



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 2

Sunday 15 January 2023

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 89 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, CP 85 Earth has many a noble city, CP 81 Lord, for the years, CP 87 Hail to the Lord's anointed.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Flitwick in our Diocese.
The Church of Nigeria.
Christian Unity.

The World: All those affected by, or taking part in, strikes.
The National Health Service.
The Royal Family.

The Community and Parish: Churches Together in Watford.
Christians Across Watford.
Christians of other denominations in our Parish.

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 Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the
renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
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 Isaiah 49.1–7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.
- ³ And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
- ⁴ But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God.'
- ⁵ And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength.
- ⁶ The LORD says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'
- ⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.1–9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- ¹ From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
- ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of
every kind –
6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you –
7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of
our Lord Jesus Christ.
8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the
day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL John 1.29–42

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

29 John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb
of God who takes away the sin of the world!’
30 This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me
because he was before me.”
31 I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that
he might be revealed to Israel.’
32 And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it
remained on him.
33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said
to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who
baptizes with the Holy Spirit.”
34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’
35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,
36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of
God!’
37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.
38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you
looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher),
‘where are you staying?’
39 He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying,
and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the
afternoon.
40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon
Peter’s brother.
41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’
(which is translated Anointed).
42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of
John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter).

Our Eucharist for **Epiphany 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.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on 18th January.

Services in Watford have been arranged as follows:

January 18th 2023 7.30p.m. St. Peters Church, Bushey Mill Lane, Watford

January 22nd 2023 5.30p.m. St. Mary's Church, Watford

Wednesday January 25th 2023, 7.30p.m. Holy Rood Church, Market Street, Watford

Lent is fast approaching! The Lent course this year will be following the theme “Jesus’ teaching for our daily lives today”.

There are several weekdays and times of day when we could meet, with the possibility of meeting in person or online.

There is a list at the back of Church on which you can express your availability. We are looking at having two sessions on the same material each week.

An apology in advance – we probably won’t be able to accommodate everybody’s wishes, so please give as wide a range of alternatives as possible.