



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

TRINITY 3

Sunday 25 June 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.

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Welcome to our service today.

Hymns are: 81 Lord for the years, 315 Now let us from this table rise, 582 Take up thy Cross, 557 Praise to the Holiest in the height (t.1)

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** Our Diocese of St Albans at Albantide.

The Parish of Linslade.

The Church of Bangladesh.

**The World:** People of Caribbean heritage in the UK.

Commemorations of the “Windrush Generation”.

People whose lives are vulnerable to interest rate rises.

**The Community and Parish:** Our Bishops Alan, Jane and Richard.

Our PCC members.

The work of safeguarding all members of our Church family.

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

Julie Alvarez, Janet Chandler, Paddy Gaffney, Jemima Hill,

Owen Hutchinson, Kristine Jenkins, Lisa Mills, Josephine

Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and

all who care for them.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father:  
 give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
 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 21.8–21**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- <sup>8</sup> The child Isaac grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.
- <sup>9</sup> But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.
- <sup>10</sup> So she said to Abraham, ‘Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.’
- <sup>11</sup> The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son.
- <sup>12</sup> But God said to Abraham, ‘Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you.
- <sup>13</sup> As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.’
- <sup>14</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.
- <sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes.
- <sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, ‘Do not let me look on the death of the child.’ And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.
- <sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, ‘What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.
- <sup>18</sup> Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.’
- <sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.
- <sup>20</sup> God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow.
- <sup>21</sup> He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

**SECOND READING Romans 6.1b–11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>1</sup> Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?
- <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were  
baptized into his death?  
4 Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as  
Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in  
newness of life.  
5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united  
with him in a resurrection like his.  
6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be  
destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.  
7 For whoever has died is freed from sin.  
8 But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.  
9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no  
longer has dominion over him.  
10 The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.  
11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### **GOSPEL Matthew 10.24–39**

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

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them out with the following instruction:  
24 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master;  
25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If  
they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they  
malign those of his household!  
26 So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and  
nothing secret that will not become known.  
27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered,  
proclaim from the housetops.  
28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who  
can destroy both soul and body in hell.  
29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground  
unperceived by your Father.  
30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted.  
31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.  
32 Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge  
before my Father in heaven;  
33 but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.  
34 Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring  
peace, but a sword.  
35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.  
37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever  
loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;  
38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.  
39 Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will  
find it.

Our service today for Trinity 3 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 2<sup>nd</sup> July, there will be a Eucharist at 3.00pm**, to celebrate Fr Geoff’s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood. This will be followed by afternoon tea. Everyone invited!

**Children’s Society Boxes:** if you have one, please bring back to church over the next few weeks. – Thank you, *Valerie*.

**Fr Geoff is compiling a list of names** to go in the Book of Remembrance, which hasn’t been updated for a while. There is a list of names at the back of Church, to which you are welcome to add. The Book will be open this morning for you to check if certain names are there or not.

**Quiz:** Thank you to everyone who supported the quiz in any way. It was a lovely evening with the bonus of £526 added to church funds.

**Join us in Church on Monday July 3rd** at 18.30 to enjoy a production of the Pirate Code a musical by a visiting Australian theatre group. Please see the Church website for details. <http://www.stmichaels-watford.org.uk/>. There are also fliers at the back of church.

**Christian Aid:** We collected £143 this year. Many thanks for your donations.

**Norma will be a having a Bring-and-Buy Sale** after the 9.30 service today, Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> June. Please support.