



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**EPIPHANY 2**  
**17 January 2021**

## **WORSHIPPING DURING LOCKDOWN**

Our 9.30am service today is accessible on our YouTube channel “St Michaels Church Watford” but the Church building is not open for public worship until further notice.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Vicar if you need any kind of help or reassurance, or just want to talk to another human being.

Our Thursday morning 10.00am Eucharist is also available as a livestream or recording on the channel as above.

Please remember that we meet every Saturday morning for online conversation on Zoom (link available on request).

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

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** The Parish of Haynes in our Diocese.  
The Anglican Church of Australia.  
Churches taking decisions about communal worship.

**The World:** Homeless people.  
All those working in the vaccination programme/  
All those experiencing stress and anxiety under lockdown.

**The Community and Parish:** All our Church Family who are unable to meet family and friends.  
NHS staff in our town.  
Our PCC members.

**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:**

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**Collect**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal  
of our lives make known your heavenly glory;  
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 I Samuel 3.1–10**

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

- <sup>1</sup> The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.
- <sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room;
- <sup>3</sup> the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.
- <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ and he said, ‘Here I am!’
- <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ So he went and lay down.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD called again, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’
- <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.
- <sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
- <sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’

**SECOND READING Revelation 5.1–10**

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- <sup>1</sup> I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals;
- <sup>2</sup> and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’
- <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it.

4 And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll  
or to look into it.

5 Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of  
Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its  
seven seals.'

6 Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders  
a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes,  
which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the  
throne.

8 When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders  
fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are  
the prayers of the saints.

9 They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for  
you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every  
tribe and language and people and nation;

10 you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will  
reign on earth.'

## **GOSPEL John 1.43–51**

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

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him,  
'Follow me.'

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in  
the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.'

46 Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to  
him, 'Come and see.'

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an  
Israelite in whom there is no deceit!'

48 Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw  
you under the fig tree before Philip called you.'

49 Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'

50 Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig  
tree? You will see greater things than these.'

51 And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the  
angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

## HOMILY

Our Gospel Reading today is about Nathanael. It speaks to us about how people come to Jesus. Some people feel called directly, as though Jesus were physically in front of them, or they were hearing his voice. For most of us I suspect, however, that we are called to Jesus through other people, whether it be our parents when we are children, or friends or family as adults. Sometimes we need to be called many times, as children and adults, as we go away and come back. Sometimes we are initially suspicious or reluctant, as Nathanael was. Jesus, though, is infinitely patient, and waits for our response.

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.

**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>

There is a PCC meeting next Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January, at 7.30pm on Zoom.