

Happening in church this week..

Wednesday 10am-12noon - Coffee morning and Foodbank

Sunday 9.30am - Sung Eucharist



St Michael & All Angels,
Watford

THE MESSENGER



HOLY INNOCENTS/1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 28th December 2025

Welcome to our service today. Father Robert is presiding.

Hymns
for this Sunday
are:

63

O little town of
Bethlehem

60

Lully, lulla, thou
little tiny child

55

In the bleak
midwinter

67

See, amid the
winter's snow

First Aid Kits

Outside the clergy vestry.
In the ladies toilet.

Baby Changing

In the ladies toilet

Every donation that is made to **SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS PCC WATFORD**
is gratefully received.

Code 20-91-79

Account 70409448.

Gift Aid? Please contact a warden.

Thank you very much!

Contact: Father Stephen Mephram 07852 622904

Stephenmephram07@gmail.com

For Home Communion

Contact: Martin Heath 01923 249168

www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk

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

In your prayers this week:

The Church

Markyate Street, St John the Baptist (Wheathampstead) Jo Burke, Sam Davis

ACP: The Anglican Church of Canada

The World

All victims of war, oppression, and injustice today. May the light of Christ born in Bethlehem disarm hearts hardened by hatred and lead nations into paths of reconciliation.

The Community and Parish

During this Christmas season may Christ be born anew in our hearts, making us bearers of His peace.

For those living in fear, poverty, or displacement, may the Child Jesus be their shelter and hope. May every child be welcomed, protected, and loved as a gift from You.

The Ill and the Housebound

Especially John Adams, Jean Alexander, Julie Alvarez, David Dimmock, Mihai Fezariu, Zuzana Hruskova, Owen Hutchinson, Sylvia Obeng, Valerie O'Riordan, Morris Parbhu, Fay Storey, Keziah Thairu, Adelaide Tonkin and all who care for them

The Departed

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice 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

Jeremiah 31.15–17

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

This is the word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 1.26–29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2.13–18

Now after they 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. Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 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. 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. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord