



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

New Year's Day

Sunday 1 January 2023

A very Happy New Year to everyone and a warm welcome to our service today.

We are now able to receive the wine at communion. There will be a chalice on your left for those who wish to receive by drinking, and on your right for those who wish to receive by dipping their wafer in the wine. You are also welcome to just receive the bread.

Hymns are: CP 64 Of the Father's love begotten, CP 68 See him lying on a bed of straw, CP 63 O little town of Bethlehem, CP 67 See amid the winter's snow (During communion), CP 76 While shepherds watched.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Church leaders giving New Year Messages.
The World Council of Churches.
Church Unity in 2023.

The World: World peace in 2023.
Justice and fair treatment for the people of our world.
The people of the Holy Land and the Abrahamic faiths.

The Community and Parish: Our New Year Resolutions.
Growth in faith and service for our Church in 2023.
Happiness and peace for the people of our community.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Andy Benoy, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Keith Levinson, Lisa Mills, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 63.7–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 7 I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
- 8 For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely';
- 9 and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2.10–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- 10 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- 11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,
- 12 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'
- 13 And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'
- 14 Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.
- 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

- ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
- ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Matthew 2.13–23

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

- ¹³ After the wise men 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.’
- ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,
- ¹⁵ 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.’
- ¹⁶ 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.
- ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
- ¹⁸ ‘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.’
- ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,
- ²⁰ ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’
- ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.
- ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.
- ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

Our Eucharist for **Christmas 2** is available to attend in person or via livestream on our YouTube channel “St Michael’s Church Watford”
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GTX0MfiICGmcDUkXTGFSw>

The 10.00am Eucharist on Thursdays is also available to attend in person, and livestreamed.

The Church will be open for tea and coffee on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

