



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

EASTER 7

Sunday 12 May 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.

Hymns for Sunday are: 167 Hail the day that sees him rise, 150 Love's redeeming work is done, 163 All hail the power of Jesus' name, 166 Crown him with many crowns.

For your prayers this week:

The Church: The Parish of Baldock in our Diocese
The Anglican Church of Burundi
United Society Partners in the Gospel.

The World: The people of Rafah in Gaza
People suffering because of infected blood injections
King Charles and the Royal Family.

The Community and Parish: The Church of the Ascension, Bedmond
Our PCC members
The Chase Care Home.

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

The Departed:

Collect

O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Acts 1.15–17, 21–26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said,
¹⁶ ‘Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus –
¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.
²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’
²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.
²⁴ Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen
²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’
²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

SECOND READING I John 5.9–13

A reading from the first letter of John.

- ⁹ If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.
¹⁰ Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.

- ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.
¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

GOSPEL John 17.6–19

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

- ⁶ ‘Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.
⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;
⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.
⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.
¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.
¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.
¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.
¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.
¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.
¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.
¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.
¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.
¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in 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 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.

PCC to meet on Wednesday 15th May at 7.30pm in the choir vestry.

Christian Aid Week is 12-18th May. Donations will be very gratefully received at the table in the North aisle today and next week. They will be so thankful for any donations you are able to make to help them with their wonderful work.

St. Michael’s Quiz: Join us on Saturday 29th June at 7pm for a 7.15pm start. Tickets are £12 per person to include a Ham or Cheese Ploughman’s supper. Join us for an evening of fun and help raise much needed funds. Contact Valerie on blacklockv@gmail.com or 0785876394 for more information and to buy tickets.

Another wonderful musical by NuWorks theatre from Melbourne. 5pm on Sunday June 30th in St Michael’s. They are presenting “Treasure Island” and it is suitable for 12 years and upwards. Booking not required, free entry although donations are welcome and all donations go to church funds.