



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

CHRISTMAS 1
26 December 2010

A warm welcome to our services today and a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

At 9.30 am there will be a Simple Eucharist and carols. Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Pat Beach leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 44, 67, 73, 60, 45 and 57

Coffee and tea will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

There is no 6 pm service.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, and William Turei, its Archbishop
The Ministry of Deacons in the Church
The Anglican Diocese of Angola.

The World: Peace in our world
All those badly affected by the severe weather
Hope for a better world in the New Year.

The Community and Parish: The housebound people of our parish and community
All those who have attended our Christmas services
People in our community of other faiths.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Christopher Bilson, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Thomas Cristensen, Jean Crouch, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Jocelyn Harewood, Susetta Hartropp, Peter Hatswell, Gladys Holloway, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Vera Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Celia Pain, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, Marianne Rees, Elaine Robinson, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 63.7–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
- ⁸ For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely';
- ⁹ and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2.10–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- ¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,
- ¹² 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'
- ¹³ And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'
- ¹⁴ Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.
- ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

- 17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
- 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Matthew 2.13–23

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

- 13 After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’
- 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,
- 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’
- 16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.
- 17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
- 18 ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’
- 19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,
- 20 ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’
- 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.
- 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.
- 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

THIS WEEK

Mon	27	Dec	<i>Bank Holiday</i> NO Toddlers Group	
Wed	29	Dec	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thur	30	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
Sun	2	Jan	<u>EPIPHANY</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST: with crèche and Sunday School (President and Preacher: Fr George) Evening Prayer	8.00am 9.30am 6.00pm

NOTICES

SINCERE THANKS to all who have done so much to prepare for Christmas – the special services that we have around Christmas; the decorations, the Christmas trees, the booklet of Christmas greetings, the delivery of some Christmas leaflets in the parish. Your help is greatly appreciated.

BRING-&-SHARE LUNCHESES: The next Lunch is on 2 February. NO January Lunch.

FLOWER FUND: Thank you for the contributions towards the Christmas flowers.

VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS: This group of drama students from Wesley College, Melbourne, is coming to Watford from 4-10 January 2011 and staying at homes in the parish. They will be arriving at St Michael's early on the 4th and given breakfast in the Choir Vestry and leaving early on the 10th. On Sunday, 9 January, at 6.45 pm they will be performing their own version of Romeo & Juliet in church for anyone who would like to come. Please tell your friends and neighbours. Admission free.

SWORD: The Christmas/New Year edition is available to take and distribute. **SWORD SUBSCRIPTIONS** for 2011 are now due. Valerie Alvarez has kindly agreed to collect subscriptions for the coming year. The cost of Sword is 60p per month. If you pay for the year in advance an annual subscription for 12 issues will be £6.00, thus giving you 12 issues for the price of 10! If you don't subscribe at present and would like to take out a new annual subscription, please see Dennis Beach.

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2011 are on a table in the south aisle. Please collect yours. If you wish to join the envelope giving scheme please see Valerie Alvarez.