



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 17

8 October 2017

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches. Phil Gough leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 253, 2, 432 and 376

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00pm – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Melchbourne in our Diocese.
Bishop Alan, Bishop Richard and Bishop Michael of our Diocese.

The work of the Anglican Church in Morocco.

The World: Victims of the Las Vegas shootings.

Those who work for CRUSE.

People trying to rebuild lives and homes after hurricane damage.

The Community and Parish: The launch of the "Scroll Church" (North Watford Methodist with United Reformed Church).

The residents and staff of Home Manor.

The Watford Interfaith Association.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Bridge, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Judith Degen, Audrey Dixon, Sister Dominic, Claire Dunning, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Blossom Hutchinson, Kristine Jenkins, Lionel Jones, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Michele Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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 20.1–4, 7–9, 12–20

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 1 Then God spoke all these words:
2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
3 you shall have no other gods before me.
4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
9 Six days you shall labour and do all your work.
12 Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
13 You shall not murder.
14 You shall not commit adultery.
15 You shall not steal.
16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
17 You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.
18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.'
20 Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.'

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 Matthew 21.33–46

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

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:
33 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a
fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it
to tenants and went to another country.
34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his
produce.
35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.
36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same
way.
37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son."
38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir;
come, let us kill him and get his inheritance."
39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.
40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'
41 They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the
vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'
42 Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the
builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is
amazing in our eyes"?'
43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to
a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.
44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone
on whom it falls.'
45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he
was speaking about them.
46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him
as a prophet.

THIS WEEK

Mon	9	Oct	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Wed	11	Oct	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	2.30pm
Thur	12	Oct	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Service at St Anthony's	morning
			Funeral in Church	12 noon
Sun	15	Oct	TRINITY 18	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President: Fr George; Preacher from the Leprosy Mission)	
			Children's Church	
			Evening Prayer	6.00 pm.

NOTICES

LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC SUNG BY RON RYALL WITH A TABLE QUIZ AND BUFFET: At St Michael's on Saturday 21st October from 7.30 pm. Tickets £10 from Jamie or Holly Wareham. (Bring your own drinks.) Final date to purchase tickets is 15th October.

THIRD ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHRISTMAS DINNER at West Herts College Restaurant will be on Tuesday 5 December at 6.30pm.

This year a choice of Bucks Fizz, Mulled Wine or non alcoholic drink on arrival has been included. So the cost for this Drink, Three Course Meal followed by Tea/Coffee and Mince Pie will be £16.

No deposit BUT full payment by Friday 27 October 2017 to Martin Matthews please. Why not bring your friends?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

15 October at 9.30 the preacher will be from the Leprosy Mission..

22 October at 9.30 the president and preacher will be the Rev John Brown.

25 November – Christmas Fair 11.30am – 2.30pm.