



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**The Third Sunday of Lent  
23 March 2014**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30am Sung Eucharist, Fr George celebrates and preaches. Vicki Matthews leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 301, 406, 486 and 96

Setting: Missa Seraphica

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

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1-5pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

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

**The Church:** The Parish of Nettleden in our Diocese.

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean: Ian Ernest – Archbishop of the Province of the Indian Ocean & Bishop of Mauritius.

The work of Us (The United Society) against Human Trafficking.

**The World:** All those in economic difficulty in our nation.

Wisdom and a search for peace for the leaders and people of Ukraine, Crimea and Russia.

The relatives and friends of those on flight MH370.

**The Community and Parish:** Our local police and police community support officers.

Our local district nurses and community healthcare workers.

All children and young people in our Church family.

**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, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
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 Exodus 17.1–7**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- 1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.
- 2 The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’
- 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’
- 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’
- 5 The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.
- 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

**SECOND READING Romans 5.1–11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- 1 Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
- 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
- 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,
- 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
- 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.  
9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be  
saved through him from the wrath of God.  
10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his  
Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.  
11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through  
whom we have now received reconciliation.

## **GOSPEL John 4.5–26**

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

5 Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had  
given to his son Joseph.  
6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was  
about noon.  
7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'  
8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)  
9 The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a  
woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)  
10 Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you,  
"Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living  
water.'  
11 The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you  
get that living water?  
12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and  
his flocks drank from it?'  
13 Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,  
14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water  
that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'  
15 The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have  
to keep coming here to draw water.'  
16 Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.'  
17 The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in  
saying, "I have no husband";  
18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What  
you have said is true!  
19 The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet.  
20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people  
must worship is in Jerusalem.'  
21 Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the  
Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.  
22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from  
the Jews.  
23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the  
Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.  
24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'  
25 The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When  
he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.'  
26 Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	24	Mar	Toddlers' Group	10.00 – 11.30am
			Lent Group (Choir Vestry)	2.30 – 4.00pm
			Estates Committee (Choir Vestry)	8.00pm
Tue	25	Mar	Lent Group (Vicarage)	8.00 – 9.30pm
Wed	26	Mar	Coffee in Church and Food Bank	10.30am-12 noon
Thu	27	Mar	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language)	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sat	29	Mar	Renewal of Marriage Vows (in Church)	12.00noon
Sun	30	Mar	<b><u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> President: Fr Geoff	9.30am
			Evening Prayer	6.00pm

## NOTICES

**ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION:** This year's revision commenced last 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.

**FINAL COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL SWORD** is today 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).

**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.

**FOOD BANK:** Don't forget that we are still collecting as well as giving out parcels of food. There is a list of the items of food that can be included in the food parcels in particular there is a need for tinned meat and meat pies, and UHT milk. If you would like to donate any of these items or anything else please bring them to church and put them in the box at the west end.