



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**The Sunday Next Before Lent  
2 March 2014**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches and Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 386, 248, 455 and 2

Setting: Wilson

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

There is a Joint Service at St Michael's at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** The St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance.  
Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo; Kahwa Henri Ingingoma -  
Archbishop of the Congo & Bishop of Kinshasa.  
The Anglican Church in Myanmar (Burma).

**The World:** People with prostate or ovarian cancer.  
The encouragement of reading on World Book Day.  
All refugees and victims of violence or persecution.

**The Community and Parish:** A good keeping of Lent.  
Staff and Residents at Fairhaven Care Home.  
The clergy of Watford Deanery.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Bruce Alexander, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Pamela Cutler, Audrey Dixon, Sandra Fullerton, Jenny Houghton, Owen Hutchinson, Audrey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Audrey Morgan, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina and David Simon, Mark Simon, Pauline White and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Exodus 24.12–18**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- <sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’
- <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.
- <sup>14</sup> To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’
- <sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.
- <sup>16</sup> The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.
- <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.
- <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

**SECOND READING 2 Peter 1.16–21**

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

- <sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.
- <sup>17</sup> For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

- 18 We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.
- 19 So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
- 20 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,
- 21 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 17.1-9**

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

- 1 Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.
- 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.
- 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.
- 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'
- 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!'
- 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.
- 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.'
- 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.
- 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	3	Mar	Toddlers' Group Pause (134 Mildred Avenue)	10.00 – 11.30am 7.30pm
Tue	4	Mar	Service at River Court Social Committee (Choir Vestry)	2.30pm 8.00pm
Wed	5	Mar	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes Coffee in Church and Food Bank Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes	10.00am 10.30am-12 noon 7.30pm
Thu	6	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Fairhaven Choir Practice	10.00am morning 7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	7	Mar	Women's World Day of Prayer (Holy Rood Church)	2.00pm
Sun	9	Mar	<b><u>FIRST SUNDAY of LENT</u></b> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) <b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> 9.30am President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Violet Allen-Smith The 11.15 Service of Praise and Thanksgiving (Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church) Evening Service	8.00am 8.00am 11.15am 1.00-5.00pm) 6.00pm

## NOTICES

**ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION:** This year's revision commences on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March and finishes on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Fr Geoff or Henry or Sylvia Moring. If you have changed your email address or telephone number could you also inform us please.

**LENT GROUPS:** There will be two Lent groups running at St Michael's in 2014 (Mondays at 2.30pm and Tuesdays at 8.00pm). These will be following the book "Prayer, our Deepest Longing" by Ronald Rolheiser. If you would like to attend the course and want a copy of the book, they are selling on Amazon at £5-45, or Fr Geoff can order copies for you if you let him know. There is also a free study guide, which he can send you by email, or print out for you. Please sign the list at the back of the church.

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** service will be on Friday, 7 March at 2 pm at Holy Rood Church followed by refreshments. Everyone welcome.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is on 5 March. There will be services at 10 am and 7.30 pm with imposition of ashes.

**MORE VOLUNTEERS** urgently required for the Money Counting rota (for after the 9.30 service). If you can help with this, please see Iola Bilson.