



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, August 2016

The Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at 10.00 am followed by refreshments

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday	7th August	10h00	Eucharist – <i>The Transfiguration</i>
Sunday	14th August	10h00	Eucharist – <i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Sunday	21st August	10h00	Eucharist – <i>Trinity 13</i>
Sunday	28th August	10h00	Eucharist – <i>Harvest</i>

FATHER'S NOTES... Reassurance



Some weeks have passed since the terror attack in Nice. The injured victims, families and friends of those who died and those who witnessed the scenes will still be suffering, but for many others, initially shocked by the event, life will have moved on and a sense of normality will have resumed.

This kind of thing has been happening in other parts of the world for some time now. The unexpected loss of anyone's life can occur at any time and whether it's caused by nature, accident, negligence or the deliberate action of someone, it is always tragic and heart-breaking for those personally involved.

The tragedy is compounded when victims are innocent and vulnerable and their deaths and injuries have been caused by someone else's violence. This explains the understandable anger and frustration we can feel - against the perpetrator, against people or systems that may have prevented it, and even anger at God because of the injustice, unfairness and unnecessary pain and loss. This is an enduring experience for mankind and also an enduring mystery of our faith.

We find such feelings written in the Psalms, in Wisdom Literature and especially in the Book of Job where suffering becomes a test of faith. In the Gospels we read of Jesus being affected by the human tragedies and death around him but finding in them opportunities to call upon the Father's grace and mercy for healing and restoration. St Peter refers to our situation in the world and the place of Jesus in our lives when he writes, *Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in your faith and in the knowledge that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering....* (1 Peter 5: 8,9)

We cannot escape from those sad and painful experiences of life but we also believe that God still watches over us and still blesses and protects us, even when we are not aware of it. There is a mystery to this; our prayers to avoid tragedy are not always answered as we would wish and when that happens we should remember Jesus' prayer, *My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will* (Matthew 26:39).

Although the lives of a great many people have been irrevocably changed by what happened in Nice, it doesn't change the situation we have really always been in - which is to put our trust in God and to carry on our lives by his commandments and by the standards and values taught by Christ. Don't be fearful, Jesus would say, don't put your trust in anyone or anything but God - *for he alone can save* (James 4:12).

Fr Tony

Flowers on Promenade des Anglais, Nice, Sunday after Bastille Day



'THE VIEW FROM THE PRESBYTERE...



What a shocking month this has been for France and other places in Europe and around the world. Here at St Michael's, we have joined with friends, family and complete strangers from all around the world in praying for all those touched in any way by the atrocities that have dominated the news for weeks now. We opened the doors of the church for the three days of French National Mourning, and whilst there were not hoards of people coming in, there was a steady stream who came in quietly, lit a candle, sat in quiet contemplation, then left as quietly as they arrived. For those who helped with that initiative by opening up the church and overseeing it, a huge thank you. Social Media has been an outlet for the outpouring of grief, shock, outrage. A powerful message and a powerful reminder that there are millions around the world who share our own disgust at the cowardly perpetrators of these atrocities. On hearing about Fr Jacques Hamel, the frail elderly priest who was murdered in his church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, I simply wrote 'Just stop!'. People questioned why we can't all just live in peace and respect of one another, to which someone wrote, 'how?'. It feels as though the world's moral compass has gone mad, but actually there is still so much good in the world - and that's what has kept my heart and spirit buoyed amidst the terror and hate of the past weeks. I received an email from a stranger offering a steady stream of food over the summer months for the hungry and homeless; one of our new congregation members told me of her amazing charity, which she runs in China (more on that next month); I've spoken with the organisers of the refugee relief in Ventimiglia; I've seen my friend do an amazing (albeit crazy!) wing-walk, raising thousands of pounds for the premature baby unit she works on; another friend has raised funds for rough terrain buggies for her severely disabled twins so they can enjoy the great outdoors - and people gave without question! All this in just one month... a month with end to end examples of butchery and devastation with the lives of thousands of people changed forever, but which has been counter-balanced by so much good in the world. While praying for peace, respect and a better world, I also give thanks for the peace, respect and better world I have personally experienced this month.

Fiona

PRESENTATION AND ADMISSION OF CHURCH WARDEN

During July, Barry was officially presented and admitted as church warden to St Michael's by Fr Tony for the 5th consecutive year. To keep everyone up to date with the duties and role expected of the church warden, here are the official guidelines, agreed during the service:

'Church wardens are officers of the Bishop and lay leaders of the parish.

Your role, by Canon Law, is to be foremost in representing the laity and in cooperating with the priest-in-charge;

you are, by example and precept, to encourage parishioners in the practice of true religion

and to promote peace and unity among them.

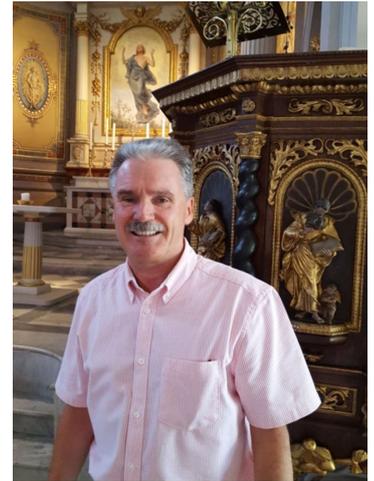
With the help of God and in collaboration with all the baptised, you are called to holiness of life and to be a person of integrity;

recognising your accountability for the tasks entrusted to you.

You have particular responsibilities for the fabric and furnishing of St Michael's.

You must ensure that alterations and repairs are done as required by authorisation through Faculty.

You should ensure that the inventory of the church's land and property is kept up to date, and that the church, with its land and property, is properly maintained.'



Thank you, Barry for all your hard work, both in front and behind the scenes.

WIRING AND LIGHTING UPGRADE



Those of you who were in St. Michael's on July 3rd last will have noticed some "work in progress". So what was being done?

In the interest of safety we have installed illuminated emergency exit signs over the doors, removed and upgraded some old and dangerous wiring, some of which was so old it was covered, not in plastic or rubber insulation but in silk/hessian. The main fuse board was replaced and some much needed light switches were fitted. It is hard to imagine, but for the last number of years we have been operating the lighting directly from the fuse board as there were no switches. It was as they say, 'an accident waiting to

happen'. All of the above was legally necessary for St. Michael's to continue operating as a public building.

While this work was being done we took advantage of the scaffolding being on site to reorientate the lighting in the sanctuary and bring it in line with our current form of worship. The old halogen spot lamps on the pillars in the nave have been replaced with modern LED fittings which consume considerably less electricity and will be more flexible in their usage.

The entire project, which has been in the planning for almost four years, was financed from a bequest by former Priest in Charge, the late Canon Roger Greenacre.

The Chaplaincy Church Council have identified several more restoration and improvement projects which we hope to achieve, subject to funding, in the short to medium term. We believe that we are the guardians of this beautiful church and that it is our privilege and indeed our responsibility to pass it on to the next generation in good condition. If you feel that you might like to contribute to one of these projects and would like further information please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Fr. Tony.

Barry

ST MICHAEL'S SALE OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND PROMISES



Many of you will remember the Auction of Promises that we held in 2014 to raise funds for St Michael's. Due to the generosity of the donors of the promises and the members who bid for them we raised €8,500-00. At the June meeting the Chaplaincy Church Council (CCC) decided to try something similar again this year but to make it simpler to organise and participate by making it a sale of items and promises rather than an auction.

Please donate

The donor of the gift or promise will suggest the value/price, we will put together a brochure with final set prices and it will go to the first person to offer and pay that price when the sale opens. The first thing we need to do is to determine whether we can put together an attractive list of gifts and promises. To give you an idea, in 2014, promises included a day out sailing/cruising, a day's DIY, a visit to the opera, a tour of Monaco in a vintage car and two weeks in an apartment. This time we would also like to include gifts – you may have quality items that you no longer want or have the room for, ornaments, paintings, unwanted gifts.... Given the type of sale we want to offer we are looking for a minimum suggested value of €200-00. We will hold the sale in mid November.

Other suggestions:

- ✓ Designer handbags (nearly new condition)
- ✓ Gift items, brand new still in original wrapping
- ✓ Art works (with proof of provenance)
- ✓ Apartment rental
- ✓ Services:
- ✓ IT support eg setting up virus software, sorting out a facebook page, webpage, Skype, teaching basic email skills , troubleshooting problems etc
- ✓ Cooking, preparing a dinner party at someone's home
- ✓ French administrative help

Any items can be brought to the church to be put on display. Fiona will be the contact.

If you can help in the first instance could you please let Jeremy have a very brief description of the item/promise and the value by 31st August. (Please note that mains electrical items cannot be accepted because of Health and Safety issues).

Please do think about what you could donate - a successful sale will be a real boost to our finances. You can contact me:

By email - nordbergjs@aol.com

By text - 0044 (0)7979 241759

By mail - Twelfth House, Ray Mead Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 8NJ, UK

Jeremy Nordberg
On behalf of The Chaplaincy Church Council

Want to get in touch?

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