



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ALL SAINTS' DAY
1 November 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 Church as the Communion of Saints.

The Parish of Radlett in our Diocese.

The Church of the Province of West Africa, its Primate and people.

The World: All research efforts into Coronavirus prevention and treatment.

A just solution for those making dangerous journeys across the Channel.

All those living under high levels of COVID restriction.

The Community and Parish: All those who were elected on Wednesday to serve our Church.

Thanksgiving for the support and commitment of our Church family.

The people of Watford as the number of COVID cases rises.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Janet Chandler, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Jamie Hooper, 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

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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 Revelation 7.9–17

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- ⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.
- ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'
- ¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,
- ¹² singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'
- ¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?'
- ¹⁴ I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
- ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
- ¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
- ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

SECOND READING I John 3.1–3

A reading from the first letter of John.

- 1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
- 2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.
- 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

GOSPEL Matthew 5.1–12

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

- 1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
- 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
- 3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
- 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

HOMILY

We are all Saints! Saints are not people of perfect holiness, because only God is perfect holiness. Saints are the people whom Jesus has chosen to be his followers and spread his message. Sainthood is conferred by the grace of God, and cannot be created by human effort. In the Festival of All Saints, we don't just recognise those people who have "Saint" in front of their name, although we do give thanks for their witness and prayers, but we recognise all that great "Cloud of Witnesses", most of whom are known only to God.

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.

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>

TOMORROW, MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER at 7.30pm, the Bishop of Hertford will be coming to St Michael's to license The Rev'd Stephen Mepham as Associate Priest for St Michael and All Angels.

It would be lovely to see you there to support Fr Stephen on this special occasion. Please let Fr Geoff know if you intend to come.

AT OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY, Gillian Heath and Elizabeth Watkin were elected as Churchwardens, Marcella Browne, Sylvia Moring and Jane Talbot were elected onto the PCC, and Martin and Vicki Matthews were elected as Deanery Synod Representatives.
Many thanks for your commitment to our Church.

FOODBANK: There is an urgent need for donations of toiletries, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet rolls and tissues for our Foodbank clients. If you could help this would be much appreciated.