



Saint Michael's Messenger

The Newsletter of St Michael's Church, Beaulieu-sur-Mer for May 2014

The Eucharist will be celebrated every Sunday at 10.00 am.

Welcome

We welcome Fr. Brian Warrillow, our locum priest for the months of May and June. He will be accompanied by his wife and, as he is a former Chaplain at Menton, is no stranger to the area.

Easter Sunday

Around seventy people attended the Easter Sunday Eucharist and enjoyed a sip of fizz afterwards. Thanks to generous donations of flowers and hard work by Sophie and Deanne the church was wonderfully decorated for the occasion. Pictures will be posted on the website.

Saturday 10th May

There will be a Car Boot Sale on Saturday 10th May 10.00 - 16.00 at **Holy Trinity Anglican Church**, 11 Rue de la Buffa, Nice. Parking Palais de la Méditerranée by rue du Congrès. Coffee, tea, on sale throughout the day, as well as sandwiches and cake at midday. Any donations of goods can be delivered to Rue de la Buffa between 17.00 and 19.00 on 9th May. Please do NOT deliver goods to St Michael's.

Thursday 29th May, Ascension Day

Eucharist at St Michael's at 10.00

Picnic: The Anglican Churches on the Riviera are having a picnic day out in Arc en Provence, near Lorgues, on 29th May. This is an opportunity to share fellowship with friends from our sister churches. The concept is to bring a dish to share, you can swim and walk in the gardens, starting around 10.30 finishing around 4pm. Transport can be arranged if needed. The organisers will need to know numbers so please contact Nicola as soon as possible if you would like to come. You can e-mail her at mailing@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

Sunday 8th June

Our annual Fellowship Lunch will be held in the gardens after the service on Sunday 8th June. You can either bring one of the dishes you will find on the list at the back of the Church, or make a financial contribution. (20 euros per person) Sign up with Nicola.

Fund Raising 'Workshop'

A useful 'workshop' meeting on fund raising, organised by Nicola, was held on 16th April. Some very useful suggestions were debated and they will form the basis for a report to the CCC.



A report by Fr Philip on his recent visit to Rome

Although the visit was only 3 days, to say that it was an uplifting time would be an understatement! The main purpose was to attend the Diocese in Europe Chrism Eucharist at the Anglican Church of All Saints' in Rome. Not having visited the city for more than 30 years a visit to St Peter's was an initial priority. There was a real sense of pilgrimage as we queued for entry. Once inside it was possible to spend quality time gazing at the breath-taking grandeur of the building, pause for quiet reflection in different places around the main floor of the Basilica and meditate afresh on the things people of the Christian faith have in common, whether they be Catholic or Protestant. Energetic preparations were being made for the various Holy Week and Easter ceremonies and also for the Canonisation of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II. The place was charged with an infectious atmosphere – it was good to feel part of it even for a short time.

The Chrism Eucharist is held annually in this and other Dioceses in the Anglican Communion. Clergy and Commissioned Lay Ministers come together before a Bishop to renew their commitment to ministry. The words used by the Bishop to Priests are these:

'At your ordination to the priesthood, you took authority to watch over and care for God's people, to absolve and bless them in his name, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, and to minister the sacraments of his New Covenant. Will you continue as faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, preaching the Gospel of Christ and ministering his holy sacraments?'

Priests respond with the words: *'By the help of God, I will.'* A poignant reminder of my service of God as a Priest.

The second part of the service is the Blessing of the Oils for the anointing of the sick and dying, for baptism and for Chrism – oil mixed with perfume and used at Confirmation and on the occasion of Ordination. Small quantities of the blessed oils are collected and taken back into chaplaincies for use as and when appropriate.

No one is left out of this season of renewal of commitment to faith and ministry. At the Easter Day Eucharist it is traditional that the liturgy includes the renewal of baptismal promises of all those present. Following that, the Priest sprinkles the congregation with water reminding us all of our fellowship with one another – clergy and lay – through our baptism in the risen Lord. As usual, we observed this tradition at St Michael's on Easter Day.

In this Easter season especially may God, through the Holy Spirit, renew each one of us in our commitment to his service.

Fr Philip

A letter from America – Part Two

Here is the second part of the letter published in the April Messenger. We look forward to welcoming Vance and Linda to Saint Michael's during their forthcoming visit.

Linda and I attend Sunday school classes taught by Biblical scholars, we meet twice monthly in "small groups" where we get to know more people who are members of Incarnation, and we enjoy bi-monthly gourmet dinner parties in homes of parishioners. The church is filled to overflowing throughout the year for evening classical concerts, and in addition we can hear some of the most beautiful sacred music ever written, sung by the choir, on a weekly basis. Whether in the context of a Sunday morning during Holy Communion, weekly Choral Evensong, or one of the special liturgies, it is their goal, through the power and beauty of music, to open an avenue to heaven and draw the listener that much closer to Almighty God.

After worshiping at St. Michael's for 15 years, it now seems strange to simply be part of the Sunday congregation rather than active participants in most areas of the service. However, before long we will join other volunteers who offer a considerable number of hours weekly to help in many aspects of church life. Incarnation is a community that believes God calls it to love him with our heads, hearts, and hands. This love in action has sent over \$1 million dollars in outreach support to the local community each year. Incarnation's outreach ranges from helping the Dallas homeless population with time, talent and treasure at a shelter; to volunteer support of students and teachers at local schools; building houses through Habitat for Humanity; and going abroad to help countries ravaged by disasters. In 2006, Incarnation formed a Neighborhood Ministry, based on the Catholic organization Society of St. Vincent De Paul. This organization focuses on helping the "working poor" during such times as job loss, health issues and, in general, helping them "get back on their feet".

For those interested in statistics (an amazing bit of information after our many years at St. Michael's) the annual budget of *The Church of the Incarnation* is \$4.35 million, with an annual income of over \$4.46 million, including \$3.76 million in annual pledges. Incarnation is the fastest growing Episcopal Church in America and in 2013 embarked on a Capital Campaign to build new facilities to meet its growth needs. In less than 1 month, the church raised over \$26.6 million dollars to fully fund this new venture. The church has a foundation that is endowed with over \$7.6 million dollars in investments and in 2013 gave almost \$1 million in grants and scholarships.

However, large and well funded does NOT mean cold and uncaring. We continue to be warmly welcomed each Sunday by clergy and congregation, and have become friends with several parishioners. There is a very active church community at Incarnation and one just needs to decide how, and to what extent, to become involved. It was almost impossible, after so many wonderful years at St. Michael's, to imagine that we could find anything close to the warmth and hospitality we felt there, but we have found it at *The Church of the Incarnation*.

We will be back at St. Michael's for two weeks in June and hope to see you all then.

With our love, Linda and Vance

www.incarnation.org

Want to get in touch?

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