

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

Michaelmas

The Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels



Saint Michael's Cave, Gibraltar

The Parish Mass

Sunday 29th September 2024

10.15 am

Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our welcomers or a churchwarden who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.

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Toilet and baby changing facilities may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.

For younger children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted area equipped with age-appropriate Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of it.



¶ The Feast of St Michael and All Angels

The belief in angels is amply attested in the Bible. In heaven, in communion with holy persons on earth, are the angels, the messengers of God. Chief among these is the archangel Michael, who is the standard-bearer, the protector of Israel who leads God's armies into battle.

Michael, which means 'who is like God?' is often depicted in art with a sword as he slays the dragon, or as the protector of Christians from the devil, particularly those at the hour of death. Traditionally, Michael has the power to intercede for souls and to lead them out of hell. He may also be seen holding the scales on which good and bad deeds are weighed.

St Michael is said to have appeared at Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy, a vision which led to the foundation there in 996 of a Benedictine monastery. He was also seen on St Michael's Mount in Cornwall in the eighth century.

Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael are the three archangels named in the Bible. Gabriel, meaning 'man of God' assists Daniel to understand his visions. He foretells the birth of St John the Baptist and announces the conception of the Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He is the messenger of divine comfort.

St Raphael is one of the seven archangels who stand in the presence of God. He hears the prayers of holy men and women and brings them before God. His name in Hebrew means 'God has healed'. From this arose the Guild of St Raphael, founded in 1915, with the aim of restoring the ministry of healing as part of the normal function of the Church.

This feast-day was the original date of the Dedication of the Roman Basilica of St Michael. The additional title 'and all angels' was added to the English calendar in 1549; 'Saints Gabriel and Raphael' by the Roman revisers of 1969.

* * * * *

Setting

Mass of the Altar of Life (Gloria only)

David Halls (born 1950)

Communion Service in F

Peter Aston (1938-2013)

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *At the sound of the bell **please stand***

§ *The sanctuary party enters, and incense is blessed*

§ *The priest intones*

Let us go forth in peace.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Processional Hymn

All **SONS of the Holy One bright with his splendour,
Wakened to life at creation's new day,
First to uplift in the joy of surrender
Spirits to worship and wills to obey.**

**Armies of Michael, a heavenly wonder,
Crashed to the onset with evil on high,
Till the proud angel, o'ercome by their thunder,
Dropped on his darkening wings from the sky.**

**Stars of the morn, for creation returning
Praise to the Wisdom ordaining the whole,
Hushed their glad songs, in amazement discerning
God's very likeness in man's living soul.**

**Sentries of paradise, knew ye no sorrow,
Guarding the way with a flame of the sword?
Visioned ye not on a glorious morrow
Man by a tree to his Eden restored?**

**Gabriel came with his high salutation,
Burning with ardour and eager in flight.
'Ave Maria!' The dawn of salvation
Rose at its music and banished our night.**

**Lo, ever since, on a stairway all golden
Angels ascending, descending again!
Sion is here, if our eyes were not holden,
Praise would not fail for their service to men.**

**Praise God for Michael, in strife our defender.
Praise him for Raphael, our healer and guide.
Praise him for guardians, watchful and tender,
True to their charges in need at their side.**

**Laud to thee, Father of spirits supernal!
We with the angels adore thee, O Son!
Comforter holy, proceeding, eternal,
In thee be glory to God, three in one.**

Words Francis Arthur Judd (1878-1939)
Society of the Sacred Mission

Music Epiphany
Joseph Francis Thrupp (1827-1867)

All † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Greeting

All This is the day which the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

We have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem, to myriads of angels,
to God the judge of all,
and to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

A period of silent reflection

Kyrie Confession

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Woe is me, for I am lost; I am a person of unclean lips.
Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

Our guilt is taken away, and our sin is forgiven.
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

The Lord of eternity,
whose forgiveness has no limit,
pardon † all our sins,
cleanse us from every kind of wrong
and set our minds on the things above,
for the sake of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray:

Everlasting God,
you have ordained and constituted
the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,
so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth;
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.

All

Amen.

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the book Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that

there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world - he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Genesis 28.10-17

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

§ Stand

Hymn

All

**AROUND the throne of God a band
Of glorious angels ever stand;
Bright things they see, sweet harps they hold,
And on their heads are crowns of gold.**

**Some wait around him, ready still
To sing his praise and do his will;
And some when he commands them, go
To guard his servants here below.**

**Lord, give thy angels every day
Command to guide us on our way,
And bid them every evening keep
Their watch around us while we sleep.**

**So shall no evil thing draw near,
To do us harm or cause us fear;
And we shall dwell, when life is past,
With angels round thy throne at last.**

Words John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Music Solothurn
Swiss Traditional Melody

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

1. Choir
2. Choir and Congregation

Al - le - lu - ia.

Choir Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will.
All **Alleluia.**

All The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you get to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

John 1.47-51

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

§ Sit

The Nicene Creed

§ *Stand*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

*All may
bow* ***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.***

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

§ *Kneel*

Intercessor Father in heaven,
by his blood your Christ has ransomed us to you,
and has made us a kingdom and priests to you our God.
As the angels minister to you in heaven,
strengthen your Church to serve you here on earth.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Father in heaven,
when the angels greeted the birth of your Son
they sang for joy 'Glory to God and peace on earth'.
Bless with Christ's peace the nations of the world.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Father in heaven,
your Son has promised to your children
the care of the guardian angels who look upon your face.
Protect by your mercy our neighbours, families, and friends.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Father in heaven,
you give your angels charge over those who trust in you
to guard them in all their ways.
Be with those who are sick or in trouble ...,
rescue them and show them your salvation.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Father in heaven,
your angel declares 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.'
'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit,
'for they may rest from their labours,
for they take with them the record of their deeds.'
Enfold in your love (... and) all who come in faith
to your judgement seat in heaven.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Priest Father in heaven,
the angels sing by day and night around your throne:
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty.'
With Michael, prince of the angels, who contends by our side,
with Gabriel, your herald, who brings glad tidings,
and with the whole company of heaven,
we worship you, we give you glory,
we sing your praise and exalt you for ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

§ *Stand*

Hear again the song of the angels:
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

The bread and wine are brought forward and given to the presiding priest

The altar is prepared

Hymn

All

**STARS of the morning, so gloriously bright,
Filled with celestial resplendence and light,
These that, where night never followeth day,
Raise the Trisagion ever and ay:**

**These are thy counsellors, these dost thou own,
Lord God of Sabaoth, nearest thy throne;
These are thy ministers, these dost thou send,
Help of the helpless ones, man to defend.**

**These keep the guard amid Salem's dear bowers;
Thrones, principalities, virtues, and powers;
Where, with the living ones, mystical four,
Cherubim, seraphim, bow and adore.**

**'Who like the Lord?' thunders Michael the chief;
Raphael, 'the cure of God', comforteth grief;
And, as at Nazareth, prophet of peace,
Gabriel, 'the light of God,' bringeth release.**

**Then, when the earth was first poised in midspace,
Then, when the planets first sped on their race,
Then, when were ended the six days' employ,
Then all the sons of God shouted for joy.**

**Still let them succour us; still let them fight,
Lord of angelic hosts, battling for right;
Till, where their anthems they ceaselessly pour,
We with the angels may bow and adore.**

Words John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
from the Greek of St Joseph the Hymnographer (816-883)

Music Trisagion
Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord, we offer you a sacrifice of praise,
humbly entreating that,
as these gifts are borne by the ministry of angels
into the presence of your majesty,
so you may receive them favourably
and make them profitable for our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
You reveal your wise purpose for the salvation of the human race
by assigning to the angels and archangels
the ministry of your steadfast love and protection.

While they contemplate your glory,
standing before you and singing your praise,
they keep a faithful vigil for us,
guarding us along the way that leads to life,
and guiding us towards the kingdom of your light.
In joyful gladness we unite our voices with theirs
and sing the ageless hymn of your praise:

Choir *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.*

*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

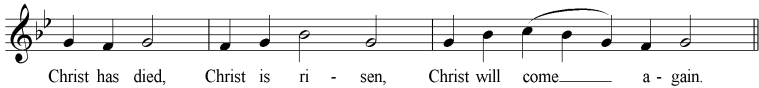
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:



And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world,
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
St Michael and the whole company of heaven,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All



The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

God rains down manna for us to eat
and gives us the grain of heaven.

All **So on earth we share the bread of angels.**

Invitation to Communion

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, alleluia!
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

All **Blessed are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb. Alleluia!**

Giving of Communion

I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
in the presence of the angels I will praise you.

Baptised persons who are communicant members of other Churches are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion.

Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet with you as a sign.

The choir sings Agnus Dei

Motet

Choir Holy is the True Light, and passing wonderful,
lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict,
from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour,
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore.
Alleluia!

William Henry Harris (1883-1973)

§ *All sit in silence for a period of personal reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

§ *Stand*

Lord of heaven,
in this eucharist you have brought us near
to an innumerable company of angels
and to the spirits of the saints made perfect:
as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage
we have shared their fellowship,
so may we come to share their joy in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

Hymn

All

**YE holy angels bright,
Who wait at God's right hand,
Or through the realms of light
Fly at your Lord's command
Assist our song,
For else the theme
Too high doth seem
For mortal tongue.**

**Ye blessèd souls at rest,
Who ran this earthly race,
And now, from sin released,
Behold the Saviour's face,
God's praises sound,
As in his sight
With sweet delight
Ye do abound.**

**Ye saints, who toil below,
Adore your heavenly King,
And onward as ye go
Some joyful anthem sing;
Take what he gives
And praise him still,
Through good or ill,
Who ever lives!**

**My soul, bear thou thy part,
Triumph in God above:
And with a well-tuned heart
Sing thou the songs of love!
Let all thy days
Till life shall end,
Whate'er he send,
Be filled with praise.**

Words Richard Baxter (1615-1691)
v 3 John Hampden Gurney (1802-1862)

Music Darwall's 148th
John Darwall (1731-1789)

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

All God bring you to the home that Christ prepares for all who love him.
Amen.

All God give you the will to live each day in life eternal.
Amen.

All God grant you the citizenship of heaven,
with his blessed and beloved,
and the whole company of the redeemed.
Amen.

All And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

All Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in C minor Op 32 No 1

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Please remain standing until the procession has departed

Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary

Collection – responding to God’s generosity

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew’s Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



*Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 9
who has generously financed
the production of this week’s service booklet.*

**Please take this booklet home
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,
and then re-cycle it.**

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