



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
12 November 2017**

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Graham Mordue leads the intercessions. The service will include the laying of a poppy wreath.

Hymns: 537, 413, 384 and 470

Setting: Thorne

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church:

The Parish of St Saviour, St Albans.

The Diocese of Ughelli in Nigeria, Cyril Odutemu its Bishop and all its people.

Armed Forces and Cadet Forces Chaplains.

The World:

Our armed forces personnel and their families.

All who have returned from conflict with physical or mental injuries.

All work towards peace and the resolution of conflict.

The Community and Parish:

Our local ex-service organisations.

Families in Watford bereaved by war.

That our children may grow up knowing peace.

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, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Michele Rodford, Rick Sear, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

COLLECT

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the king of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Wisdom of Solomon 6.12–16

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

- ¹² Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.
¹³ She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
¹⁴ One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.
¹⁵ To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
¹⁶ because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

SECOND READING I Thessalonians 4.13–18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

- ¹³ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever.
¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.1–13

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

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples:

- 1 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
- 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;
- 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
- 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
- 6 But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."
- 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."
- 9 But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves."
- 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.
- 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us."
- 12 But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you."
- 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'



THIS WEEK

Mon	13	Nov	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	14	Nov	Christingle Planning	1.00pm
Wed	15	Nov	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (Choir Vestry)	7.25pm
Thur	16	Nov	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Followed by coffee for all in Choir Vestry	
Sun	19	Nov	<u>SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(Pres: Fr Geoff & Preacher: Martin Heath)	
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Watford Interfaith Pilgrimage (see Notices)	12.45pm
			(No Evening Prayer)	

NOTICES

HOW MUCH CAN WE RAISE on 25th at our Christmas Fair? £2,000? Who else can we invite? Who else can we bring along to have lunch? Where else can we put posters? What else can we do? Elizabeth and Gillian will be delighted to hear your ideas and suggestions!

WATFORD INTERFAITH PILGRIMAGE starts at Watford and District Synagogue at 12.45 with Kosher cakes and refreshments served by members of the Jewish youth community on Mitzvah Day. It then moves to Val Murugan Hindu Temple, on to Central Mosque, Holy Rood Catholic Church and finishing at the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara at 5.00 pm where there will be refreshments. At each place of worship there will be either a talk or someone will show pilgrims around, with a chance to ask questions.

HELP AT THE CHRISTMAS FAIR (25 November 11.30 am-2.30 pm)

There are many ways in which you can help at the Christmas Fair. Some take longer than others; some can be done at home. Here are a few suggestions - Prizes are needed for the Tombola. Please give to Valerie O'Riordan.

Cook something for the lunches (see list for suggestions).

Volunteer some time to help with a stall.

Make a cake(s); preserves are also welcome.

Look at the list at the west end to see which stalls need someone to run them.

Donate some books, bric-a-brac, anything for prizes.

Share your ideas with Elizabeth and Gillian.

J S BACH MASS IN B MINOR will be performed by Watford Philharmonic Society tonight, Sunday 12th Nov., at Watford Colosseum at 7 pm.