



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

17 March 2013

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches. Sylvia Moring leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 499 (omit *s), 259, 557 and 122

Setting: Missa Seraphica

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service – please stay on.

Compline with devotional talk at 6.00pm.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Clapham in our Diocese.

The Diocese of Mississippi, The Rt Revd Duncan Gray, its Bishop and its People.

The Anglican Church in South Africa.

Pope Francis I and the Roman Catholic Church.

The World: People with Down's Syndrome.

Xi Jinping, new president of China.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff at the Chase Care Centre.

Harmony between faiths and cultures in Watford.

Staff and pupils of the schools in our parish.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Jean and Robert Caton. Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Pamela Cutler, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Jenny Houghton, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Peter Prigmore, Christina and David Simon, and Anne Wightman.

The Departed:

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 Isaiah 43.16–21

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,
17 who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
18 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
20 The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,
21 the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

SECOND READING Philippians 3.4b–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 4 If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;
6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.
8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him,

- 9 not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.
- 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
- 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- 12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
- 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
- 14 I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL John 12.1-8

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

- 1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
- 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.
- 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
- 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said,
- 5 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?'
- 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)
- 7 Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.
- 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

THIS WEEK

Mon	18	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10.00 - 11.30am
			Lent Course (Vicarage)	1.30pm
Tue	19	Mar	Service at the Chase Care Centre	2.30pm
Wed	20	Mar	Coffee in Church	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	21	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			attended by Mothers' Union and followed by coffee	
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	22	Mar	Funeral of Eric Wightman in Church	1.30pm
Sun	24	Mar	<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			SUNG EUCHARIST with Passion Narrative:	
			President & Preacher: Fr Geoff	9.30am
			followed by Bring-&-Buy Sale	
			(Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1.00 – 5.00pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

NOTICES

ELECTORAL ROLL: A **NEW roll** is required this year. **The last date for receipt of forms for inclusion before the AGM is TODAY Sunday 17 March.** New forms are available to complete. If you have not been given a form or wish to be added to the roll as a new member, please ask Fr Geoff or Henry or Sylvia Moring for one. Please fill in your form today.

FUNERAL OF ERIC WIGHTMAN: Anne and the family would be pleased to see any friends at Eric's funeral which will be at 1.30 pm in church on Friday, 22 March.

LENT COLLECTING BOXES for the Church Army are available at the back of church. The theme is "giving" rather than "giving up" for Lent.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WATCH: As usual we hope to keep the watch in the Lady Chapel throughout the night on Maundy Thursday. Please sign the list on the table by the Mildred Avenue door if you are able to join the watch for part of the time.

FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL SWORD is MIDDAY next Sunday, 24 March. Hard copy to Dennis Beach or email to dhbeach@sky.com.

FOOD BANK: St Michael's is to become a depot for a food bank in West Watford. There will shortly be a list of the items of food that can be included in the food parcels that are given out and if you would like to donate any of these items please bring them to church and put them in the box at the west end. Further details will be in the April Sword.

EASTER FLOWERS: It is our custom to invite people to make a donation towards the Easter flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one. If you would like to do this, please give your donation to Fay Storey or Jean Alexander. If you are able to gift aid your donation it should go in one of the white gift aid envelopes.