



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 2

Sunday 16 April 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: 137 Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven, 159 The strife is o'er, 148 Jesus lives, 311 Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Tempsford with Little Barford.
The Anglican Church of Tanzania.
The Churches of the Porvoo Communion.

The World: Peace in Northern Ireland.
People living with Parkinson's disease.
People with Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

The Community and Parish: Our children and young people.
The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church.
Our local police officers and community support officers.

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, Andrew Watford, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification:

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth;

through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Acts 2.14a, 22–32

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. On the day of Pentecost,

- ¹⁴ Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd,
²² ‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know –
²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.
²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.
²⁵ For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”
²⁹ Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.
³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.
³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, “He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.”
³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.’

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1.3–9

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven
5 for you,
6 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to
7 be revealed in the last time.
8 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various
9 trials,
10 so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though
11 perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honour
12 when Jesus Christ is revealed.
13 Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see
14 him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,
15 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL John 20.19–31

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

19 When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house
20 where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood
21 among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’
22 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples
23 rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
24 Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send
25 you.’
26 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy
27 Spirit.
28 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any,
29 they are retained.’
30 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when
31 Jesus came.
32 So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them,
33 ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the
34 nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’
35 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them.
36 Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace
37 be with you.’
38 Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your
39 hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’
40 Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’
41 Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those
42 who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’
43 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not
44 written in this book.
45 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the
46 Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Our service today for Easter 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.

On Sunday 23rd April at 3.00pm, there will be a test of the new Government emergency alert system. Users of mobile phones using 4G or 5G will receive a siren-like sound and visual notification on their mobile phones. You can find more information on <https://www.gov.uk/alerts/announcements>.

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 a “Bring and Share Lunch” over lunchtime in Church on Sunday 7th May.

Church Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll will be open for revision between 23rd April and the 9th May 2023. Being registered on the Roll primarily allows you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which this year, is being held on Wednesday 24th May.

If you would like to be added to the Roll, please fill in an application form (to be found near the main doors to the Church). If you are on the Roll but have changed your contact details (address, telephone number or email address) in the last 12 months please contact Simon Fowle on 01923 229624 or email simon.fowle@ntlworld.com or speak to the Vicar or either of the Churchwardens. The revised Roll will be published on the 10th May 2023 and will then be closed until after the APCM.

Simon Fowle
Church Electoral Roll Officer