



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**The Second Sunday of Lent
Sunday 5 March 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 368 All my Hope on God is Founded, 385 Be thou my Guardian, 411 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, 398 Christ Triumphant ever Reigning.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Biddenham in our Diocese.
The Church of the Province of South East Asia.
Church workers fighting HIV.

The World: People killed, injured, traumatised and bereaved by the Greek train crash.
People with developmental disabilities.
People with ovarian cancer and people with brain tumours.

The Community and Parish: Churches Together in Watford.
Those who look after our Church finances.
Pupils staff and parents of St Anthony's school.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Dennis Beach, 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, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 12.1–4a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹ The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

SECOND READING Romans 4.1–5, 13–17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?
² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
³ For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'
⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.
⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.
¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.
¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.
¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.
¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,
¹⁷ as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

GOSPEL John 3.1-17

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

¹ There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."

⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

¹¹ Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

Our service today for Lent 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.

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