



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 18

Sunday 11 October 2020

Welcome back to St Michael's. At 9.30am there is a Parish Eucharist with congregation in Church; music but no congregational 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 our YouTube channel "St Michaels Church Watford" for those who are unable to attend physically.

After 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 Odell in our Diocese.

The Church of the Province of Uganda, Stephen Samuel Kazimba its Archbishop and all its people.

The work of the Church in Peace-making.

The World: Today begins the Week of Prayer for World Peace.

People in our country facing redundancy and unemployment.

Food producers across the World on World Food Day (16th).

The Community and Parish: Watford Interfaith Association.

Watford Peace Garden and those who maintain and use it.

Ex-service associations in our area.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Chandler,

Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert

Featherstone, Jemima Hill,, Blossom Hutchinson, 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**Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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 32.1–14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹ When the people of Israel saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'
- ² Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.'
- ³ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron.
- ⁴ He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'
- ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.'
- ⁶ They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.
- ⁷ The LORD said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely;
- ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"'
- ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.
- ¹⁰ Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'
- ¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, 'O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?
- ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.
- ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever."
- ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

SECOND READING Philippians 4.1–9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 1 My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
- 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
- 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
- 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
- 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- 8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL Matthew 22.1–14

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

- 1 Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying:
- 2 ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.
- 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.
- 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.”
- 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.
- 6 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
- 7 Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.
- 8 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.”
- 9 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
- 10 But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,
- 11 and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless.
- 12 Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- 13 For many are called, but few are chosen.

HOMILY

“Blessed are the peacemakers”. It is intrinsic to Christian faith to be peacemakers. It means seeing other people, whether near or far, as brothers and sisters, people who have just as much right to enjoy the good things of life as we do. God calls us to raise other people up, to see their good as our good, and not to seek dominance or superiority.

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.

BIKE & HIKE 2020: Thanks to your sponsorship, the amount committed so far stands at £210. May I thank you for supporting the B & H Historic Churches cause, as you have done over the years, despite the Covid difficulties this year.

I should be grateful for payment within the next week, please, and thanks to those who have already paid. The list is still open for additional sponsorship in that time should anybody wish to take advantage. As to means of payment, you can pay by cash or cheque in my name, or by bank transfer (in that case please phone me for details). Monies given me so far are being held in a current account temporarily.

Thanks also to those who qualify for willingly Gift Aiding their contributions. Whatever the final amount I send to the Trust Treasurer, half will be awarded to St Michael’s by way of grant as is the usual practice.

Best wishes

Robert Bilson

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>

Website: <http://www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk>
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