



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY11

Sunday 20 August 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.

Welcome to our service today.

Hymns are: 163 All hail the power of Jesus' name, 477 In Christ there is no East or West, 254 For the fruits of his creation, 277 All for Jesus, all for Jesus.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Pirton in our Diocese.

The Church of England in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer.
Christians in Pakistan facing mob attacks.

The World: Refugees undertaking dangerous sea crossings.
Victims of homophobia.

The people of the city of Yellowknife in Canada, threatened by wildfires.

The Community and Parish: Our PCC members.

Young people in our area making decisions after exam results.
Our church members living with dementia.

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

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity; mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 45.1–15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹ Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.
- ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.
- ³ Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.
- ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.
- ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.
- ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest.
- ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.
- ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
- ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.
- ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.
- ¹¹ I will provide for you there – since there are five more years of famine to come – so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty."
- ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you.
- ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.'
- ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck.
- ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

SECOND READING Romans 11.1–2a, 29–32

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.
² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.
²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,
³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.
³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL Matthew 15.10–28

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

- ¹⁰ Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand:
¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.'
¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?'
¹³ He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.
¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.'
¹⁵ But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.'
¹⁶ Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding?
¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?
¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.
¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.
²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'
²¹ Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.
²² A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.'
²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.'
²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'
²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.'
²⁶ He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.'
²⁷ She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.'
²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Our service today 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.

We will be holding the PCC commissioning during the morning service today, the 20th August. It would be lovely to have as many as possible of the PCC there.

Food Bank – we are again in need of some donations for our Food Bank clients, particularly Washing Liquid Tabs, Shower Gel, Deodorant, Toilet Rolls, Toothpaste, and Sanitary Towels. Thank you so much for your support.