



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 6

Sunday 16 July 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.

Our Celebrant and Preacher at today's service is Fr Stephen.

Hymns are: 273 Praise, O praise our God and king, 275 We plough the fields and scatter, 533 O for a heart to praise my God, 250 All creatures of our God and king.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Bramfield in our Diocese.
The Anglican Church of Canada.
The Society of St Francis.

The World: International justice.
The protection of sea life.
Skills training for young people.

The Community and Parish: Our PCC members.
Our Churchwardens.
Our Borough and County Councillors.

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

Collect

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding:

pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 25.19–34

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac,
²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.
²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.
²² The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD.
²³ And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.'
²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.
²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau.
²⁶ Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.
²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.
²⁸ Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.
²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.
³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.)
³¹ Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.'
³² Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?'
³³ Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.
³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

SECOND READING Romans 8.1–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his
own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the
flesh,
4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according
to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but
those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.
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 Matthew 13.1–9, 18–23

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

1 Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake.
2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the
whole crowd stood on the beach.
3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow.
4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.
5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang
up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.
6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered
away.
7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.
8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty,
some thirty.
9 Let anyone with ears listen!
18 Hear then the parable of the sower.
19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one
comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.
20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and
immediately receives it with joy;
21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or
persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.
22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares
of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.
23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and
understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another
sixty, and in another thirty.

Our service today for Trinity 6 is available to attend in person or via livestream on our YouTube channel

“St Michael’s Church Watford”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GTX0MfiICGmcDUkXTGFSw>

There will not be a 10.00am Eucharist on Thursday 20th July.

The Church will be open for tea and coffee on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

The long-awaited 2nd St Michael and All Angels family fun sports day will be held in Cassiobury Park on 6th August, 2 - 5pm. Bring along friends, family and a picnic.

The Children’s Society Box collection raised £418.02. Due to Covid this was a 3-year total. With the demise of cash we will no longer participate in the home box scheme but will continue to support The Children’s Society in different ways. For the record since 2006 a total of £7317.58 has been collected. That is a lot of money to take to the bank in small change so a special thank you to Norma who started the scheme and organised it for 13 years.