



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

ADVENT 2  
6 December 2020

## CHURCH REOPENING FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

Welcome back to St Michael's. At 9.30am there is a eucharist with congregation in Church, music but no singing. Tier 2 restriction indicate no interacting with anyone outside your household whilst in the Church.

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

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

---

## For your prayers this week:

**The Church:** Our parish (we are being prayed for today in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer).

The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain, Carlo Lopez-Lozano its Bishop and all its people.

The Anglican Church in Tanzania.

**The World:** Thanksgiving and prayer for the roll-out of vaccination.

The prevention of Mother-to-child AIDS transmission in Tanzania.

The protection of Human Rights (Thursday is Human Rights Day).

**The Community and Parish:** Our Parish Gift Day.

Vulnerable members of our Church family.

All people involved in administering vaccines 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**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Isaiah 40.1-11**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
- <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'
- <sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
- <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.
- <sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'
- <sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
- <sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

## SECOND READING 2 Peter 3.8–15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

- <sup>8</sup> Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.
- <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.
- <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.
- <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,
- <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?
- <sup>13</sup> But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.
- <sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;
- <sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

## GOSPEL Mark 1.1–8

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

- <sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
- <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,”’
- <sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
- <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

## **HOMILY**

During Advent we remember those who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. Today we remember the prophets, who called to people to turn their lives back towards God. The essential preparation for the coming of Jesus was for people to actually want to be righteous and godly in their lives.

No amount of Jesus teaching would sink into people if they had no wish to live good lives. Still today, we need to want to live good lives, and when we do, we can turn to Jesus to show us how to do it.

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 noon. Hygiene and social distancing procedures are in operation for your protection. All very welcome.

**OUR GIFT DAY** will now be on Saturday the 12th December. Please consider giving what you might have spent at the Christmas Fair.

The Church will be open from 12.00noon – 2.00pm, and there will be a Thanksgiving Eucharist at 2.00pm, open for attendance in person or via livestream. We now have a contactless card reader as an additional way of making donations.

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

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