



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EPIPHANY 3

Sunday 21 January 2024

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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.

We wish you a warm welcome to our Service today. Hymns for Sunday are: HONA 76 Christ is made the sure foundation (words on back page), 520 May the grace of Christ, 418 Father, Lord of all Creation, 606 Thy hand O God has guided.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Husborne Crawley in our Diocese
The Church of South India
The World Council of Churches.

The World: A prevention of further escalation of conflict in the Middle East
Unity and common purpose between world leaders
The innocent victims of conflict.

The Community and Parish: Churches Together in Watford
Christians Across Watford
Our fellow Christians of other denominations in Watford.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Owen Hutchinson, Lisa Mills, Brian O'Riordan, Valerie O'Riordan, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed: In memory of Susan Honour.

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;
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 14.17–20

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- ¹⁷ After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).
¹⁸ And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High.
¹⁹ He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth;
²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

SECOND READING Revelation 19.6–10

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- ⁶ I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready;
⁸ to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

- 9 And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.'
- 10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

GOSPEL John 2.1-11

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

- 1 There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
- 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'
- 4 And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.'
- 5 His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'
- 6 Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
- 7 Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim.
- 8 He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it.
- 9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
- 10 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'
- 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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 each Thursday is 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.

Donations of toiletries, e.g. shower gel and deodorant (men’s and women’s), and also women’s sanitary products are needed for our Food Bank clients. Many thanks to all who give us these items.

There will be a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Wednesday January 24th 2024 St. Mary's Parish Church, Watford Town Centre 12.30p.m. Please bring your own lunch.

1.

Christ is made the sure foundation,
and the precious corner-stone,
who, the two walls underlying,
bound in each, binds both in one,
holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

2.

All that dedicated city,
dearly loved by God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the one, in threefold glory,
singing everlastingly.

3.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness,
hear thy people as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls for ay.

4.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
gifts of grace by prayer to gain;
here to have and hold for ever,
those good things their prayers
obtain,
and hereafter, in thy glory,
with thy blessed ones to reign.

5.

Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one,
one in love, and one in splendour,
while unending ages run. Amen.