



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

2nd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
Sunday 4 February 2024

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, which is a “First Sunday” service.

Hymns for Sunday are: 170 Jesus is Lord, HONA 442 Seek ye first the kingdom of God (words on back page), 546 O worship the King, 380 At the name of Jesus (t.Camberwell) .

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Southill in our Diocese
The Anglican Church of South America
The work of the Church Army.

The World: Victims of violent crime
Awareness of Black history
Awareness of LGBT history.

The Community and Parish: Our Toddler Church
Our Food Bank Clients
Our local community.

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:

Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Proverbs 8.1, 22–31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

- ¹ Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?
²² The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.
²³ Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.
²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth
—
²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.
²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
²⁸ when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,
²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,
³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

SECOND READING Colossians 1.15–20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

- ¹⁵ Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him.
¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.
¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL John 1.1–14

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

- ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was in the beginning with God.
³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life,
⁴ and the life was the light of all people.
⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.
⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.
¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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.

Many thanks to St Michael’s congregation for their wonderful generosity in donating toiletry items to the Food Bank, they have been much appreciated.

The Church of England’s Lent theme this year is “Watch and Pray”. There are resources for daily prayer and reflection, which can be received by email, through a mobile phone app, or by using a book. There is a poster at the back, and a sample of the booklet. If you would like one of the booklets, please let me know, or if you would like help accessing the online material. There will be Lent groups on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 in Church, and there is a sign up list at the back.

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you,
hallelu, hallelujah!**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!**

**We shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God,
hallelu, hallelujah!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you,
seek and ye shall find.
Knock and it shall be opened unto you,
hallelu, hallelujah!**