



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 9

Sunday 9 August 2020

Welcome back to St Michael's. At 9.30am there is a eucharist with congregation in Church, music but no singing. There will be a limit of 40 people, and hygiene, social distancing, and track and trace will be in place, but most importantly, we are here!

The service will also be live-streamed on the new YouTube channel "St Michaels Church Watford" for those who are unable to attend physically.

Following the service, St Michael's will remain open for private prayer until 12.00 noon.

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

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Holwell (Hitchin) in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church in Rwanda, Laurent Mbanda its Archbishop and all its people.
Christian Aid's work in Myanmar.

The World: The people of Beirut and the Lebanon.
The work of Relate.
People experiencing local lockdowns.

The Community and Parish: Church members on holiday.
Church members self-isolating and shielding.
Preparation for Celebration 2020.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Lorna Barson, 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, Catherine Stone, Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in
love and joy 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 Genesis 37.1–4, 12–28

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹ Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan.
² This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding
the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's
wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.
³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his
old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.
⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated
him, and could not speak peaceably to him.
¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.
¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I
will send you to them.' He answered, 'Here I am.'
¹⁴ So he said to him, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring
word back to me.' So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem,
¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, 'What are you seeking?'
¹⁶ 'I am seeking my brothers,' he said; 'tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.'
¹⁷ The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' So
Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan.
¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.
¹⁹ They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer.
²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild
animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.'
²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his
life.'
²² Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay
no hand on him' – that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.
²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with
sleeves that he wore;
²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.
²⁵ Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from
Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to
Egypt.
²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his
blood?
²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother,
our own flesh.' And his brothers agreed.
²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and
sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

SECOND READING Romans 10.5–15

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 5 Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that ‘the person who does these things will live by them.’
- 6 But the righteousness that comes from faith says, ‘Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into heaven?”’ (that is, to bring Christ down)
- 7 ‘or “Who will descend into the abyss?”’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).
- 8 But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);
- 9 because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- 10 For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.
- 11 The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’
- 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.
- 13 For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’
- 14 But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?
- 15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’

GOSPEL Matthew 14.22–33

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

- Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish,
- 22 Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.
- 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,
- 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.
- 25 And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake.
- 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear.
- 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’
- 28 Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’
- 29 He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus.
- 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’
- 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’
- 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.
- 33 And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’

Homily

Today's Gospel is surprising in many ways. Although Jesus walked on the water to cross the lake, he still had to walk, moving a physical body across distance, as he always had to do. Not until after the Resurrection did he suddenly appear and disappear. Secondly, this walking on the water was something he could invite Peter to join in, although Peter's faith in the end failed him. Jesus then held out his hand to him. We too have to work with Jesus for our miracles, going beyond what we think are our limits. When our faith is not strong enough, there is always a hand held out to us.

Love and prayers
Fr Geoff

St Michael's Church is now open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, and Sundays 10.45am – 12.15pm. Hygiene and social distancing procedures are in operation for your protection. All very welcome.

There will NOT be a Eucharist on Thursday 13 August.

If you would like to donate to St Michael's during the pandemic, there is a JustGiving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmichaelandallangels>

CELEBRATION 2020, our Multicultural Festival, will be taking place on-line, with contributions from Watford's Faiths and Cultures. It will be on the Bank Holiday weekend, 29th – 31st August, more details to follow.