



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SUNDAY after ASCENSION/EASTER 7
Sunday 28 May 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: 171 (t. 502), 168, 167 and 398

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at the Vicarage at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Churches of Manchester.
The Parish of Rushden in our Diocese.
The Anglican Centre in Rome.

The World: Victims of the Manchester bombing, their friends and relatives.
The work of the Security Services.
Community cohesion and harmony in our nation.

The Community and Parish: The success of Celebration 2017 in bringing people together.
The work of maintaining our Church building and our fellowship as Christians.
The deepening of our life of prayer.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially 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, Mark Watkin; and all who care for them.

The Departed: Dorothy Bell, John Ramsey.

Collect

O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Acts 1.6–14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ⁶ When the apostles had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’
- ⁷ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.
- ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’
- ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
- ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.
- ¹¹ They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’
- ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away.
- ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.
- ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

SECOND READING I Peter 4.12–14; 5.6–11

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- ¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

- ¹³ But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.
- ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.
- ⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.
- ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.
- ⁸ Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.
- ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.
- ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.
- ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL John 17.1-11

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

- ¹ Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,
- ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.
- ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
- ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.
- ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.
- ⁶ I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.
- ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;
- ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.
- ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.
- ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.
- ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	29	May	BANK HOLIDAY NO Toddlers' Group CELEBRATION 2017	11.00am – 4.00pm
Tue	30	May	Social Committee (Choir Vestry)	2.00pm
Wed	31	May	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee	10.30am – 12 noon
			Intercessory Prayer Group	2.30pm
Thu	1	June	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Estates Committee	2.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	3	June	(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	9.00am – 6.00pm
Sun	4	June	<u>PENTECOST</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation)	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church)	12 noon – 5.00pm
			Christians Across Watford Bandstand Service,	
			Cassiobury Park	2.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

CELEBRATION 2017: Monday 29th May, 11.00am – 4.00pm. A lovely day of Multicultural Performances, Food, Children's Activities and Sacred Space, at St Michael's, Littlebury Hall and the Multicultural Community Centre.

THY KINGDOM COME is an initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to involve people in 9 days of Prayer for God's Kingdom, between Ascension Day and Pentecost. More information at the back of Church.

THE BIG LUNCH is on Sunday 11th June at 12.00 pm.

OUTING TO WINCHESTER on the 15th July (St Swithin's Day!) If you would like to go on an outing to Winchester on that day, there is a sign-up list in Church. We will be going in cars, so please indicate whether you need or can offer a lift. Distance is approximately 70 miles.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 18th June at 3.00pm - Animal Blessing Service

Sunday 25th June - the preacher at the 9.30 will be Margaret Pritchard who is the Diocesan Childrens Work Advisor.