



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, September 2016

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday	3rd September	17h30	Wedding Blessing
Sunday	4th September	10h00	Eucharist – <i>Trinity 15</i>
Sunday	11th September	10h00	Eucharist – <i>Holy Cross</i>
Tuesday	13th September	10h00	CCC Meeting
Saturday	17th September	16h30	Wedding Blessing
Sunday	18th September	10h00	Eucharist – <i>Trinity 17</i>
Sunday	25th September	10h00	Eucharist – <i>Trinity 18</i>
Sunday	2nd October	10h00	Eucharist St Michael and all Angels - Patronal Feast and Lunch

FATHER'S NOTES... A sign for our times



There is nothing more contentious than the sign of peace! Most everyone of a certain generation of church goers will remember when it was 'first' introduced into the liturgy and how in churches it led to an unseemly disturbance with people milling about the aisles and others lurking behind pillars to avoid it all. In many churches the sign of peace degenerated into a disruptive distraction from the solemnity of the liturgy and not at all what it was originally meant to be.

The sign or kiss of peace, often just simply called the Peace, derives from pre-Christian customs of kissing on the cheek not just as a greeting but also to convey friendship and trust. St Paul and St Peter referred to it when they urged the first Christians to *Greet one another with a holy kiss* (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 1 Peter 5:14). The practice was made extra special by repeating the greeting Jesus used after his resurrection, *Peace be with you* (Luke 24:36; Matthew 28:9). By the 2nd century we find the Peace as an integral part of the Eucharist. But where the Peace occurs within the liturgy and how it is performed is developing. It was originally placed before the Eucharistic Prayer, as we still find in the Church of England and some Catholic rites, connected to Jesus saying *Go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God* (Matthew 5:24). In other rites it is placed after the Eucharistic Prayer signifying our spiritual communion with Christ and thereby our union with one another in his Body. There are many perspectives to this but, regardless of where the Peace is placed, it represents the faith and trust we have in Christ because it is his peace we offer, not our own. And this brings us to the main problem of the Peace – how it is performed. Originally it was a kiss, offered from men to men and women to women. Then it was only done by the clergy, stylising it into placing the hands on the shoulders instead of a kiss. In the 13th century the Archbishop of York introduced a pax board – an object such as an icon or image fastened to a handle which was held out for people to kiss instead of the person!

Various ways of presenting the Peace arose out of different cultures; the hand-shake, the hug, a touching of finger tips, a bow. Whatever the form it takes, respect for its meaning and reverence for Christ is what counts. The Peace should not be like a normal greeting between

people and certainly not the occasion for banter or joking; instead it should reflect the words of Jesus, *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.* Guidance by the Church indicates the solemnity with which the Peace should be performed: e.g. avoid any accompanying music or song; avoid moving around to exchange the sign of peace; the priest should not leave the altar and move about the church; there should be no expressions of congratulations, good wishes or condolences... In other words, offer and acknowledge the peace of Christ and do so with appropriate dignity.

The way we perform the Peace at St Michael's should convey its spiritual and theological meanings. We take part in a sign or gesture that shows *Peace be with you* are not empty words but a commitment on our part to engage in the love Christ has for each one of us, to celebrate our union in him and to proclaim the peace he gives to us. In a world where hatred and violence are being associated with religion, our sign of peace is also a sign of hope.

Fr Tony

'THE VIEW FROM THE PRESBYTERE...



One of the earliest lessons I taught our children was the value of charitable giving and volunteering. They each have a strong social and moral conscience and have volunteered for all sorts of charities, from soup kitchens to charity shops, and from helping at an Owl Sanctuary to fostering cats!

When our daughter Claire was in her first year at high school she had an essay to write for her RE homework, and it had to be about someone whose life or work inspired her. She was completely in awe of a tiny Roman Catholic nun, a Nobel peace laureate who dedicated her life to helping the poorest of the poor in the Indian city of Calcutta. As a family, we sat around the dinner table one evening talking about the homework assignment and this inspirational nun; we all agreed that her humility, her humanity, her fearless disposition and the way she practiced her faith could not fail to inspire even the hardest heart. Claire had read that the nun had founded the Missionaries of Charity, a holy order that grew to include 3,000 nuns and 400 brothers in 87 countries, tending to the poor and dying in the slums of 160 cities. As we were chatting, Tony told us that whilst he was at the English College in Rome, each week he would travel to a convent outside of the city where he would celebrate the Eucharist. He spoke of how the nuns would sit on the floor for the service, and how he would join them. On one occasion however, there was an elderly nun visiting the convent and she was sitting on a chair, but she stood up when Tony entered and insisted he take her chair - of course he resisted, but she was a force to be reckoned with and would not take no for an answer. She then sat on the floor with the other sisters for the service. Tony later found out that the visiting nun was the founder of the order, the nun who had inspired Claire, it was Mother Teresa herself. Tony's personal encounter with Mother Teresa and his witness to her great humility was what would make her essay come to life...

Claire wrote a super essay, full of passion for the life and work of this amazing woman whose enormous compassion has had a huge impact on her.

Every day we strive to be a better person than we were yesterday, but sometimes it can feel futile, especially when we're doing our best and it doesn't seem to be quite enough. So, in the month that Mother Teresa is to be made a saint, I'd like to share a few of her wise words, words that always help me if I feel like I just want to stop giving...

Fiona



"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

— Mother Teresa



HARVEST

On the last Sunday of August we celebrated 'Harvest', asking ourselves what will you harvest and present before God?'

A retiring collection was taken to raise money for selected charities supported by St Michael's.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL CHARITY CONCERT:
"FRIAR ALESSANDRO SINGS FOR THE SCHOOL OF JOY"**

ON: SUNDAY OCTOBER 9th At 16h

AT: ST CHARLES CHURCH, Bd Des MOULINS, MONACO



Friar Alessandro, the famous Italian tenor, who is also a real Franciscan friar, is returning to Monaco in October to sing in a charity concert for the orphaned and handicapped children in the School of Joy in Bethlehem.

Friar Alessandro recorded his first album with Decca in the famous, Abbey Road studios in London. "Voice of Assisi" was a great success, particularly in Italy and in the UK. (Alessandro was a finalist in the Classic Brit awards 2013) and sang in the Royal Albert Hall in aid of the Great Ormond Street Hospital. His second album, "Voice of Joy" was recorded in Bethlehem and his third, "Voice of Peace" was recorded in Canterbury Cathedral. He continues to combine his religious life with his concerts in numerous countries and appears frequently on Italian television. In 2014, he was honoured by the Italian government as European Personality of the Year for Culture.

The School of Joy for abandoned, orphaned and handicapped children was founded by Father Mamdouh Abousada, a Palestinian priest, in 1995. It currently looks after 65 children with ages ranging from 5 to 18. The aim is to provide health insurance for these poor children who all need a variety of health aids and treatment and to educate as many of them as possible them for independent living later on.

There are no tickets for this concert and Friar Alessandro is offering his services freely. Donations for the Bethlehem school during the concert will be greatly appreciated and every euro will make a great difference to a child's life and future.

Do come along to support the School of Joy and hear the beautiful voice of Friar Alessandro.



Peter making olive wood souvenirs at The School of Joy; Friar Alessandro



ST MICHAEL'S PATRONAL FEAST DAY AND FELLOWSHIP LUNCH **On: 2nd October after the Eucharist**

Cost 20 euros per person, children free.

We do need to know numbers so please book now for this very popular and enjoyable event.

Help is needed as always with food preparation, setting up, and clearing up.

Donations of salads, desserts and wine are also most welcome

Contact Nicola on: ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr

ST MICHAEL'S SALE OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND PROMISES



Thank you to those who have donated items for the St Michael's Christmas sale, if you have more ideas please let Jeremy have a very brief description of the item/promise and the value by 30th September. (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

Please donate

The donor of the gift or promise suggests the value/price, we put together a brochure with final set prices and it goes to the first person to offer and pay that price when the sale opens. Examples include 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 e.g. 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.

Jeremy Nordberg



Want to get in touch?

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