



## Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, October 2017

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

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday	1st Oct	10h00	Eucharist – St Michael & All Angels followed by parish lunch
Sunday	8th Oct	10h00 11h45	Eucharist – Trinity 17 Danish Lutheran Service
Sunday	15th Oct	10h00	Eucharist – St Luke
Sunday	22nd Oct	10h00	Eucharist – Trinity 19
Saturday	28th Oct		Wedding Blessing
Sunday	29th Oct	10h00	Eucharist – Ss Simon & Jude

### FATHER'S NOTES...



At the beginning of this month we held our annual celebration in honour of St Michael the Archangel and all the angels. It was the occasion to renew the dedication of St Michael's and special prayers were said at various places in the church - each prayer recalling the specific role those places have in our worship and spiritual life. I have reproduced them below so that if you were not able to join us on that particular Sunday you can still be reminded of why so many Christians, from all around the world, regard St Michael's as their church on the Riviera.

*We who are gathered here know that this church of St Michael's has for over a century been dedicated and set apart for the ministry of God's Holy Word and Sacraments.*

*We offer our thanks for God's work through this building.*

At the Doors:

*We thank you Father, for your grace and mercy offered to all. Let those who enter through the doors of our church find sanctuary and peace. Amen. We give thanks that the gates of Heaven are open to us!*

At the Organ:

*We give you thanks, Lord our God, for the music of the ages. May we never cease in our praise of you, that the whole world may know you alone are God. Amen. We give thanks for those who lift their voice to you in song!*

At the Font:

*We thank you, Father, for the waters of baptism whereby we are buried with Christ in his death and so share in his resurrection. Let all who have been baptised in this church ever live as his disciples. Amen. We give thanks for our new life by water and the Spirit!*

At the Memorials:

*Father, your Son Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, conquered death; grant mercy and peace to those who are remembered in our memorials and prayers. May we also be*

*remembered as your faithful people and share with them the promise of eternal life. Amen. We give thanks for those who have died in faith!*

At the Statue of St Michael:

*We thank you, Lord, for the Archangel Michael and for his part in vanquishing the army of Satan. May he continue to be our powerful protection against all spiritual evils and earthly temptations. Amen. We give thanks for our patron Saint Michael!*

At the Nave:

*Father, your Son, Jesus Christ, taught us to praise you for your holiness, to pray for the coming of your kingdom and the fulfilment of your will in heaven and on earth; grant to all who pray here, individually and as a community, everything to sustain them in body and soul. Amen. We give thanks that you hear our prayers made in faith!*

At the Pulpit and Lectern:

*Almighty God, whose word comes from the Holy Scriptures; inspire your faithful ministers with wisdom and insight to announce the Good News and teach the Way of Christ. Amen. We give thanks for the word of the Lord!*

At the Sanctuary:

*Almighty God, from whom all holiness comes; here you have confirmed your people in their Christian commitment; you have forgiven the sins of those who repent; you have blessed those who have made their marriage vows and you have given hope to those who are bereaved. May your Spirit be always with your people that they may know your everlasting love. Amen. We give thanks for those who are blessed by the Lord!*

At the Altar:

*Loving Father, here at this table we have gathered to be fed with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. May we who have shared his body, live his risen life. We, who have shared his cup, bring life to others. We, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Amen. We give thanks for feeding us at the table of the Lord!*

*Heavenly Father, accept this thanksgiving for your church of Saint Michael; may it continue to be a sacred place where your people are welcome to meet you and receive your grace. Amen. Thanks be to God!*

St Michael's can be seen from different perspectives – as a gem of architecture in a beautiful setting, as historically significant, as an international and multi-denominational fellowship, as a church that welcomes strangers as much as regulars - but it should above all be a place where the atmosphere and liturgy help people experience something of the mystery of God and the comforting and strengthening presence of Christ in their lives.

**Fr Tony**

## **'THE VIEW FROM THE PRESBYTERE...**



So many of us are mourning the loss of loved ones just now. It's always difficult to know what to say when someone dies, and especially so when those left behind are not blessed with having a faith or belief in God. It would be so much more difficult to cope with the loss if we didn't have the certain knowledge that our loved one is whole again and at peace, and that we will be together again.

There are many clichés surrounding bereavement, and here's the thing, most of them are actually true, but hearing them is usually of no comfort at the time. However, there is a short quote my family and I used for the prayer cards when my mum died that really did bring us comfort, and

has continued to do so down the years. It gives clarity and sense to the pain we feel when someone dies. I'd like to share it with you in the hope that it may help someone else...

*Nothing can fill the gap when we are away from those we love, and it would be wrong to try to find anything. That sounds harsh at first, but at the same time it is of great consolation since leaving the gap unfilled preserves the bonds of love between us. It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap; He does not fill it, but keeps it empty so that our communion with one another may be kept alive, even at the cost of pain.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Please remember that if you would like a loved one remembered in the Book of Remembrance at church, then do let Father Tony have the details.

**Fiona**

## **CONDOLENCES**

We were very sad to hear that **Paul Couch** who, with his wife Judith, was a long-term regular visitor to St Michael's has passed away. Our condolences to Judith and all his family.

## **CCC SCENE**

For the Chaplaincy Church Council meeting in September agenda items were sent out in advance and those who couldn't attend contributed their views by e-mail.

The CCC were reminded of voting procedures and that the quorum for business remains at a minimum of 4 members. In relatively ordinary matters a simple majority vote of those present would suffice but in more serious matters affecting the church a majority of ALL members would be sought using e-mail for those unable to attend the meeting.

The situation of the electoral roll was discussed and it is stressed that the whole purpose of being on the electoral roll of any church is, for those who wish and are eligible, to be able to attend the Annual General Meeting and vote on the election of council members and officers. It has no effect on anyone's membership of St Michael's by their attendance, affiliation or support.

It was agreed that refreshments after services should be offered as currently and with the same suggested donations.

The Council also agreed on suggested donations for the use of St Michael's for services and secular events and these are now printed in the Information File at the back of the church. It was also agreed that the church building and grounds (including the shed, boiler room and garden) should not be used for storing anything other than those materials required for our services, fellowship events and church maintenance.

The Churchwarden provided his report which showed progress in compiling a new inventory and conducting repairs in the church and grounds. Our Webmaster gave an update report on maintenance and current tasks on the website. The Safeguarding Officer's report referred to the forthcoming Diocesan inspection by the Social Care Institute for Excellence and reassured us on the issue of confidentiality in reporting. The chaplain was able to report on services held in the church, pastoral matters and also on our assistance to the recent Les Azuriales Opera competition.

All in all this was a productive meeting which ended with ten minutes to spare!

**Fr Tony**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



### **ST MICHAELS PATRONAL FEAST DAY AND FUNDRAISING LUNCH**

**On: 1st October after the Eucharist**

Cost 25 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](mailto:ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr)

### **CONCERT FRA ALESSANDRO D'ASSISI**

**On: Friday 20 October, 20h**

**At: Eglise Saint-Charles, Blvd des Moulins, Monaco**

The famous Italian tenor, Fra Alessandro, Franciscan friar, who some of you came to hear last October in Monaco is coming back again to sing for the School of Joy, in Bethlehem. This is a small school for poor and abandoned, handicapped children and relies entirely on donations.



Fra Alessandro (ténor)  
Padre Marco (violon)  
Fra Davide (guitare)

Alessandro will perform with his Franciscan brothers; Marco, the violinist and Davide on the guitar.

It is going to be a very special and beautiful little concert. Entry is free but donations are more than welcome!

Pace et Bene,  
Josephine



#### **Want to get in touch?**

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