



Saint Michael's Messenger



Newsletter of St Michael's Church, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, December 2014

The Eucharist will be celebrated every Sunday at 10.00 am

May we take this opportunity of wishing all the members of the congregation of Saint Michael's Church and readers of this Newsletter, a joyful, blessed Christmastide and a happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing many of you during the festive season.

Christmas Services

Sunday 21 December at 10.00 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Eucharist.

Monday 22 December at 18.30 Joint Service of Carols and Readings with the Paroisse Catholique de Notre Dame de l'Esperance. During the service there will be a collection for the specialist work in education by UNICEF among children in Syria. Seasonal refreshments will be served at the end of the service.

Wednesday 24 December (Christmas Eve) at 19.00 First Eucharist of Christmas with the Blessing of the Crib.

Thursday 25 December (Christmas Day) at 10.00 Eucharist of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday 28 December at 10.00 Eucharist.

Thursday 1 January at 12.00 Said Eucharist for New Year's Day.

Sunday 4 January at 10.00 Eucharist for the Epiphany (transferred from 6 January).

Christmas Events

Aubagne Santon Fair in Marseille: 6th and 7th December: the *Biennale de l'Art Santonnier* and the *Musée du Santon* in Marseille exhibit a collection of 18th and 19th century *santons*.

Santons are small (2.5–15 cm), hand-painted, terracotta, nativity scene figurines produced in the Provence region of south eastern France in a traditional Provençal *crèche*. There are 55 individual figures representing various characters from Provençal village life such as the scissors grinder, the fishwife, the blind man and the chestnut seller. The first clay *santons* were created by Marseillais artisan, Lagnel (1761-1822), during the French Revolution when churches were forcibly closed and their large nativity scenes prohibited. Lagnel crafted small figurines in plaster molds and let them dry before firing them. A maker of *santons* is a *santonnier* and the creation of *santons* today is essentially a family craft, handed down from parents to children. Santons are moulded in two halves, pressed together and fused. Hats, baskets and other accessories are applied with an adhesive. When the figure is completely dry it is given a gelatin bath in order to harden the figure further and to provide a surface for the application of pigments. Faces are painted first, then hair followed by the clothing and accessories. Up until the end of the 19th century *santons* were air-dried. As a consequence, such figures were fragile and easily broken. Modern *santons* are generally fired in a kiln. There are two types of *santons*: *santons d'argile* (basic clay figures) and doll-like *santons habillés* (clothed figures). Since 1803 *santonniers* have gathered in Marseille each December to display and sell their wares at the *Foire des Santonniers*.



Nearer to Beaulieu is **Mouans Sartoux**, where the **Santons Fair** is the oldest and largest in the Alpes Maritimes. It is held at the Médiathèque until the 24th and you will see figures from 2cm – 40cm. Contact www.mouans-sartoux.com for further details. Entry is free.

Menton's Christmas Festival runs from the middle of December through to the first week of January. The casino gardens are transformed into winter wonderland with circus sideshows and all manner of entertainments. You can follow a trail around the alleys of the old town where dozens of nativity scenes have been placed in windows, grottos and various unexpected nooks and crannies. Along the seafront a little village of wooden huts springs up, in reality stalls selling crafts and antiques. The Christmas market is usually open between 10am and 7pm but please check with the local tourist board. Tel: 04 92 41 76 76 or www.tourisme-menton.fr.

In **Monaco** the annual Kermesse will be held in the Chapiteau at Fontvieille on Saturday 6th December. It will be the 45th Ecumenical charity fair. This is a fun day out for all the family; lots of bargains and a good way to help fill your Christmas gift list. Over 25 stalls, plus food stalls and snack bar (If anyone has any donations for this good cause they can be delivered to the Circus tent Thursday 4th or Friday 5th between 9 am and 6 pm).

Antibes

On Sunday 7th December at 5.30pm, **Snow White**, inspired by the Brothers Grimm, is a family orientated musical combining dance, comedy and songs and is performed by an energetic troupe of twelve artists, will be held at the Azurarena Antibes, 250 rue Emile Hugues - ZA des 3 Moulins, Antibes. Telephone: 04.97.23.40.40. With attractive costumes and scenery, the artists act, dance and sing to the music of André Manoukian. A show for everyone which will have you spellbound. Adult seating (not numbered): 25€ - Children under 12: 20€

Beaulieu

On Tuesday 16th at 20.15 there will be a broadcast of the Royal Ballet's performance of Christopher Wheeldon's ballet – *Alice in Wonderland* at the Cinéma in Beaulieu, avenue Albert 1er. Tickets are €21. Call 04 93 87 84 38 for any further details.

This month we join Sophie and Rex in

CAIRNS, North Queensland – Sunday 16th February - 30°

We were then in the Coral Sea and disembarked at Martin Jetty to travel to Kuranda by Skyrail giving us magnificent views over the rain forest. The rugged mountain scenery, deep ravines and tumbling waterfalls were a feast to the eye after parched towns in the South. It rains heavily in this forest area so the grass is green and the lush flora is magnificent. I have never seen a laburnum as high as I have seen it here. We made two stops from the Skyrail to admire the views and take photographs of Barron Gorge National Park and loved every minute of the 7,5 km journey.



Kuranda, 'The Village in the Rainforest', is mainly geared towards tourism and features a butterfly sanctuary, a heritage market with aboriginal art, a venom zoo (for snake lovers!), a Birdworld and many more attractions, as well as being a great centre for rainforest walkers. Kuranda station is Heritage listed. It was completed in 1905 and is surrounded by tropical gardens. From here we boarded the scenic railway, travelling on a narrow gauge, for our return trip to Freshwater. The distance between Kuranda and Cairns is 37 kms. This amazing railway line is a monument to the hundreds of men engaged in its construction and to those who lost their lives. The construction started in 1887 primarily to facilitate gold mining in the area. The 1720 class locomotives are adorned in the colours of the Budi Dji painting. Aboriginal artist George Riley depicted Budi Dji as a Carpet Snake said to have carved out the Barron Gorge.



Auction of Promises- a final reminder

The Auction closes on the 5th December. The following lots have not received bids, so you might succeed with a Reserve price bid.

Lot 1. Veteran car tour of Monaco with lunch at the Automobile Club.

Lot 5. The Monaco Celebrity lunch at the Café de Paris.

Lot 6. Les Azuriales Opera at the Villa Ephrussi.

Lot 7. A day's DIY in the Nice area.

The other lots are still open but have bids in excess of the Reserve prices. Please do consider these and circulate to your friends and colleagues. Remember the Catalogue is available on the St. Michael's website.

Editor Needed!

Our Editor, Laura, will be spending much more time away from Beaulieu and will consequently be unable to continue with the Newsletter after this her 25th edition of St Michael's Messenger. We are looking for someone to take up this important task, possibly someone reading this issue now! The Editor prepares the newsletter in Word or similar format and it is then converted ready for e-mailing and posting on the website. If you think you could help please contact:

Nicola mailing@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org or

Hugh info@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

In the meantime, we can assure you that forthcoming services and events will be posted on the website and kept up to date as soon as the information becomes available.

www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org