



# Saint Michael's Messenger

May 2013

## Easter Services

Fr Peter, together with Fr Philip and Fr Tim, helped us commemorate a most memorable Easter. Following Good Friday and the emotion of one of the most important days in the Church Calendar, we arrived on Easter Day to find Saint Michael's dressed with floral decorations that did our Church proud. It was standing room only for the last people who arrived for the Service and it was rewarding to find that there were a fair number of young children who, at the end of the Service, delighted in the small wrapped chocolate Easter eggs that Fr Peter shared with them. After a glass of fizz the adults were as content as the young ones. The sun shone too!

(There is a link to photographs of the Easter flowers in St Michael's on the home page of the website)



*May 1<sup>st</sup> in France is traditionally known as La Fête du Travail (National Labour Day) and is a public holiday. On May 1<sup>st</sup> 1561 King Charles 1X received as a gift a sprig of Lily of the Valley, known as **Muguet** in French. He decided to give the ladies of the Court a sprig of the flower each year on the 1st May. The tradition of offering a small posy to a loved one, or a friend, has continued to this day.*

*In accordance with the law, flowers must always be sold from a licensed florist. However, Lily of the Valley may be sold by the general public only on the 1<sup>st</sup> May. Without a permit to do so they may be sold as long as the sprig(s) are unwrapped and not sold near a florist.*

*On the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French Revolution the Socialists decided to make May 1<sup>st</sup> the day to fight for an 8 hour working day. Protestors wore a red triangle to indicate their triple request: 8 hours sleep, 8 hours work, 8 hours to relax. This triangle was later replaced by a sprig of the flower.*



Love them or hate them, here is the news many residents have waited to read. The Swedish company IKEA will be building a new store in the St Isidore area of Nice. Construction will begin next year and it is hoped that it will be completed by 2016. It will be part of a commercial center covering 40,000 square meters. Currently 15% of the clientele of the store in Toulon come from the O6 area.

## **Do you have a Carte Vitale?**

*For those of you living permanently in France, you are probably part of the French health system and have a Carte Vitale. Have you ever wondered how the numbers on the card are formed? The first number is: '1' if you are male and '2' if you are female. The next number is the year of your birth followed by the month that you were born in. This is followed by the number of the department you live in (for a person born outside of France it is '99'). There then follows two groups of 3 figures which apply to 'CPAM'. Finally there are 2 numbers normally called the 'clef' or 'checksum'. So, if you are a lady and were born on 3 September 1950, it would begin as follows: 2 50 09 99 xxx xxx xx. When filling in a 'Feuille de Maladie' the last two digits are normally separated by a hyphen - or at least put in a box on their own.*

*If you need to be in contact with CPAM at anytime, call 3646 and follow through with the call. If you need the English speaking service, then when you are in connected, ask for the English speaking department.*

## Eurostar return - London to Aix-en-Provence.

Eurostar is bringing back its London to Lyon, Avignon and Aix-en-Provence service starting in May. There will be one train in each direction every Saturday from 4 May to 29 June, with a greatly reduced journey time. Tickets are already on sale at a cost of 109 Euros return in standard class and 229 Euros return in first class.



## Nice airport continues to grow

Further details are emerging about plans to extend terminal 2 at Nice airport. The idea of a third terminal has been ruled out here will be extension work in the direction of the river Var. Passengers will enter through a new hallway with additional shops and restaurants. Passenger numbers were up 6% year in January and February. The airport is the biggest outside Paris, with 11.2 million passengers a year.

## Who needs Satellite TV?



So many expats spend money on a satellite dish or server of some type in order to watch their own or other countries TV programmes here in the south of France. Irrespective of where your home base is, providing you have a computer, you can type in the word **filmon** into Mr. Google, follow the instructions and voila, within minutes you will have TV free of charge. Once you have it organized on your computer check out Amazon.fr or a comparative store where, for just a few Euros, you can buy a connection that fits into your PC or iPad at one end, and will fit into your TV at the other end. You can be watching your favourite programmes on your own TV. If you have downloaded to an iPad (or have the **filmon** iPad App), and you are travelling to other countries, wherever you may be you can still watch your favourite TV programmes in your hotel room - providing Wi-Fi is obtainable.

## The St. Georges Day dinner

33 people attended an excellent dinner at St Michael's to mark St Georges Day which also gave us the opportunity to say farewell to Father Peter, and George. The catering was a team effort and much appreciated by all. The mood was a mixture of warm best wishes and sadness. George was presented with a stunning new purple collar and lead (from Harrods!) and over 500 Euros were raised for Church funds.



As well as thanking us for the gift, Fr Peter told those present that after much careful and prayerful thought in recent times, he had be drawn to consider seeking his future within the Roman Catholic Church.

The first stage would be for him to be received into the Catholic Church and this would be taking place after he had left Beaulieu.

## Dates to Remember



Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00	Eucharist followed by refreshments
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00	Ascension Day, Eucharist followed by drinks and snacks
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00	Eucharist followed by refreshments
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00	Pentecost, Eucharist followed by refreshments
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00	Eucharist followed by refreshments

Want to get in touch ?

Editor (Laura): [news@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org](mailto:news@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org)  
Our website: [www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org](http://www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org)