



Saint Michael's Messenger

February 2014

The traditional feast of Candlemas takes place on the 40th day after Christmas. In western churches it is celebrated on the 2nd February each year. It is the feast day commemorating the presentation of Christ in the temple and continues the religious cycle that leads up to Easter Sunday. It is also the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, which is the basis for various ancient European celebrations marking the annual beginnings of the agricultural season. For the Church, however, Candlemas remains a day of hope and light. It is a time to honour the Lord as the *Light of the World* and to remind us that we too have that light within us. 

ALAIN DEMARCHE R.I.P.

Many of our readers will be sad to know that Alain Demarche, who ran the café 'Le Beaulieu' in the Market Square for many years, died after a short illness, on 22 January 2014.

Alain and his wife Josiane left Beaulieu some years ago to run, successfully, 'La Bastide des Manons' – a Chambres d'Hotes – just outside Vidauban in the Var. I know that many associated with Beaulieu and St Michael's have visited and stayed there and much enjoyed their hospitality, the ambience of the surrounding vineyards and the exquisite food and wines served.

People will recall the successful restaurant 'Le Maxillien' also run for several years by Alain and Josiane alongside the Cafe in Beaulieu and which was a popular venue in the Market Square for dinner during the warm summer evenings especially.

Those with longer memories of St Michael's and Beaulieu will also recall that in the days of Canon Brian Matthews' Chaplaincy, tables were reserved inside the Cafe each Thursday morning for Fr Brian to meet members of the congregation and friends over coffee, a cooling beer or a glass of wine. There was always a welcome from Alain, his father and other members of the family and I know that Fr Brian valued his association with the Cafe and the facilities offered.

We send our condolences to Josiane and all the family - Alain's sister Nicole still lives in Beaulieu. We also offer our prayers for Alain that he may rest in peace.

Fr Philip

Services at St Michael's in February

We welcome Fr Derek Goddard from the UK who will be presiding and preaching at the Eucharist at 10.00 on each Sunday in February. On his first Sunday with us we will celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas). Fr Derek was, from 2006 to 2009, Priest-in-Charge of the Anglican Church in Palermo with Taormina in Sicily. He and his wife Pennie will be staying in the Chaplaincy apartment during their time with us.

Dates in early March

On Shrove Tuesday the 4th March there will be a supper party with pancakes in church at 18.30 followed by some musical entertainment. More details will be available during the early part of February.

On Ash Wednesday 5th March, (the beginning of the season of Lent) at 10.00, Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes.

The annual Retreat to Notre Dame de Laghet will take place on the 7th, 8th and 9th of March.

Further details are available on our web site.

Proposed Picnic

The Riviera churches are hoping to organise day out to Lorgues, together with a picnic on Ascension Day, 29th May. Minibuses will be available. It is a nice opportunity to meet people from our sister churches along the coast. At this stage the organisers want to know if there is a potential interest. If you think you might like to attend please let Nicola know at ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr. This does not need a firm commitment at this stage.

Tennis

The Monte Carlo Rolex tennis masters will be held on 12-20th. April this year. Tickets for the Centre Court range from €35 to €200 per day. You can book on line. Visit the site www.montecarlotennismasters.com for further details and for a visit in 3 D.

Liturgical Seasons and Colours

People often ask about the various Liturgical seasons and colours of Vestments worn by the Clergy at different times of the year. The following explanation, written by Canon Jeremy Haselock, appeared in an earlier version of 'The Messenger' and is re-printed by request.

- **ADVENT** is both a season of preparation for Christmas and a reminder of Christ's Second Coming at the end of time to be our Judge: the colour for this mingling of eager anticipation and sorrow for sin is **VIOLET**. Some churches, if they are fortunate enough, have a set of **ROSE** vestments to wear on the third Sunday of Advent when, in ancient times, the severity of the Advent fast was mitigated. In recent years some communities have worn **BLUE** vestments in Advent to distinguish the season from Lent.
- **CHRISTMAS** and **EPIPHANYTIDE** is the time when we rejoice in the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a time of feasting and celebration for which the traditional colour is **WHITE** or **GOLD**.
- **ORDINARY TIME**, between Candlemas and Ash Wednesday and again between Trinity Sunday and the last Sunday of the year, Christ the King, is marked by **GREEN** vestments and hangings.
- **LENT**, even more than Advent, is a time of sorrow for sin, for fasting and penance and for some people it is the special time for preparing for the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We should all use this season to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter. The appropriate colour is **VIOLET**. Once again, if the church possesses a **ROSE PINK** set of vestments they are worn on "Refreshment Sunday", the fourth in Lent. Some churches follow the ancient English tradition of using unbleached linen vestments with red and black stencilling for this season. This variant arrangement is known as **LENTEN ARRAY**.
- **HOLY WEEK**, from Palm Sunday up to and including the Good Friday but excluding Maundy Thursday, is marked by **RED** vestments, the colour of blood from one point of view, but also the royal colour for Christ entering his holy city and reigning from the cross as King.
- **MAUNDY THURSDAY** is observed with **WHITE** or **GOLD** vestments to celebrate the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion.
- **EASTER** is the greatest feast of the Church Year and we use **GOLD** on the day, if possible, and **WHITE** for the whole fifty days of celebration.
- **PENTECOST** celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit in tongues of fire so a bright **RED** is worn on that day.
- **TRINITY SUNDAY** is a great celebration of God's revelation of himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit so the colours of celebration, **WHITE** or **GOLD**, mark this day. The **feast of the Dedication** of the church is also kept in these colours.
- **SAINTS' DAYS** are observed with **RED** for martyrs and **WHITE** for confessors, teachers, virgins, religious, and carers for the poor. **In summary**, then, the Church uses four basic colours to help us find our way through the feasts and fasts, the celebrations and the times of preparation which make up the Christian Year. **WHITE**, **GREEN**, **RED** and **VIOLET** (with *gold, blue* and *Lenten array* as alternatives).

Want to get in touch ?

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