

NOTICES

On **Palm Sunday (24th March)** we will have a dramatic reading of the Passion in the service - there are 9 parts for young people. Please let Jonny know on vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk if you would like to take part. This is an excellent way to engage with the most important part of the church's year.

Palm Sunday - 24th March: We are meeting at Lower School for the 9.30 to start with a procession following a pony (acting very convincingly as a donkey...). If you have large palms, please bring them, but any greenery will do. Please let Jonny know (on vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk) if you would be prepared to take a part in the dramatized Gospel reading on Palm Sunday. There are 6 speaking parts for adults. We will rehearse on the Saturday before at an agreed time in church.

Holy week in the parish (beginning 24th March)

The Holy Week preacher for 2024 is The Vicar.

Monday:	09:30	Morning Prayer
	10:30	Holy Eucharist at the North Aisle altar
	20:00	Compline (<i>short service of prayers for the night</i>) with address
Tuesday:	09:30	Morning Prayer
	10:30	Holy Eucharist at the High Altar
	20:00	Compline with address (St Mary's)
Wednesday	10:00	Morning Prayer
	10:30	Holy Eucharist at the Nave Altar
	20:00	Compline with address
Maundy Thursday	09:30	Morning Prayer
	11:00	Diocesan Chrism Eucharist (St Albans Cathedral, all welcome)
	20:00	Holy Eucharist of Maundy Thursday with a vigil (<i>time of waiting with Jesus in silence</i>) in the Lady Chapel
Good Friday	09:30	Morning Prayer
	12:00	Children's service – stations of the cross and building the Easter Garden. Followed by hot cross buns in Parish Centre.
	14:00	Liturgy of Good Friday (with music, readings, and hymns we reflect on the cross, and receive the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist)
	20:00	Compline with address (St Mary's)
Holy Saturday	10:00	Morning Prayer
	09:30	Decorating St Michael's for Easter (<i>please bring white or yellow flowers in a vase</i>)



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

All services take place at St Michael's unless otherwise stated.

Sunday, 17th March 2024: Passion Sunday

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist
6.00 p.m.	Evensong (St Mary's)

Wednesday, 20th March

9.00 a.m.	St Michael's School Service
10.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
11:30 a.m.	Lent Course – Session 4

Sunday, 24th March 2024: Palm Sunday

8.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist
6.00 p.m.	Evensong (St Mary's)

Contact Information:

Vicar:	The Rev'd Jonny Lloyd: vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk
Address:	St Michael's Vicarage, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL3 4SL
Parish Office:	Georgie Ray: admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk (9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)
Telephone:	01727 835037 Website: www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk

Welcome to our service this morning on Passion Sunday. Junior church meets today in the churchyard; all are very welcome to join for worship and fun. If you are new and would like to know where this is, please ask a member of the clergy. Please feel free to use the Tower Room if you need privacy (e.g. nappy change) which has a sound relay of the service.

Toilets are available in the Parish Centre at the east end of the churchyard; please see a steward for access. All are welcome to stay for **refreshments** after the service in the Parish Centre. If you are new, we would love to meet you!

Collect

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Gospel Reading: John 12: 20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.'

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Almighty God, may the sacrifice we offer take away the sins of those whom you enlighten with the Christian faith. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

During communion the choir sings:

O Saviour of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us:
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee. Amen

Arthur Somervell 1863-1937

Please remember in your prayers:

- Prayers for: The children from St Michael's School preparing for baptism and confirmation this Easter.
- Ourselves, that we may walk faithfully the way of the cross.
- All who will celebrate Holy Week and Easter in fear of persecution.
- All rehearsing for the Palm Sunday service.
- those who are **ill**, including:, Nicola Cann, Ben Collins, Anne Fletcher, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Daphne Hodges, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Joanne Laws, Rhoda Limebear, Sam Mahoney, Alison Munro, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney
- the recently departed, including John Facer, Colin Roberts, Eve Souch and those who mourn them
- this week the diocese asks us to pray for: *Those who support the homeless*

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Before for the **Annual Meetings on 19th May**, the parish **Electoral Roll** needs to be revised, and **will be open for revision from 31st March**. Please note that:

- If you are already a member of the Roll, you do not need to complete a form.
- If you are a regular worshipper aged 16 and above, and not yet on the Roll, please take an Electoral Roll Application Form from the back of either church, fill it in, and return to the Parish Office at the Vicarage. Membership of the Electoral Roll gives you voting rights at parish meetings and helps keep our pastoral contacts up to date.