



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

TRINITY 1

Sunday 14 June 2020

## **“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:**

Our schools, their staff, young people and parents  
Teachers and young people engaged in home learning  
Racial justice and peace in the US, UK, and across the world  
People in poor countries dealing with coronavirus  
People in countries suffering from warfare, civil unrest, and terrorism  
People whose mental health has been affected by lockdown  
Our national and local government leaders  
People bereaved at this time  
All health and care workers

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Chandler, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Mary Kearns, Keith Levinson, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Brian Rees, Christina Simon, Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them

### **The Departed:**

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**Collect**

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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 Genesis 18.1–15**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.
- <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.
- <sup>3</sup> He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant.
- <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.
- <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on – since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.'
- <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.'
- <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.
- <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.
- <sup>9</sup> They said to Abraham, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.'
- <sup>10</sup> Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.
- <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.
- <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?'
- <sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?"
- <sup>14</sup> Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.'
- <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

## **SECOND READING Romans 5.1–8**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
<sup>2</sup> 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.  
<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,  
<sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,  
<sup>5</sup> 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.  
<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.  
<sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.  
<sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 9.35 – 10.8**

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

- <sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.  
<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.  
<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'  
<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.  
<sup>1</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;  
<sup>2</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;  
<sup>3</sup> Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.  
<sup>4</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans,  
<sup>5</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.  
<sup>6</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."  
<sup>7</sup> Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.  
<sup>8</sup>

## Homily

One of the lessons we are learning at the moment is the importance of human contact for raising people's spirits. It's one of those things we don't always value until it's not there. This is one of the reasons why the Church values being together in whatever way we can. In today's Gospel, Jesus has compassion for the people whom he sees as "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd". Jesus' reaction is to send his disciples out to take his message far and wide. The root of Jesus' message is "God cares". God has people who can go out and lift people's spirits by assuring them that God cares for each and every individual. Those people are his Church.

Love and prayers

Fr Geoff