



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, March 2019

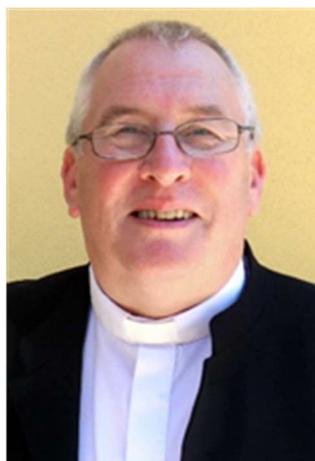
The Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at 10.00 am followed by refreshments

Dates for Your Diary:

Sunday	3rd March	10h00	Eucharist Next before Lent
		11h45	Danish Lutheran Service
Tuesday	5th March	18h00	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday	6th March	10h00	Ash Wednesday Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
Sunday	10th March	10h00	Eucharist 1 st in Lent
Sunday	17th March	10h00	Eucharist 2 nd in Lent
Tuesday	19th March	10h00	CCC Meeting
Friday	22nd March	12h00	Lenten Service
Sunday	24th March	10h00	Eucharist 3 rd in Lent
Friday	29th March	12h00	Lenten Service
Sunday	31st March	10h00	Eucharist Laetare – Mothering Sunday
Sunday	7 th April	10h00	Eucharist – 5 th in Lent
Sunday	14 th April	10h00	Eucharist – Palm Sunday Followed by Annual Church Meeting
Tuesday	16 th April	10h00	CCC Meeting
Thursday	18 th April	18h00	Passover (Book in Advance)
Friday	19 th April	15h00	Good Friday Service
Sunday	21 st April	10h00	Eucharist – Easter Sunday
		11h45	Danish Lutheran Service
Sunday	28 th April	10h00	Eucharist – St Mark

Also every Friday at 19h00 – Pentecostal Service (in French)

Father's Notes...



Should we be surprised when we hear of a church suffering discord and dissension? We are certainly saddened but not surprised because that kind of thing has been happening since the very beginnings of the church. The letters of Saint Paul testify to the problems of the first church communities in Rome, Corinth, Galatia and Philippi; but what is surprising is that over centuries and generations we seem not have learned the lessons St Paul taught in his letters.

He noted that people were different and that their vocations or gifts for the church were also different. They may have had alternative views or emphases but St Paul urged respect in all cases. A rift in a church often derived from people taking it upon themselves to make judgements about others and not making allowances for differences. When personal pride replaced humility in Christ, and authority was the concern rather than love, then it was no surprise that a church could fall apart with excommunications and schisms.

Any church that truly represents the Church of Christ is much more than an institution. A church exists as a gathering of the baptised who are joined together by the Holy Spirit; and each member, whether ordained or lay, is called to reflect and imitate the life and work of Jesus Christ. Basically, the church is meant to be a holy and spiritual gathering where the Word of God and the grace of the Sacraments keep us in union not only with God but with one another.

Far from judging others, we should examine ourselves and ask the question, how far do we, by our conduct in what we say and what we do, genuinely reflect the attitude of Christ in the Gospel? St Paul frequently challenged the consciences and standards of church members and here are just two small examples:

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...

(Philippians 2:3-5)

Sometimes, however, attitudes and conduct become intractable and irreconcilable because people always have a free will and some people choose to behave in ways that are not compatible with the Gospel. Jesus anticipated this when he sent out his disciples to the towns and villages - *If the home is worthy, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. And if anyone will not welcome you or heed your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town (Matthew 10: 13,14).*

I ask the people of St Michael's to pray for churches beset with such problems that the Holy Spirit will prevail and turn hearts once more to love and unity in Christ.

The View from the Presbytere ...



Tony and I have always been a team - in the parish when he was a curate, throughout our many army postings and of course here at St Michael's, and hand on heart, I've always given of my best, but naturally you can't please everyone all of the time! One of the nicest compliments Tony and I have received over the years, about how we conduct ourselves, is that we treat everyone the same - the young/the elder, the 3 Star General/the private soldier, those without much/those who are very comfortable. We treat all who we encounter with the same respect and hope for the same in return. Like everyone, there are times when our Christian values are tested, and these past months have been challenging for me.

I have a huge devotion to Our Lady, Mary Mother of God, our Blessed Mother. I know that's not particularly Church of England, but when I'm really struggling, I always turn to Mary to intercede on my behalf. In our prayers to Mary, we honour and worship her Son, who is more than happy to listen to His mother's pleas on our behalf, so I have no problem offering my prayers to her. There are three most beautiful prayers that I can pull out any time day or night that calm, that comfort, that reassure me: Hail Mary, Hail Holy Queen and the Memorare. I learnt these prayers over 50 years ago and they have served me well ever since.

I recently read about a way of praying a novena that was used by Mother Teresa of Calcutta, it was her spiritual rapid-fire weapon. It consisted of ten Memorares — not nine, as you might expect from the word novena. Praying a Novenas lasts nine days and was quite common among the Congregation of her Order, the Missionaries of Charity. But given the host of problems that

were brought to Mother Teresa's attention, it was often just not possible to allow nine days for an answer from her Celestial Management. And so she invented the Flying Novena."

I adopted this method of praying during a recent very difficult situation. I used it on the bus, whilst shopping, in the middle of the night and in the quiet five minutes as we prepare for the Sunday Eucharist service to begin; truly, those prayers, said repetitively, was incredibly powerful and really enlightening. Oh, and my prayers were answered more completely than I ever imagined they would be!

I'd like to share my own personal favourite with you. You may wish to try it...

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, Hail our life our sweetness and our hope. To Thee do we cry poor banished children of Eve, to Thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this veil of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pancake Supper – 5th March at 18h00

As promoted in the February Messenger, the St Michael's Pancake Supper will be held on Shrove Tuesday, 5th March starting at 6.00 pm. If you plan to come please contact Nicola or Fiona locally or e-mail Nicola on ekarsen@wanadoo.fr.



Electoral Roll – a Reminder

Closing date for applications for the Electoral Roll is 24th March.

Anyone wishing to be included who has not already done so should ensure they send in their application form in good time. Forms can be downloaded from the News page of website and sent either electronically or by post, or, if you are in church before then, application forms are available from Fiona.

Thank you.

Passover and Last Supper at St Michael's



We shall be hosting a Passover Supper on Maunday Thursday, 18th April, starting at 6.30 pm. Places are limited to our catering capacity so please make sure you book in advance with Fiona chaplain@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

News from the Diocese

Bishop Robert on 'Finding the Soul of Europe'

On 22nd January Bishop Robert gave the keynote speech to an ecumenical event in Brussels on 'Finding the Soul of Europe' a link to the text of his speech can be found on the Diocese website: <https://europe.anglican.org>

Want to get in touch?

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