



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

EASTER 2

Sunday 7 April 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 which is a “First Sunday Service”.
Hymns for Sunday are: 157 - The day of Resurrection, Hymns Old & New
442 - Seek ye first (words on back page), 136 - Alleluia, alleluia, 81 - Lord
for the years.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Eyeworth (Biggleswade) in our Diocese
The Church of the Province of Alexandria [northern Africa]
Making new disciples: Courage to live one’s faith as a witness to
others.

The World: The people of Israel and Gaza
Aid-workers killed in Gaza and their families
World Health Day – the NHS.

The Community and Parish: Watford General Hospital
Our choir and organists
Our children and young people.

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,
Matthew Paterson, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay
Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, Bill Vidal, and all who care for them.

The Departed: Fernando Brandy.

Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Acts 4.32–35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ³² The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.
- ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.
- ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.
- ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

SECOND READING I John 1.1 – 2.2

A reading from the first letter of John.

- ¹ We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life –
- ² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us –
- ³ we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.
- ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.
- ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;
- ⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse
us from all unrighteousness.
10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if
anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;
2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the
sins of the whole world.

GOSPEL John 20.19–31

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

19 It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the
disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among
them and said, 'Peace be with you.'
20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples
rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
21 Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send
you.'
22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy
Spirit.
23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any,
they are retained.'
24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when
Jesus came.
25 So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them,
'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the
nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'
26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them.
Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace
be with you.'
27 Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your
hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'
28 Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'
29 Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those
who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'
30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not
written in this book.
31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the
Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Church will be open for tea and coffee on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is open for updating and will close today 7th April. If you are on the Roll and any of your contact details have changed, please let me know.

If you are not on the Roll but would like to be added, please complete a form which can be found in the Electoral Box by the servery and return it to Fr Geoff or to me today.

Simon Fowle

Electoral Roll Officer

(01923 229624 or simon.fowle@ntlworld.com)

There will be a quiz night here on the 29th June. Please save the date. More details to follow.

Hymn 2

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!