



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

TRINITY 14

Sunday 10 September 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: 311 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour, 371 All praise to our redeeming Lord (t.1), 578 Stand up, stand up for Jesus, 626 Ye holy angels bright.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of St Saviour, Luton in our Diocese.
The Church of Ireland.

The Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal.

The World: The care of people with autism.

The prevention of suicide.

Staff and Pupils in schools affected by RAAC concrete.

The Community and Parish: Churches Together in Watford.

Our visitors from Wesley College Melbourne.

Staff and residents at the Chase Care Home.

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

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth;

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 Exodus 12.1–14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:

² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.

³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.

⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.

⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs.

¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD.

¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD.

¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

SECOND READING Romans 13.8–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- ⁹ The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet’; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’
- ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.
- ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
- ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;
- ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.
- ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL Matthew 18.15–20

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples.

- ¹⁵ ‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.
- ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
- ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector.
- ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
- ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.
- ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

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.

Don’t forget to come tomorrow, Monday 11th September at 17.30 to enjoy the energetic musical interpretation of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by our friends from Wesley College, Melbourne. This is suitable for all ages. More information available from Jane Talbot.
A preview of their performance is on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/oJ3a5lC1hvc>