- 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.
- 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'
- 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!'
- 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.
- 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.'
- 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.
- 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

Mon	27	Feb	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	28	Feb	Finance Committee (Choir Vestry)	7.30 pm
Wed	1	Mar	<i>St David's Day</i>	
			ASH WEDNESDAY	
			Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	10.00am
			Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	8.00pm
Thur	2	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	4	Mar	Concert by Nikita Lukinov and Ivan Varchenko (see Notices)	6.30pm
Sun	5	Mar	<u>LENT 1</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation)	
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

LENT COLLECTING BOXES for mission are available at the back of church. Please take one. These will be collected on Easter Day.

LENT GROUPS: There will be two Lent Groups, one on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm at 72 Harwoods Road, and one on Monday nights at 7.30pm at 18 Lynbury Court. There is a sign-up list at the back of Church. They start on Monday 6th March.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commences on Sunday 12th March and finishes on Sunday 2nd 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 or Henry or Sylvia Moring. Please inform us if you have changed your email address or telephone number.

THERE IS A CONCERT on Saturday 4th March at **6.30 pm**. A variety of styles (baroque, classical, romantic and jazz) played by two brilliant pupils from the Purcell School – Nikita Lukinov (piano), Ivan Varchenko (saxophone) – admission £5 – Home-made refreshments will be available in the interval. Please come and support.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

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| 11 th March | Table-Top Sale in church 10.30-12 noon. To book a table (price £10) telephone 01923 251312 |
| 15 th March | Meeting of Parochial Church Council at 7.25 pm |
| 18 th March | Lent Lunch - Sale, and frugal lunch of soup, bread & cheese served by St Michael's Brownies. All proceeds to mission. |
| 19 th March | The Bishop of Hertford will be with us for the 9.30 Sung Eucharist. Please come along to hear and meet the Bishop. |