



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sunday 26 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 127 When I survey the wondrous cross, 120 O sacred head surrounded, 108 Glory be to Jesus, 598 There's a wideness in God's mercy.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Tring Team Parish in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of South America.
All who lead Bible Study Groups.

The World: People with autism.
People with bipolar disorder.
International Children's Book Day (2nd April).

The Community and Parish: Our Churchwardens Elizabeth and Valerie.
Making our Church environmentally friendly.
The maintenance and repair of our Church buildings.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, 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

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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 Ezekiel 37.1–14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

- ¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.
- ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.
- ³ He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’
- ⁴ Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
- ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.’
- ⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
- ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.
- ⁹ Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’
- ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.
- ¹¹ Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.”
- ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.
- ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.
- ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.’

SECOND READING Romans 8.6-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
- ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot,
- ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
- ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL John 11.1-45

Today's Gospel is printed on a separate sheet.

Our service today for the Fifth Sunday of Lent 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.

Lent Lunch- Due to the generosity of people who although not being able to attend the lunch donated and Norma running her Bring n Buy stall the following day we have added £290 to our Mission Giving from the event. Many thanks to all who helped, attended and donated.

Dennis Beach’s funeral will be in Church on Wednesday 5th April at 2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

On Saturday 6th May we will be showing the Coronation in Church, and there will be a Children’s workshop on that day as well. Bring your own lunch. We are also planning an “Inside street party” over lunchtime in Church on Sunday 7th May.

Volunteers needed for:

Reading the Palm Sunday Dramatised Gospel (2nd April)

Taking part in the Maundy Watch (6th April)

Reading at the Stations of the Cross (Good Friday 7th April).

There be no Monday afternoon Lent Group this week (Tomorrow).

There are local elections on the 4th May, for which Photo I.D. will be needed. Find out what you need to take on the Electoral Commission Website (www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

British Summer Time: reminder to people reading this in advance that the clocks go forward one hour early Sunday 29th March at 1am. Or even if you missed it and were late for church this morning.