



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 3 March 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.

A warm welcome to our Service today. The “All-Age Service” will be held next week on 10th March which is Mothering Sunday.

Hymns for Sunday are: 368 All my hope on God is founded, 426 Firmly I believe and truly, 468 I danced in the morning, 538 O Jesus I have promised (omit*).

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Diocese of St Albans

The Church of the Province of Uganda

The Church of England's Synodical Government process.

The World: Women's freedoms in Iran

People suffering from ovarian cancer

People suffering with brain tumours.

The Community and Parish: Our keeping of Lent

People moving into our area

All those who will be standing for election.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-

Smith, Julie Alvarez, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Owen

Hutchinson, Andrew Kiddle, Lisa Mills, Brian O’Riordan,

Valerie O’Riordan, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay

Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed: William Chapman and Norma Moore.

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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 20.1–17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

- ¹ Then God spoke all these words:
- ² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
- ³ you shall have no other gods before me.
- ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
- ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,
- ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- ⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
- ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
- ⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work.
- ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.
- ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.
- ¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
- ¹³ You shall not murder.
- ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.
- ¹⁵ You shall not steal.
- ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1.18–25

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- ¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- ¹⁹ For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’
- ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
- ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.
- ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
- ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
- ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL John 2.13–22

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

- ¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.
- ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.
- ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!’
- ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’
- ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’
- ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’
- ²⁰ They then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’
- ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body.
- ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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.

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.

Lent Lunch and Bring and Buy Sale Saturday 16th March 11.30am – 2.00pm

Bag a bargain at Norma’s stall and then enjoy a delicious lunch of homemade soup with bread and cheese ably served by our Brownie friends. Lunch is priced at £5 per adult and £2 per child to include soup, bread, cheese, tea or coffee for adults and squash for children. Lunch served between 12 and 1.30pm.

Anyone able to offer assistance with soup making, setting up, food preparation, serving, washing up and tidying away please speak to Valerie Blacklock or contact on 07858763594.

All profits to Mission Giving Fund.