



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
24 March 2019

A warm welcome to our services today.

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

Hymns: 586 (omit *), 379, 384 and 252.

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00 pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Holy Trinity Potten End in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of Hong Kong, Paul Kwong its Bishop and all its People.

The Church of South India giving skills training to women and girls.

The World: The people of Christchurch, New Zealand.
Muslim people and other people of faith who feel vulnerable.
All those affected by cyclone Idai in Mozambique.

The Community and Parish: Ayodeji and Annah, being married this week at St Michael's.

Ascot Road Community Free School.

The young people of Watford Youth Sinfonia.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, 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:

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 Isaiah 55.1–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this:

- ¹ Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 10.1–13

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

- ¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,
- ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
- ³ and all ate the same spiritual food,
- ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck
down in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as
they did.

7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat
down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.'

8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three
thousand fell in a single day.

9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by
serpents.

10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written
down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.

12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and
he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also
provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL Luke 13.1-9

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

1 There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate
had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 He asked them 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they
were worse sinners than all other Galileans?

3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you
think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?

5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

6 Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he
came looking for fruit on it and found none.

7 So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for
fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting
the soil?"

8 He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure
on it.

9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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[WATCH IN THE LADY CHAPEL](#) 18 – 19 April - please sign list by the Mildred Ave
door if you wish to take part.

THIS WEEK

Mon	25	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Lent Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm
Tue	26	Mar	Chater Junior School visit to church	10.00am -11.00am
			Wedding in church of Annah Otieno (Fr George's daughter)	2.30pm
Wed	27	Mar	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thur	28	Mar	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Ascot Road Community Free School visit to church	11.00am – 2.00pm
Fri	29	Mar	(Watford Youth Sinfonia rehearsal	3.00pm – 9.00pm)
Sat	30	Mar	Making posies	10.00am
			(Watford Youth Sinfonia rehearsal	1.00pm – 8.00pm)
			<i>Clocks go forward one hour during tonight for British Summer Time</i>	
Sun	31	Mar	<u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			(Watford Youth Sinfonia rehearsal	1.00pm – 7.00pm)
			Watford Youth Sinfonia Concert	7.30pm
			Evening Prayer (Littlebury Hall)	6.00pm

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL: A **NEW** roll is required this year. The last date for receipt of forms for inclusion before the AGM is **Wednesday 27 March**.

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).

FR JOHN BROWN wishes to thank everyone at St Michael's for their prayers and support during his very serious illness. He is now feeling his normal self again.

WATFORD YOUTH SINFONIA is giving a concert at St Michael's on Sunday 31 March at 7.30pm. Tickets: £6 students; £8 concessions: £12 adults. Programme:
Roussel: Le marchand de sable qui passe
Strauss: Oboe Concerto (Henrietta Cooke, soloist)
Mozart: Symphony no.41 'Jupiter'

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL SWORD is MIDDAY today, 24 March. Hard copy to Rob White or email to swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com.

LENT GROUPS are taking 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 21 April: Easter Day

Annual Meetings: Wednesday 24 April, 7 pm