



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9 February 2020

A warm welcome to our services.

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

Hymns: 267, 492, 393 and 429

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Woburn in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of Canada, Linda Nicholls its Primate and all its people.
Staff and patients of the Khristiya Seva Niketan hospital in West Bengal.

The World: Everyone affected by the Coronavirus outbreak.
Those who work to protect us against terrorism.
Victims of avalanches in Turkey.

The Community and Parish: Residents and staff at The Chase and St Anthony's Care Homes.
The people who look after our finances.
Watford Interfaith Association.

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 God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:

give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found;

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 58.1–9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

¹ Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God.

³ ‘Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’ Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers.

⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 2.1–12

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

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom.

2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
3 And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.
4 My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but
5 with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
6 so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.
7 Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age
8 or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish.
9 But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the
10 ages for our glory.
11 None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have
12 crucified the Lord of glory.
13 But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart
14 conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him' –
15 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches
16 everything, even the depths of God.
17 For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is
18 within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.
19 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God,
20 so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

GOSPEL Matthew 5.13–20

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

Jesus went up the mountain and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to teach
them:
13 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be
restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under
foot.
14 You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.
15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand,
and it gives light to all in the house.
16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your
good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not
to abolish but to fulfil.
18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one
stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.
19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches
others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever
does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	10	Feb	Toddlers' Church	10 – 11.30am
Tue	11	Feb	Meeting of Watford Interfaith Association Executive Committee in the Choir Vestry	7.30pm – 9.00pm
Wed	12	Feb	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
			Finance Committee (Choir Vestry)	7.30pm
Thu	13	Feb	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Communion at St Anthony's	11.00am
Sun	16	Feb	<u>SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr George)	9.30am

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.

WATFORD INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 18th February at the Peace Hospice. 7.15 for 7.30 pm.

The annual Harold Meyer Memorial lecture is on Saturday 22nd February at the STEM Centre, Watford Grammar School for Boys. 6.15 for 6.30 pm. The guest speaker is Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesei MP. "Integration and Community Cohesion". All welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wednesday, 26 February. Ash Wednesday – Eucharist at 8.00pm

Saturday, 14 March 11.30am to 1.30pm – Lent Lunch

Wednesday, 18 March, 7.25pm. PCC.

Sunday 22 March. Mothering Sunday.

Saturday, 28 March, 7.30pm. Concert by Audentior Symphony Orchestra.

Tuesday, 31 March, 7.30pm. Agape meal.

Wednesday, 8 April, 7.30pm. Concert by Watford Youth Sinfonia.

Sunday, 12 April. Easter Day.

Wednesday 29 April. Annual Meetings.