



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**CHRIST THE KING**

**Sunday 26 November 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 for Sunday are 163 All hail the power of Jesus' name, 594 The Lord's my shepherd, 601 Thou didst leave thy throne, 398 Christ triumphant, ever reigning.

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

- The Church:** The Parish of St Paul Langleybury in our Diocese.  
The Anglican Church of Nigeria'  
The Anglican run Al-Ahli Arab hospital in Northern Gaza.
- The World:** Worldwide action against gender-based violence.  
Protection of people and organisations against scammers  
The abolition of modern day slavery.

**The Community and Parish:** Our Christmas Fair.  
Residents in our local community.  
Vicki Davies, new Parish Priest at Christ Church and St Mark's.

**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, Brian O'Riordan, Valerie O'Riordan, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

**The Departed:**

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**Collect**

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King;

keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Ezekiel 34.11–16, 20–24**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

- <sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.  
<sup>12</sup> As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.  
<sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.  
<sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.  
<sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.  
<sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.  
<sup>20</sup> Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.  
<sup>21</sup> Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide,  
<sup>22</sup> I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.  
<sup>23</sup> I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.  
<sup>24</sup> And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

**SECOND READING Ephesians 1.15–23**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- <sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason  
<sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.  
<sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to  
which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the  
saints,  
19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to  
the working of his great power.  
20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated  
him at his right hand in the heavenly places,  
21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is  
named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.  
22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for  
the church,  
23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 25.31–46**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on  
the throne of his glory.  
32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from  
another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,  
33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.  
34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my  
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;  
35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to  
drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,  
36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in  
prison and you visited me."  
37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and  
gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?  
38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you  
clothing?  
39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"  
40 And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of  
these who are members of my family, you did it to me."  
41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into  
the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;  
42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to  
drink,  
43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing,  
sick and in prison and you did not visit me."  
44 Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a  
stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?"  
45 Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least  
of these, you did not do it to me."  
46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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.

**Norma will be having a Bring-and-Buy Sale** after the 9.30 service today, Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November. Please support.

**Our Christmas Fair is on next Saturday 2nd December 11.30 - 14.30.**

There will be a Children’s Advent Workshop from 11.30-2pm. As in previous years there will be many varied stalls including Bottle, Tombola and Raffle. We will be serving lunches from 12 noon. There will be Carols and Christmas Music from Chater Infants School at 11.30am and from a Band organised by Christine Deeley at 12 noon. Please come along early and enjoy the music.

On the day we will welcome donations of cakes and preserves.

Best wishes from your organising group: Maggie, Elizabeth, Julie, Charissa and Valerie

### **Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)**

St Michael's joined the Parish Giving Scheme three years ago and it has been very successful in making donations easier to handle administratively. We would encourage all members of the congregation who are kind enough to make regular donations to church funds to consider signing up. You will find a leaflet and application form on the table by the Parish Information noticeboard or you can obtain a digital copy from [simon.fowle@ntlworld.com](mailto:simon.fowle@ntlworld.com). or you can talk to a member of the PCC for help.

PGS is a direct debit based system which is much easier and more efficient for us to process than standing orders and cash. But it is entirely optional and all forms of donation are more than welcome.

At the same time, if you can see your way to including SMAAA in your will, as an expression of gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, that would be deeply appreciated. If you would like further information and guidance, in confidence, Fr Geoff and the churchwardens will be able to help. Every gift that is left to our church can make a lasting difference.