



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

16 February 2020

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

**Hymns: 253, 594, 427 and 376**

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

NO Evening Prayer tonight.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of New Barnet in our Diocese.

The Church of the Province of Central Africa – Albert Chama its Archbishop and all its people.

The work of Anglican Nuns in the Church of Ceylon, Sri Lanka.

**The World:** All those affected by the Coronavirus COVID-19.

People whose homes are affected by the HS2 project.

People who have been affected by storms and flooding.

**The Community and Parish:** Racial, cultural and religious harmony in our area.

Working our area to combat drug use by young people/

School staff, pupils and parents over half-term.

**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:**

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**Collect**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 1.1 – 2.3**

The story of the Creation.

**SECOND READING Romans 8.18–25**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.
- <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;
- <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it,
- <sup>21</sup> in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
- <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;
- <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
- <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
- <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 6.25–34**

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

Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

25 ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,

29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?”

32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

## **THIS WEEK**

Mon	17	Feb	Toddlers' Church	10 – 11.30am
Wed	19	Feb	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Thu	20	Feb	Holy Communion	10.00am
			U3A meeting in Choir Vestry	10.30am – 12 noon
Sun	23	Feb	<b><u>SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT</u></b>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST (Pres and preacher: Fr Geoff)</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
			Followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00pm – 5.00pm
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## **NOTICES**

**ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION:** This year's revision commences on Sunday 1st March and finishes on 1st April. A copy of the current Roll is on the notice board at the back of the Church for you to check. If anyone would like their name added to the Roll, please get a form from Fr Geoff or Simon Fowle. If you have changed your email address or telephone number could you also inform us by email at [simon.fowle@ntlworld.com](mailto:simon.fowle@ntlworld.com) or phone on 01923 229624 please.

**FINAL COPY DATE** for March Sword is next Sunday, 23 February. Hard copy to Rob White or email to [swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com](mailto:swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com)

### **WATFORD INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION**

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at the Peace Hospice. 7.15 for 7.30. The annual Harold Meyer Memorial lecture is on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at the STEM Centre, Watford Grammar School for Boys. 6.15 for 6.30 pm. The guest speaker is Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP. "Integration and Community Cohesion". All welcome.

**DEMENTIA FRIENDS** – we have two introductory sessions arranged, one on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm – 3.30pm, and one on 1st April 7.30pm – 8.30pm. There will be a sign-up list at the back of Church.

**LENT GROUPS** – there will be a sign-up list for Lent Groups at the back of Church. These will be on Monday afternoons at 3.00pm – 4.30pm, and Monday evenings at 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Each of these will only be happening if there is enough take-up. The book for study is "The Wind, the Fountain and the Fire" by Mark Barrett, and sample copies are available at the back of Church.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Wednesday, 26 February. Ash Wednesday –

Eucharists with Imposition of Ashes at 10.00am and 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.