



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
Remembrance Sunday
8 November 2020

During lockdown, our Services at 9.30am on Sundays, and 10.00am on Thursdays, will still take place, livestreamed on our YouTube channel "St Michaels Church Watford", but the Church will not be open for a congregation to attend in person.

The Church will be open for private prayer on Sundays from 10.45am – 12.00noon and on Wednesdays from 10.00am – 12.00noon. Food Bank will still be operating on Wednesday mornings. We meet for a Zoom Coffee Morning on Saturdays at 11.00am (contact us for the link), and other Zoom meetings will take place and will be advertised, including weekly Morning Prayer and an Advent Course.

We may be locked down, but we are still a Church family, called together in prayer, worship and loving fellowship

This Sunday, 8th November is Remembrance Sunday, and in addition to our 9.30am service, there will be an Act of Remembrance, with silence, at 11.00am.

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

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Armed Forces and Ex-service Association Chaplains.
The Parish of St Mary Marshalswick, and the appointment of a new vicar.
The Church in the Province of the West Indies, Howard Gregory its Primate and all its people.

The World: The people of the United States.
All those whose livelihoods, businesses and mental health are threatened by lockdown.
All those especially vulnerable to COVID-19.
The National Health Service.

The Community and Parish: Local ex-service associations.

All who are homeless or struggling to cope financially in our area.
Our Church life during lockdown.

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: Jamie Macfarlane and Robert Harry Peters

COLLECT

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the king of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Wisdom of Solomon 6.12–16

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

- ¹² Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.
¹³ She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
¹⁴ One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.
¹⁵ To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
¹⁶ because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

SECOND READING I Thessalonians 4.13–18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

- ¹³ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever.
¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.1–13

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

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples:

- 1 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
- 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;
- 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
- 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
- 6 But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."
- 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."
- 9 But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves."
- 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.
- 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us."
- 12 But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you."
- 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'



HOMILY

These are strange days, as we observe Remembrance Sunday in the context of a lockdown. Human beings can do many things, and each year it seems we discover more new ways to make people's lives better. There is always much that is beyond our control, as we have painfully learnt during the pandemic. It seems that war, also, is something that cannot be easily eradicated, much as we would like to be able to accomplish the feat. What we can do is make our best effort to treat all our fellow human beings with respect, thanksgiving and love, those old servicepeople who get fewer and fewer every year, those who flee from war-torn countries, those who are isolated, those suffering mental health issues, those who are in hospital and those who are caring for them.

Love and prayers
Fr Geoff

St Michael's Church is now open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, and Sundays 10.30am – 12 noon. 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>

AT OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS, 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.