



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT SUNDAY
1 December 2019

A warm welcome to our services today.

There is our monthly “First Sunday of the Month Service” at 9.30 am. Fr Geoff celebrates and there will be an All-age Presentation.

Hymns: 32, 34, 58 and 31

Setting: Thorne

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

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Watford (St Mary) in our Diocese.
Mission Agencies and their work throughout the Anglican
Communion.

The Churches in Scotland.

The World: Victims of modern slavery.
People with disabilities.
People suffering from HIV/AIDS.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff at River Court.
Churches Together in Central, South and West Watford.
Watford Interfaith Association.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Keith Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Michelle Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 2.1–5 (Good News Version)

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Here is the message which God gave to Isaiah son of Amoz about Judah and Jerusalem: In days to come the mountain where the Temple stands will be the highest one of all, towering above all the hills. Many nations will come streaming to it, and their people will say, "Let us go up the hill of the Lord, to the Temple of Israel's God. He will teach us what he wants us to do; we will walk in the paths he has chosen. For the Lord's teaching comes from Jerusalem; from Zion he speaks to his people." He will settle disputes among great nations. They will hammer their swords into ploughs and their spears into pruning knives. Nations will never again go to war, never prepare for battle again. Now, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light which the Lord gives us!

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 24.36–44

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples:

36 'About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,

39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

42 Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	2	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10 – 11.30am
Tue	3	Dec	Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	4	Dec	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Thu	5	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sun	8	Dec	<u>ADVENT 2</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00pm – 5.00pm
			Service for the Compassionate Friends	6.00pm

NOTICES

ST MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGES BOOKLET 2019. Please submit your entries **by 6th December** for this year's booklet. Forms plus an envelope for them, Christian Aid envelopes for donations and another envelope to put them in are all on the table at the back of church - where magazines and sign-up forms are displayed. Donations for entries will as usual be sent to Christian Aid.

This is the tenth year that we have produced this booklet. Many thanks to Vicki.

WATFORD YOUTH SINFONIA will be giving their Winter concert at St Michael's on Monday 30th December at 7.30pm. Ticket prices are:

Adults £15; Concessions £10; Students £6.

Programme: Dvorak: The Noon Witch
 Nielson: Flute Concerto
 Rimsky Korsakov: Scheherazade

ADVANCE DATES FOR DECEMBER:

Tuesday 10th: St Michael's Christmas Dinner 6.30pm
 Wednesday 11th: Christmas Coffee Morning with Bring-&-Buy Sale.
 All proceeds to Christingle. 10.00am – 12 noon
 Sunday 22nd: Carol Service 6.00pm
 Tuesday 24th: Crib Service 4.00pm
 Midnight Mass 11.30pm
 Wednesday 25th: Christmas Morning Communion 9.30am
 Monday 30th: Watford Youth Sinfonia Concert 7.30pm