



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of
St Michael and All Angels
Watford

ADVENT SUNDAY
2 December 2018

Welcome to our services today.
There is our monthly “First Sunday of the Month Service” at 9.30 am. Fr Geoff celebrates and there will be an All-age Presentation.
Hymns: 31, 39, 58 and 35 **Setting: Thorne**
Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.
Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Christchurch and St Mark Watford.
The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain, Carlos Lopez-Lozano, Bishop, and all its people.
The Church of South India.

The World: All people with HIV/AIDS.
Victims of modern slavery.
All people with disabilities.

The Community and Parish: Thanksgiving for all who helped with and came to our Christmas Fair.
Residents and Staff at River Court.
The South Oxhey Choir.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Fr John Brown, Marion Craddock-Jones, Audrey Dixon, Cynthia Dixon, Claire Dunning, Fr Robert Featherstone, Jemima Hill, Peter Hinchey, Michael Jennings, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Craig McKay, Lisa Mills, Sylvia Obeng, Dorcas Ochola, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Norma Stone, Baby Adelaide Tonkin, Peter White; and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING I Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13 (Good News Translation)

Now we can give thanks to our God for you. We thank him for the joy we have in his presence because of you.

Day and night we ask him with all our heart to let us see you personally and supply what is needed in your faith.

May our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus prepare the way for us to come to you!

May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow more and more and become as great as our love for you.

In this way he will strengthen you, and you will be perfect and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all who belong to him.

GOSPEL Luke 21.25-36

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

- 25 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.
- 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- 27 Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory.
- 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'
- 29 Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees;
- 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.
- 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.
- 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.
- 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
- 34 Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life,
- 35 and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.
- 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	3	Dec	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
Tue	4	Dec	Service at River Court	2.30pm
Wed	5	Dec	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
			(See Notices below)	
Thur	6	Dec	Holy Communion	10.00am
Sat	8	Dec	CONCERT by SOUTH OXHEY CHOIR	7.30pm
Sun	9	Dec	<u>ADVENT 2</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST (President & Preacher: Fr Geoff)	9.30am
			Children's Church in Littlebury Hall	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Service for the Compassionate Friends	6.00pm

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Thank you to everyone who supported the Fair by coming, helping, entertaining or making. Any items that are still to be sold will be available after the 9.30 service today.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BOOKLET: Time is getting very short for submitting your messages for this (final date is Friday 7 December). Please could you fill in a form at the back of church or email victoria.mathews@virgin.net, giving your message for the Christmas booklet, as soon as possible, if you wish to contribute.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 5 December, 10.30 – 12 noon, Christmas Coffee Morning with Bring-&-Buy Sale. All proceeds to Christingle.

Thursday 13 December at 6.30pm – St Michael's Christmas Dinner (Fully booked)

Sunday 16 December at 6.00pm – Carol Service

Sunday 30 December at 7.30pm – Watford Youth Sinfonia concert

Sunday 6 January 2019 Christingle with Jacobite SOC