



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

LENT 3

15 March 2020

A warm welcome to our services.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist Fr George celebrates and preaches. Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 424, 492, 175 and 368.

Children's Church in Littlebury Hall.

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

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Christians across the world worshipping at home.
Wise decisions to be made about continuing Church worship safely.

The Church's ministry to people who are sick and self-isolating.

The World: Our economy and business community during the outbreak.
People in quarantined and locked-down areas across the world.
Syrian refugees in Turkey and Greece.

The Community and Parish: People in our area vulnerable to coronavirus.
Our support for anxious and vulnerable members of the congregation.
The NHS and its staff in our area.

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, Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 Exodus 17.1–7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.
- ² The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’
- ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’
- ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’
- ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.
- ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

SECOND READING Romans 5.1–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.
¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.
¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL John 4.5–28

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A Prayer from the Diocese

Dear God our Shield and our Defender, guide and protect my neighbour in this time of health emergency; deliver them from all harm and may your love and care ever grow in this place. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

THIS WEEK

Mon	16	Mar	Toddlers' Church	10 – 11.30am
			NO Lent Group	3.00 – 4.30pm
			NO Lent Group	7.30 – 9.00pm
Tue	17	Mar	Chater Juniors	9.30 – 11.00am
			WIFA meeting in Choir Vestry	7.30 – 9.00pm
Wed	18	Mar	Food Bank and Coffee in Church	10.00am – 12 noon
			Dementia Friends	2.30 – 3.30pm
			PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	7.25pm
Thu	19	Mar	Holy Communion	10.00am
			(U3A (Choir Vestry))	10.30am – 12 noon)
Fri	20	Mar	St Anthony's School in church	10.00am – 3.00pm
Sun	22	Mar	<u>Mothers' Sunday</u>	
			Holy Communion	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST	9.30am
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

“We are following National Church and Diocesan guidelines in relation to the coronavirus outbreak as follows: The Common Cup is suspended – the congregation will receive the consecrated bread only. There will be no handshaking at the peace. Those who administer communion will use alcohol gel immediately before handling the host. Blessings will be administered without physical contact”.
In addition, I would like to ask everyone to wash their hands before the service starts, and before leaving.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision commenced 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.

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

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW HOPE: The special service at St Mary's Church to celebrate this on Monday 23rd March has unfortunately been postponed.

FINAL COPY DATE for April Sword is next Sunday, 22 March. Hard copy to Rob White or email to swordparishmagazine@googlemail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

Tuesday, 31 March, 7.30pm. Agape meal.

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010