



# Saint Michael's Messenger

## SEPTEMBER 2013



**Our patron Saint**, The Archangel Saint Michael, is one of the best known of the angels. He is honoured in christian tradition as the helper and protector of people.

The name "Michael" means "who is like unto God".

Angels are guardian spirits or guiding influences who praise God, act as messengers between God and man and serve as guardians of nations, peoples and individuals.

In the Book of Revelation St Michael leads God's armies against Satan's forces and defeats them. He is often depicted slaying Satan, who may appear in the form of a dragon

In Christianity Pope Sylvester in Rome and Patriarch Alexander in Alexandria both introduced the feast of St Michael in the fourth century. The Western Church celebrates the Feast, also known as the feast of 'St. Michael and All Angels', on September 29<sup>th</sup>. This year, as the 29<sup>th</sup> is on a Sunday, a lunch will be held after Sunday Eucharist (Please see the details on the next page).

### **Isabel Letts R.I.P.**

Those of us associated with St Michael's were saddened to hear of the death on 24 July 2013 of Isabel Letts, the wife of Fr Ken Letts, Chaplain of Holy Trinity, Nice and, until a year ago, also the Archdeacon of France. Isabel and Fr Ken had planned to return to Melbourne, Australia, following Fr Ken's retirement this summer. Sadly he will now be returning without his wife of more than 40 years.



I first met Isabel soon after they came to Nice in 1994 while I was undertaking 'locum' duties in Beaulieu for the late Canon Brian Matthews. From that time I often enjoyed her company, conversation and hospitality.

Isabel was brought up a Presbyterian in her native Australia but while studying English Literature at University there attended with friends an Anglican Midnight Mass service one Christmas Eve. She was deeply moved by the experience and from then on became a devoted Anglican in the catholic tradition. After her marriage to Fr Ken she worked tirelessly in support of his ministry often travelling around France and beyond with him in his capacity as Archdeacon. Much of what she did was in the background and often went 'unsung'. Nevertheless her wise and thoughtful counsel was appreciated by many with whom she had contact.

She maintained her strong interest in English Literature and was always ready to converse about it from her deep knowledge. Gifted with a wry sense of humour and a strong sense of proportion, Isabel took the peaks and troughs of life in her stride. Her devotion to her Lord and His Church shone through and was an example to be followed.

Our thoughts and prayers to God are for Fr Ken as he enters his retirement without Isabel at his side. Our thanksgiving to God is for Isabel's life of faith and for the way her own 'ministry' touched the lives of many.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Fr Philip

### **Dates to remember.**

Fr Harry will be presiding and preaching at the Eucharist on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September

Fr Philip will be presiding and preaching at the Eucharist's for the following Sundays 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

Fr Chad Coussmaker will preside and preach on the 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fr Philip will be with us to preside and preach on the 29<sup>th</sup>

## A note from Nicola

Dear Friends,

On 29<sup>th</sup> September we will celebrate the feast of St Michaels our patron saint. There will be a Eucharist at 10 am as usual followed by a fellowship lunch in the garden.

There is no charge as such for the lunch but those attending are kindly requested to bring one of the items/dishes on the list at the back of the church. Please sign the list so that we know numbers, or contact Nicola by e-mail: [ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr)

If you cannot bring something then a financial donation can be made instead - speak to Nicola.

Helpers are needed for setting up before the church service in the morning, washing up after lunch and the final tidy-up and glass-washing on Monday morning.

Bring a hat!

Best wishes

Nicola Karlsen



**Big Cheese** There are now over 1,000 varieties of Cheese available in France which is the third largest producer after Germany and the USA. An estimated 17 million goats' cheeses are sold each year; that makes we are told 32 sold every minute. Roquefort cheese was the first food to be awarded an Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC, - now the European AOP). Gruyère can be Swiss or French. The Swiss version, a hard cheese with a nutty, salty flavour and a favourite with chefs, has few, if any, holes while French Gruyère is required to have the holes by law. French cheesemakers produce 3,000 tonnes of Gruyère annually compared with 29,000 tonnes produced by the Swiss. It takes 2.2 litres of milk to make a Camembert and whilst the cheese must be made in Normandy to have the AOP label, the milk does not necessarily need to be local.

**Why does a bottle of wine contain 75 cl ?** One explanation I once heard is that this was considered just enough for a Frenchman to consume with his dinner each evening. Santé!

**Russian Prime Minister** Dmitry Medvedev has signed a decree to allocate around 20 million dollars (approximately 15.6 million euros) to renovate the Saint Nicolas Orthodox Cathedral located on Boulevard Tzarevitch in Nice.

"It is a great honour for the thousands of Russian citizens and worshippers who live in the region," said the rector of the cathedral, Nicolas Ozoline.

The decree was published on the Russian government official website and says that Russia will spend around two million dollars on repairs this year, 13.5 million next year and up to 4.5 million in 2015. Important construction work will be carried out on the interior and exterior of the historic building and this includes a roof renovation, lighting repairs, general rehabilitation of the cathedral façade and restoration of its gold and green turreted cupolas.

The monument, one of the finest historic treasures on the Côte d'Azur, will be handed over to the Russian Orthodox Church for 'unpaid use' when the renovation is complete. Saint Nicolas Cathedral is the largest Russian Orthodox Cathedral built outside Russia. The building was previously claimed by the Russian Orthodox Association of Nice, before a court decision in 2010 declared Russia to be the sole and rightful owner of the cathedral.

Constructed under the personal supervision of Emperor Nicolas II between 1903 and 1912, the cathedral was placed on the list of architectural monuments protected by the French State in 1987 and attracts more than 150,000 sightseers every year.



Want to get in touch ?

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