



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**The Second Sunday of Lent  
16 March 2014**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Kristine Jenkins leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 442 (t.278), 547, 109 and 543 (i)

Setting: Missa Seraphica

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

Messy Church is at 2.30pm.

Tonight's evening service is a Choral Evensong at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Renhold in our Diocese.  
The Anglican Church in Hong Kong; Paul Kwong - Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island.  
The work of the Church in South Africa's townships.

**The World:** All those affected by the Malaysian Airliner disappearance.  
The people of Crimea and the rest of Ukraine.  
Christian communities in the Middle East.

**The Community and Parish:** Our Brownies.  
Our Mothers' Union Members.  
Our members who are School staff or Governors.

**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 God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 12.1–4a**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.  
<sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.  
<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'  
<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

**SECOND READING Romans 4.1–5, 13–17**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>1</sup> What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?  
<sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.  
<sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'  
<sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.  
<sup>5</sup> But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.  
<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.  
<sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.  
<sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.  
<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,  
<sup>17</sup> as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

## GOSPEL John 3.1–17

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

<sup>1</sup> There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

<sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."

<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

<sup>11</sup> Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

<sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?'

<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	17	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Lent Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30 – 4.00pm
Tue	18	Mar	Lent Group (Vicarage)	8.00 – 9.30pm
Wed	19	Mar	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am-12 noon
			Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary in Church	8.00pm
Thu	20	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri	21	Mar	St Anthony's School in Church	9.30am – 3.00pm
Sat	22	Mar	Setting up for Lent Lunch	9.30am
			Lent Lunch and Bring-&-Buy	11.30am – 1.30pm
Sun	23	Mar	<b><u>THIRD SUNDAY of LENT</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> President and Preacher: Fr George	9.30am
			(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church	1-5pm)
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## NOTICES

**ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION:** This year's revision commences today 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 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. It is still possible to join either of these groups.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS:** please note the annual report and accounts will be distributed electronically. A list is available at the rear of the church which please sign if you do not have the facility to receive the report electronically and would like a hard copy – *Jean Alexander, PCC Secretary*

**LENT COLLECTING BOXES** for the Church Army are available at the back of church and by the Lady Chapel. These should be returned by Easter Sunday.

**SIMNEL CAKES** for Mothering Sunday (30 March). Anyone who is able to provide a simnel cake please let Sylvia Moring know. We are two makers short this year.

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL SWORD** is Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to [robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk).

**WAR REQUIEM** by Benjamin Britten is being performed by Watford Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra at Watford Colosseum on 22 March at 7.30pm.

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010