



Saint Michael's Messenger

January 2014

MAY WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.



One of the important dates for us to remember this month is that of the feast of the Epiphany, which is held on the 6th and originated in the east, where it was celebrated in honour of the baptism of Christ by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. The feast day was introduced in the west during the 4th century and is now associated with the manifestation of Christ to us in the persons of the Magi who visited the infant Jesus. According to Matthew 2:11 they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from 6 January until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. In France there is the tradition of serving a *galette des rois*, which is a cake shared amongst families on and around the date of Epiphany. It celebrates the arrival of the Three Wise Men in Bethlehem, and is composed of a puff pastry cake, with a small charm hidden within. The person finding the small charm is 'king' for the day. Every year, during the traditional reception at the Elysée Palace, an enormous *galette* (measuring 1.2 m across for 150 people) is made for the President of the French Republic. But the artisan baker and pastry chef responsible for making it is instructed not to put a charm in the cake because "*it would not be appropriate to find a king in the presidential palace of the Republic*".



One of the pleasures and privileges of living along the Côte d'Azur is being able to attend services at St. Michael's: our community includes such a friendly, varying group of people and nationalities, some living here permanently, having a second home here or just visiting. After the services in our welcoming Church, and having absorbed a thoughtful homily, we are able to mix, relax and communicate with those attending, maybe enjoying a coffee or a glass of wine, and a snack.

As we have been celebrating the festive season, it may be of interest to read the details of the following names of bottles of wine below -

- **A Magnum** contains 1.5 litres - that is 2 bottles of 75 cl. It is derived from the Latin word *magnum* which means « great ».
- **Jeroboam** contains 3 litres - that is 4 bottles of 75 cl. Jeroboam was the first king of Israel in the first millennium BC
- **Rehoboam** contains 4.5 litres - that is 6 bottles of 75 cl. Rehoboam was king of Judah and son of King Solomon.
- **Methuselah** contains 6 litres - that is 8 bottles of 75 cl. Methuselah, was the name of the oldest man in the Old Testament
- **Salmanazar** contains 9 litres - that is 12 bottles of 75 cl. This name was borne by five Assyrian kings. **Balthazar** contains 12 litres - that is 16 bottles of 75 cl. Balthazar was one of the three Kings who paid homage to the child Jesus after his birth.
- **Nebuchadnezzar** contains 15 litres - that is 20 bottles of 75 cl. He was the greatest king of Babylon and ruled between 605 and 562 BC.
- **Melchior** contains 18 litres - that is 24 bottles of 75 cl. Melchior was one of the three Kings to present a gift to Jesus after his birth.



Attention all drivers

Drivers in most European states will see fines for key driving offences committed abroad sent to their home country from 2014. France is one of 24 countries taking part in the initiative which will see the details of drivers shared between governments. Only the UK, Ireland and Denmark have refused to sign the cross-border treaty, which could see an extra €100 million being collected by the French government as 25% of motoring offences here are committed by foreign drivers.

The European directive covers eight offences: drink driving, driving under the influence of drugs, speeding, running a red light, not wearing a seatbelt, driving on the hard shoulder and using a mobile phone while driving, plus, for motorcyclists, not wearing a crash helmet.



Foreigners who are caught in the act of breaking the law, by a police unit on the road, may have to pay the fine on the spot or face having their vehicle impounded. Those flashed by a speed camera will receive a fine in the post.

Police have access to the car ownership register in participating EU countries and will send penalty notices directly to offenders' homes, written in their own language. Foreign offenders will be fined the penalty payable in the country of the offence, but fines vary across Europe, with Germany levying €10 for a minor speed offence while France fines offenders €68 (or €45 if paid promptly).

There is a large disparity between participating countries in the level of fines and the penalty points applicable for an offence. Due to the difference in penalty systems, no points will be taken off the licences of foreign drivers. If the penalty is not paid, the foreign police force will send repeat notices with increased fines but there is no formal procedure to force payment at the moment.

Dates to remember



The Eucharist will be celebrated at 10.00 am on every Sunday this month.

- On Wednesday 1st January at 12.00 there will be a Eucharist (Said) for New Year's Day
- On Sunday 5th we will observe the Feast of the Epiphany at 10.00 am.

Donations to Charity

Members of the congregation are reminded that any items they wish to donate (clothes, books etc.) should be left directly with the charity involved. The Croix Rouge, based in Villefranche, can be contacted on 04 93 017149.

Future Monaco events

- **14th-19th January 2014.** The 82nd Rallye Automobile Monte Carlo, following reconnaissance 11th-13th January. This will be a real marathon for the 80 competitors taking part in the event. This year marks the return of the traditional departure ceremony in Monte Carlo which will be held Place du Casino on Tuesday, 14th January 14 in the early afternoon. The Rallye will end on Sunday, 19th January with the traditional awards ceremony on the square of the Prince's Palace.
- **16th to 26th January.** The 38th Festival of the Circus will be taking place at the Espace Fontvieille starting at 8 pm. Call 00 377 92 05 23 45 for further details.
- **12th-20th April.** Monte Carlo Rolex Tennis Masters. For further information call 00 377 97 98 7000.



Want to get in touch?

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