



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

23 February 2020

A warm welcome to our services.

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

Hymns: 2, 391, 175 and 396 (t. 530)

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Christ Church, Bedford.
The Anglican Church of Central America, Julio Murray
Thompson its Primate and all its people.
St John the Evangelist Church in Casablanca.

The World: All those affected by flooding and other severe weather effects.
All those affected by the COVID-19 Coronavirus.
Our Social Care system.

The Community and Parish: Our Lenten resolutions.
Preparations for Celebration 2020.
New Hope and its work with homeless people.

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 Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Exodus 24.12–18

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹² The LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’
- ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.
- ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’
- ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.
- ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.
- ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.
- ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 1.16–21

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

- ¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.
- ¹⁷ For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

- 18 We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.
- 19 So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
- 20 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,
- 21 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

GOSPEL Matthew 17.1-9

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

- 1 Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.
- 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.
- 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.
- 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'
- 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!'
- 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.
- 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.'
- 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.
- 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	24	Feb	Toddlers' Church	10 – 11.30am
Wed	26	Feb	<i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	
			Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	10.00am
			Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
			Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	8.00pm
Thu	27	Feb	Holy Communion	10.00am
Sun	1	Mar	<i>St David's Day</i>	
			<u>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			FIRST SUNDAY of MONTH SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			(President: Fr Geoff; All-Age Presentation)	
			Followed by refreshments	
			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 or phone on 01923 229624 please.

FINAL COPY DATE for March Sword is today, Sunday, 23 February. Hard copy to Rob White or email to swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com

LENT COLLECTING BOXES for mission are available at the back of church. Please take one. These will be collected on Easter Day.

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

LENT GROUPS – there is 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.

SPRING-CLEANING of the church is set for 18th April and for Littlebury Hall on 25th April. Please sign the lists at the back of church if you can help.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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.