



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CANDLEMAS

2 February 2020

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: 94, 360, 80 and 513

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 Archdeacons of St Albans (designate), Hertford and Bedford. The Anglican Church of Burundi, Martin Blaise Nyaboho its Archbishop and all its people.

Bollobhpur and Rajshani Mission Hospitals in Bangladesh.

The World: All those affected by the Coronavirus outbreak.

The future relationship of the UK and EU.

Peace in the Middle East.

The Community and Parish: Celebration 2020 and all those involved in planning it.

Residents and staff at River Court.

Our confirmation candidates.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Chandler, 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, Brian Rees, Michelle Rodford, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Romans 12: 1-5 (Good News Version)

So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.

Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God - what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

And because of God's gracious gift to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you.

We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body.

This is the Word of the Lord

GOSPEL Luke 2.22–40

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

- 22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses,
Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.
23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be
designated as holy to the Lord'),
24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the
Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'
25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was
righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the
Holy Spirit rested on him.
26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death
before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents
brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,
28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
29 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your
word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'
33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said
about him.
34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is
destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that
will be opposed
35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will
pierce your own soul too.'
36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of
Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years
after her marriage,
37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but
worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.
38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the
child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.
39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they
returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of
God was upon him.

THIS WEEK

Mon	3	Feb	Toddlers' Church	10 – 11.30am
Tue	4	Feb	Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	5	Feb	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Thu	6	Feb	Holy Communion	10.00am
Sun	9	Feb	<i>THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</i>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00-5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

SWORD. Please note that subscriptions for 2020 are now due. These should be paid to Valerie Alvarez. The cost is £7.50 for the year, ie 12 copies for the price of 10.

Copies of the February Sword are available to pick up at the back of church.

LAST SUNDAY'S BRING-&-BUY SALE raised £39 for Church funds. Many thanks.