



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

LENT 5 – PASSION SUNDAY

9 March 2008

A warm welcome to our services today and especially to our visiting preacher Andy Hartropp.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist, Fr John celebrates, Rev Andrew Hartropp preaches and Valerie Alvarez leads the intercessions. A crèche is available.

Hymns: 122 (t ii), 174 (t 248), 108 and 127 (t i alt vers)

Setting: White

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and this is followed at 11.15 with our monthly service of thanksgiving and praise – please stay on.

The monthly service at River Court is at 3.00 pm.

(Choir rehearsal)

Passiontide Service of music, poetry and prayer at 6.30pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Kinshasa and Bukavu – Bishop Dirokpa Fidele.
The Church in Bedford, particularly St Andrew's and Christopher Dent, the Vicar.

Members of the Diocesan Synod.

The World: The people of Russia at a time of change of leadership in government.
Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Those in our country who administer justice.

The Community and Parish: Residents and staff of the Chase Care Home.

Staff and pupils of St Anthony's Roman Catholic Primary School visiting our church this week.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Ray Angles, Monica Batt, Ellen Benoy, Mel Browne, John Burn, Marjorie Carlisle, Claire Challis, Jennifer Coley, Bill Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Ifagaani Desiderio, June Dickinson, Kate Dickinson, Jocelyn Harewood, Sarah Heath, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Maggie Maguire, Stella Meager, Eva Portas, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Ann Reed, Gladys Robertson, Maureen Swann, June Tatnall, Bill Widdowson, Anne Wightman and Maureen Williams.

The Departed: Ian Yeo (aged 63), Croxley View
Joyce Slater (aged 88), Courtlands Drive.

Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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 Ezekiel 37.1–14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

- ¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.
- ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.
- ³ He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’
- ⁴ Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
- ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.’
- ⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
- ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.
- ⁹ Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’
- ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.
- ¹¹ Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.”
- ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.
- ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

SECOND READING Romans 8.6-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot,
⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL John 11.17-27

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

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.
¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,
¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.
²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.
²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.'
²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'
²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'
²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'
²⁷ She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	10	Mar	Toddlers' Group (Choir Vestry)	10.00 – 11.30am
			Service at The Chase Care Home	3.00pm
			Worship Committee	7.30pm
Wed	12	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
			Service at Home Manor	3.00pm
			Publicity Committee	8.00pm
Thu	13	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			St Anthony's	morning
			Kids' Club	3.30 – 5.00pm
			Choir Practice	7.00 - 8.30pm
Fri	14	Mar	Retreat Day for St Anthony's RC School (in church)	
Sun	16	Mar	<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST with Procession of Palms and Passion Narrative (crèche available)	9.30am
			Sunday School in Littlebury Hall	9.30am
			Evensong in Lady Chapel	6.30pm

NOTICES

THE VIGIL LIST for Maundy Thursday/Good Friday is on the table at the Mildred Avenue door. Please sign soon.

CHURCH EASTER CARDS: These are available to deliver round the parish. Please take some if you can, and sign the list. Thank you.

THANK YOU EVERYONE for your prayers for our daughter-in-law in her pregnancy. There has been a miraculous improvement –but keep on praying! Gill & Martin.

EASTER FLOWERS: Fay Storey will be pleased to receive donations towards the Easter flowers in church. If you are able to gift aid your donation please use one of the small white envelopes in the baskets by the entrances to the church.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION: This year's revision will commence on 16th March and finish on Sunday 6th April. A copy of the current Roll is on the notice board at the back of the Church for you to check. If anyone would like their name added to the Roll, please get a form from the Clergy or Henry Moring.

HELP PLEASE! We badly need volunteers to join the rota for Sunday morning crèche (please see Alison Makin), serving coffee (please see Pat Brown) and sidespeople (please see one of the churchwardens).

SHADOWLANDS – true story of CS Lewis – presented by Theatre Roundabout at St Thomas' Church Centre on Friday 14 March at 7.30pm. Leaflets available.

SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2008 are now due. Please see Valerie Alvarez who has again kindly agreed to collect the subscriptions for the coming year, which remain the same as last year, £5.00 if you pay for the year instead of 50p per month.