



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

LENT 3

Sunday 19 March 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist we welcome as **President and Preacher, Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Hertford**. Paul Chandler leads the intercessions

Hymns: 382, 191, 435 (i) and 96

Setting: Missa Seraphica

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

Evening Prayer at 6.00.

For your prayers this week:

The Church:

The Parish of Bourne End in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Mbale in Uganda, Patrick Gidudu its Bishop, and all its people.

All who lead Bible Study groups.

The World:

People suffering through famine in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria.

Refugees living in camps in areas of the Middle East.

Wisdom and compassion in those negotiating the UK's exit from the EU.

The Community and Parish: Bishop Michael and his ministry.

The work of the Royal School of Church Music.

The Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership.

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, John Ramsey, Pat Ricketts, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, and all who care for them.

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 Exodus 17.1–7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.
- ² The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’
- ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’
- ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’
- ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.
- ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

SECOND READING Romans 5.1–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.
¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.
¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL John 4.5–42

Mon	20	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
			Lent Group at 72 Harwoods Road	2.30pm
			Lent Group at 18 Lynbury Court	7.30pm
Tue	21	Mar	Visit of Bishop Michael	
Wed	22	Mar	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Estates Committee	2.00pm
Thur	23	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	25	Mar	(RSCM examinations)	9.00am – 3.00pm
			Mothering Sunday Workshop (in church)	2pm – 4pm
			Making posies and cards and rehearsing for a presentation tomorrow	
			Holy Baptism	5.00pm
Sun	26	Mar	<i>British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward one hour.</i>	
			<u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST: President: Fr Geoff	9.30am
			(First Sunday booklet; All Age Presentation)	
			Followed by refreshments and a Bring-&-Buy Sale.	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	1.00pm – 5.00pm
			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.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WATCH If you are able to take part for an hour or more at the Maundy Watch on 13/14th April please sign the list on the desk by the Mildred Avenue door.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commenced 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.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: 26 March. It is St Michael's custom to make simnel cakes which are served after the 9.30 Eucharist. If you are willing and able to make a simnel cake, please tell Sylvia Moring.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES: We would like to collect these on Mothering Sunday (26 March) at the 9.30 Service. Please bring your box then. Thank you.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 26 March. Hard copy to Rob White or email to robwhite.watford@goolemail.com.