



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EASTER DAY**  
**Sunday 12 April 2020**

**A very happy Easter to you all.**

**“The Church building is closed, but the Church family continues”**

As you are now all aware, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have announced the suspension of public worship in all Churches. The Government has also announced that all Places of Worship must close.

This means that there will be no more public worship at St Michael's until further notice.

There is a message from Fr Geoff on the back page.

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

NHS staff and patients  
Care Home staff and residents  
People being treated for COVID-19  
Anxious families of those suffering  
Everyone trying to cope with the lockdown  
Police and other emergency services  
People with mental health issues coping with lockdown  
People with learning difficulties coping with lockdown  
People who have been bereaved

**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, Boris Johnson, Mary Kearns, Keith Levinson, 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:** Alex Adjekum, William Curness, and Loretta Lynch.

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**Collect**

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

**FIRST READING Acts 10.34–43**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 34 Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality,  
35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.  
36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all.  
37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:  
38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.  
39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;  
40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,  
41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.  
42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.  
43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

## **SECOND READING Colossians 3.1–4**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

- 1 If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth,
- 3 for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- 4 When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 28.1–10**

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

- 1 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.
- 2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.
- 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.
- 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.
- 5 But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.
- 6 He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.
- 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.'
- 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.
- 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.
- 10 Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Dear Friends,

There was some discussion earlier about whether Easter Eggs were essential items. I don't know if Easter Eggs are essential, but Easter certainly is! Whatever we may be enduring, the Empty Tomb shows us that Jesus, our Lord, Saviour and friend, is risen and is with us. Wherever and whoever we are, Jesus is alongside us. The events of Holy Week remind us that Jesus himself knew suffering, but all the way through his ministry even when he was suffering, he showed the way to new light, new life. "Where would we go, Lord? You have words of eternal life."

Alleluia Christ is risen

**He is risen indeed, alleluia**

Stay safe

Love and prayers  
Fr Geoff

### **NOTICES**

**FROM MARTIN AND GILLIAN HEATH** – "we celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 11th April! We are inviting our neighbours in our part of Harwoods Road to stand at their doorways and raise a glass at 6.30pm -maybe our St Michael's friends can do the same?"

**WE ARE ASKED** to put a lighted candle in our window at 7.00pm on Sundays as part of the National Call to Prayer