



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**17 March 2019**

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates. There is a speaker from the Food Bank. Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 2, 533, 482 and 385**

**Setting: Missa Seraphica**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** The Parish of Wootton in our Diocese.

The Most Revd. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The work of the Church of North India against Human Trafficking.

**The World:** The victims and bereaved families of Ethiopian Airlines flight ET302.

Investigators and authorities responsible for Air Safety.

A readiness to listen and understand other people during political upheavals.

**The Community and Parish:** Our PCC members.

Our Mothers Union Members.

Watford Interfaith Association.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Christopher Bilson, Fr John Brown, Juliette Cottam, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Martin Ranson, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Malcolm Talbot, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 15.1–12, 17–18**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- 1 The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.'
- 2 But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?'
- 3 And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.'
- 4 But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.'
- 5 He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.'
- 6 And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- 7 Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.'
- 8 But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?'
- 9 He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.'
- 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.
- 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
- 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.
- 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

- 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

## **SECOND READING Philippians 3.17 – 4.1**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.
- 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.
- 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.
- 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.
- 1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## **GOSPEL Luke 13.31–35**

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

- 31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.'
- 32 He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.
- 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem."
- 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!
- 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'"

## THIS WEEK

Mon	18	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Lent Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Tue	19	Mar	Chater Junior School visit to church	2.00pm – 3.00pm
Wed	20	Mar	Chater Infants School visit to church	9.15am – 10.15am
			Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.25pm
Thur	21	Mar	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Followed by coffee in Choir Vestry	
			Choir Practice	7.00pm
Fri	22	Mar	St Anthony's School visit	10.00am – 2.30pm
Sat	23	Mar	Bring-&-Buy Sale	11.30am
			Lent Lunch - Frugal lunch served by St Michael's Brownies	12 - 1.30pm
Sun	24	Mar	<b><u>LENT 3</u></b>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and Preacher: Fr Geoff)</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			(Children's Church in Littlebury Hall)	
			(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## NOTICES

LENT GROUPS will take place on Mondays 11th, 18th, 25th March, 1st and 8th April, at 2.30 pm in the Choir Vestry. The subject is Prayer, the Bible and Daily Life. Please sign up on the list at the back of Church. If you would like there to be an evening group, please let Fr Geoff know.

LENT COLLECTING BOXES FOR CHURCH ARMY: Collecting boxes for Church members to use during Lent are at the back of the church. The boxes will be collected on Easter Day (21st April).

LENT LUNCH: 23 March served by St Michael's Brownies: Sale at 11.30 am; Lunch of homemade soup and bread and cheese from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. Proceeds to mission. All welcome.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL SWORD is MIDDAY Sunday, 24 March. Hard copy to Rob White or email to [swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com](mailto:swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com). There are still a few copies of the March Sword remaining for collection.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mothing Sunday 31 March: Service at 9.30 am.

Sunday, 31 March at 7.30 pm: Concert by Watford Youth Sinfonia in Church

Sunday, 21 April: Easter Day

Annual Meetings: Wednesday 24 April, 7 pm