



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**The First Sunday of Lent
Sunday 26 February 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 CP96 Jesu lover of my soul, CP95 Forty days and forty nights, CP532 O for a closer walk with God, CP496 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Mark Bedford in our Diocese.
The Episcopal Church of Scotland.
The work of Christian Aid.

The World: People in Turkey and Syria in the aftermath of earthquakes.
The people of Ukraine.
People struggling to heat their homes and feed their families.

The Community and Parish: Churches in vacancy in our deanery.
Our keeping of Lent.
People who look after our Church buildings.

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

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save;
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 Genesis 2.15–17; 3.1–7

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;
¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’
¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?”’
² The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;
³ but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’
⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die;
⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’
⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.
⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

SECOND READING Romans 5.12–19

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned –

- ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.
- ¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.
- ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.
- ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.
- ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
- ¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one leads to justification and life for all.
- ¹⁹ For just as by the one person's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

GOSPEL Matthew 4.1-11

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

- ¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.
- ³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'
- ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'
- ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him,
- ⁶ 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'
- ⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'
- ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour;
- ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.'
- ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'
- ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.'

Our service today for Lent 1 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.

Norma will be having a Bring-and-Buy Sale after the 9.30 service today, Sunday, 26th February.

A Date for your Diary

The second Annual St Michael’s Quiz will be held on Saturday 10th June, with the questions starting at 7.30p.m.

More details to follow but please keep the date free, start recruiting your team (up to 8 in a team) and watch all the quiz programmes you can to get into training!

Lent Lunch and Bring and Buy Sale Saturday 11th March 11.30am – 13.30pm

Bag a bargain at Norma’s stall and then enjoy a delicious lunch of homemade soup with bread and cheese ably served by our Brownie friends. Lunch is priced at £5 per adult and £2 per child to include soup, bread, cheese, tea or coffee for adults and squash for children. Lunch served between 12 and 1.15pm.

As always help is needed on the day and the evening before so anyone able to offer assistance please speak to Valerie Blacklock or contact on 07858763594.

Offers of soup gratefully received.

All profits to Mission Giving Fund.

Website: <http://www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk>
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