

St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church

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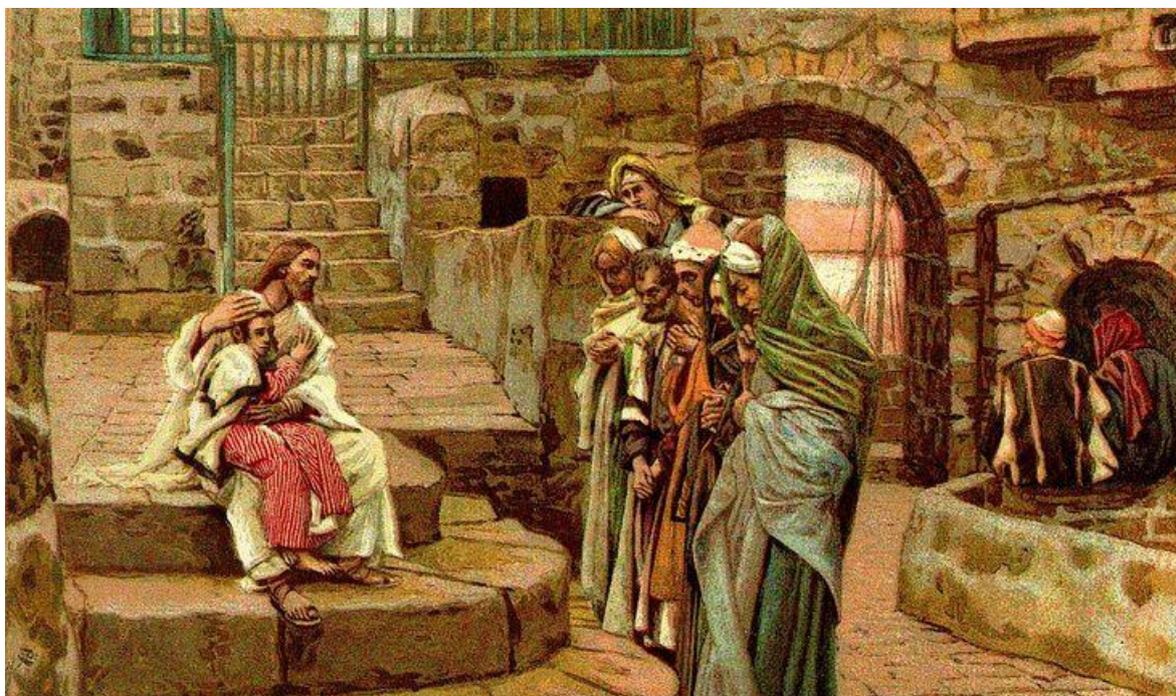
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Newsletter for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time *19th September 2021*

Scriptures at Mass

The godless plot to do away with the just one,
because his blameless life is a reproach to them. (Wisdom 2:12.17-20)

Jealousy, ambition and self-seeking lead to disharmony and fighting.
Gentleness, reasonableness and mercy lead to peace. (James 3:16-4:3)



Jesus and the little child, James Tissot, around 1890

Jesus tells his apostles that he will suffer bitter humiliation and death and says that true greatness shows itself in service towards the weaker members of the community.
(Mark 9:30-37)

A Vocation Prayer *O God, you sent your Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to all who believe. I join him in praying for labourers for your harvest. May your Holy Spirit inspire men & women to continue his mission through your priesthood, diaconate, religious life & lay ministry. May this same Spirit make known your will for my life. Amen*

First Holy Communion Certificates

are now available. Please ask Canon Gerard at any Mass.

Our Liturgies this week

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available during the half hour before Mass.

Thank you for continuing to wear a face-covering, use sanitiser & sit where advised.

Saturday 18th September, Our Lady on Saturday

10 am Mass Colin Staggs RIP

6 pm Mass for the intentions of the Parish

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, 19th September

Prayer of the Church Week 1

10 am Mass Denis McCarthy RIP (request of Ellen McCarthy)

11.30 am Mass intentions of Carole & Brian Maddock (request of Marie & Colin Cooper)

Monday 20th September, St Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions

10 am Mass Simon Heslam RIP (request of Anthony Barlow)

Tuesday 21st September, St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

10 am Mass Pauline McEachern's intentions

Wednesday 22nd September, Feria

10 am Mass Betty Fellows RIP (family request)

10.30 -11.30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 23rd September, St Pio of Pietralcina

10 am Mass our seminarians

Friday 24th September, Our Lady of Walsingham

10 am Mass deceased clergy of the Parish

Saturday 25th September, Our Lady on Saturday

10 am Mass those preparing for Marriage

6 pm Mass for the intentions of the Parish

Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, 26th September

Prayer of the Church Week 2

10 am Katalin & Ferenc Varady RIP (family request)

11.30 am Katie Hazell RIP (request of Zoya Riley)

Please pray... for all parishioners in particular need at this time.

Forthcoming collections

18th & 19th September for Home Missions

Friday 1st October Cafod Harvest Family Fast Day

16th & 17th October Foreign Missions

A Mass on St Luke's Feastday for all healthcare professionals

will be celebrated by Fr Joe McNerney,

Bishop's Healthcare Adviser,

at 7.30 pm 18th October at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth.

This is arranged by the

Catholic Medical Association of Portsmouth.

Everyone who works in healthcare will be most welcome.

First reading Wisdom 2:12,17-20

The godless say to themselves:

'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us
and opposes our way of life,
reproaches us for our breaches of the law
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.

'Let us see if what he says is true,
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.

If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.

Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,
and thus explore this gentleness of his
and put his endurance to the proof.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death
since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

Psalm 53(54):3-6,8

The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my cause.

O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of my mouth.

The Lord upholds my life.

For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.

They have no regard for God.

The Lord upholds my life.

But I have God for my help.

The Lord upholds my life.

I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good.

The Lord upholds my life.

Second reading James 3:16-4:3

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Acts of the Apostles

A DVD course, led by Jeff Cavins, on this wonderful account of the beginnings of the Church, starts at St Michael's at 8 pm on 20th September, for twenty weeks, meeting monthly at church and by Zoom during the other weeks. All are most welcome to join. Phone or text Kathy 07899 788146 for more details.

Jesus Youth have a fellowship group prayer meeting, with praise and worship and an hour before the Blessed Sacrament after the 10 am Mass on Saturday 25th September. Everyone is most welcome to join this prayer.



A Lifeline for Marriage!

Has Covid put you under more stress as a couple?

Is your marriage become stressed, unloving, cold?

Do you argue more?

Do you want to improve your communication?

Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking about it?

Do you want to try again?

The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need!

The next programme commences with the weekend 21st – 24th October 2021.

For more information telephone or text 07887 296983 or 07973 880443

Complete confidentiality is assured.

Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

Website: www.retrouvaille.org

St Michael and All Angels Patronal Feast Sunday 26th September

We celebrate the Feast of our Patrons, St Michael and All Angels, with a Parish Lunch at 12.30 pm on Sunday 26th September. Please join us! We hope that many families will share in this, the Feast of our Parish Family.

A meal will be provided for everyone. To help us with the catering, could you please sign up on the sheets in our Welcome Area

or simply email leighpark@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

with your contact details and the number of people for whom you would like lunch. If you have any prizes for a raffle to help pay for the meal we would be most grateful.



*Holy Michael, Archangel, defend us in the day of battle;
be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by
the power of God, thrust down to Hell Satan and all wicked spirits,
who wander through the world, for the ruin of souls, Amen.*

Tea and Chat Group

meets once again on Thursday 30th September at 2 pm and a warm welcome awaits all.

Parish Bank details

If you wish to make any payment or donation to our Parish Funds the BACS details you will need are:

PRCDTR Leigh St Michael

Lloyds Bank

Sort code : 30 93 04

Account number : 00882004

It would be useful if you could let us know of the payment so that we know its source.

Thank you for all your generous support for our Parish and its Mission.

Our beautiful church If you would have a couple of hours a month to spend in our beautiful church, cleaning it, with other kind volunteers, to make sure that it is truly worthy of our worship, please let Canon Gerard or the Parish Office know.



Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Cafod News Cafod Fast Day, Friday 8th October is approaching. Tim Collins, our Cafod representative, will speak at our Masses on 25th & 26th September in preparation for Fast Day and will distribute collection envelopes. Tim passes on this information from Cafod: *Our local experts help people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. By donating to CAFOD this Family Fast Day you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Donate online through the CAFOD website or by using a CAFOD envelope. You can also easily give via text. Text CAFOD10 to 70580 to donate £10*. Or choose to give any whole amount between £1 and £20 by texting CAFOD, followed by the amount you would like to donate, to 70580.*

Jo Lewry, **Cafod** Community Participation Coordinator for Portsmouth writes: An exciting new Christian Course on Climate Change is organised by Mike Slinn and Tina Quinn, supported by Sheila Wade, Caritas Portsmouth and myself. The online Zoom course is on Friday evenings for 7 weeks from 7.30 pm to 9 pm, starting on CAFOD Family Fast Day, Friday 1st October. Two speakers give a spiritual input, using scripture and *Laudato Si'*, and a practical input. There will be discussion, questions and feedback.

The session themes are:-

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|---------------------------|----------|
| 1. Getting Started | 1/10/21 |
| 2. Spend less, eat better | 8/10/21 |
| 3. Using less energy | 15/10/21 |
| 4. Getting Around | 22/10/21 |
| 5. Wasting Away | 29/10/21 |
| 6. Save on water | 5/11/21 |
| 7. Caring community | 12/11/21 |

Speakers include John Paul De Quay, Ecological Conversion Group, Sr Margaret Atkins, Augustinian Canoness at Boarbank Hall in Cumbria, a philosophy & theology teacher, with an interest in the natural world, and author of *Catholics and Our Common Home: Caring for the Planet in a Time of Crisis* (CTS) and organiser of the Living *Laudato Si'* retreats, Sr Shirley Aeria FMDM, *Laudato Si'* Animator, Steve Gargett from St Joseph's, Basingstoke, founder of Heart & Compass Eco & Zero Waste Shop, Maureen Thompson, Live Simply Assessor and CAFOD Campaign Volunteer Coordinator, Phil Paulo, Caritas Portsmouth Environmental Programme Manager, and myself. You can register at: [TicketSource - Discover Great Events & Things To Do Near You](#)



Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Homily notes 25th Sunday of the Year 19th September 2021 GDF

Have you got a good mind's eye?

Just for a moment see this scene from the Gospel, in your mind's eye.

If it helps you to close your eyes, don't mind me:

I won't think that you have drifted off to sleep.

This is the scene: Jesus took a little child, set him in front of them, his squabbling apostles, put his arms around him and said to them,

Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me, welcomes not me, but the one who sent me.

When I see that scene I see, in behind it, another scene:

I am the child and I am held by God.

I can't begin to tell you how God 'looks' in that scene,

but I have the overwhelming sense that I, and my whole life, are held secure by God.

What did the child look like in your mind's eye?

Was he meek and mild and doing just as he was told?

Over the years I have come to realise that it's just as likely

that he was throwing a tantrum, stamping his feet and shouting.

Jesus did not choose a child because a child behaves perfectly; no child does.

A child is as much a person as anyone else.

Any child, from the earliest age,

can suffer from all those failings which St James speaks about today:

jealousy, ambition, disharmony and readiness to indulge his or her own desires entirely.

If you are not sure, just ask any parent.

Jesus chooses the child, because, despite any weakness and failings,

despite any naughtiness and selfishness,

a child knows that he depends utterly on others .

A child knows that he depends utterly on God ...

or at least, so long as his family has brought him to know God.

What were those squabbling apostles arguing about on the road?

Which of them was the greatest!

As a child matures he should come to know both that he is definitely great

and that his greatness does not come from him alone.

Maybe the apostles had not matured enough to know

that our greatness comes from being made in the image and likeness of God.

Most days we manage to spoil that image.

As St James reminds us, there are all sorts of desires fighting inside our own selves.

Feelings of jealousy and ambition can be powerfully strong.

You don't have to look too far to see that they cause us

to enter into wars and battles among ourselves.

But in my mind's eye we are just as much held by God in those moments

as any other, and maybe moreso.

God loves us as much then
as when we are being kindly and considerate and full of compassion.
If that boy did indeed throw a tantrum with Jesus, and kick and scream and shout,
I am sure that Jesus would have felt the most immediate and powerful concern and love.

Try to find a quiet, prayerful moment this coming week.
See yourself as you least like yourself,
as you least ever want anyone else to see you,
as you judge yourself the most harshly.

Now try to see Jesus with his arms around you,
God the Father holding you, the Spirit enfolding you
and let yourself relax into that love.

In the Sacrament of Confession, of Reconciliation, two sinners meet before God.
One of them is a priest, the other the penitent.
The penitent hears the priest say the words of absolution,
the words that tell them that God forgives them.
But very often in that sacrament I sense that
the penitent can still find it hard to forgive themselves.

Our Bishops once wrote beautifully about God's Mercy.
Let me just end by reading something of what they have written:

*The mercy of God is God's love in action, reaching out to every person,
to each one of us in our weakness.*

Mercy is God's tender embrace in lifting us up and inviting us to start again.

*In the Psalm of our Mass today, we proclaimed God's mercy with the words:
"The Lord upholds my life."*

*Mercy appears all the more clearly when, recognising our own sinfulness,
we rely totally and joyfully on the goodness of God.*

When Pope Francis was asked to describe himself he said, simply, "I am a sinner."

*As we understand the depth of God's never-failing mercy towards us,
then we are freed to offer the same mercy to those around us.*

In doing so we show forth the best of our faith.

established by Pope Francis, beginning this December.

*He writes: "How much I desire that we will come to be steeped in mercy,
so that we can go out to every man and woman,
bringing the goodness and tenderness of God!*

May the balm of mercy reach everyone." (Misericordiae Vultus 5)



