

St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church

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Newsletter for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

26th September 2021

The scriptures at Mass

Joshua resents the fact that the gift of prophecy is now given to many others besides Moses, but Moses himself welcomes it. (Numbers 11:25-29)

We hear a strong condemnation of wealth, especially when it is obtained through the exploitation of the weak. (James 5:1-6)

The Gospel contains a lesson in tolerance and in the avoidance of scandal and occasions of sin. (Mark 9:38-43.47-48)



St Jerome in his study, Antonella da Messina, circa 1475

The Church remembers a great number of saints this week, including St. Jerome, who translated most of the Bible into Latin. His work helped to ensure that we have the Word of God for our spiritual nourishment.

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*

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 25th September, Our Lady on Saturday

10 am Mass those preparing for Marriage

Jesus Youth invite you to Prayer and Adoration at 4 pm. Please note this amended time.

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)

Monday 27th September, St Vincent de Paul

10 am Mass Thomas Manning RIP

Canon Gerard goes to the Diocesan Clergy Retreat after Mass.

The next Mass is at 6 pm on Saturday

Tuesday 28th September, St Laurence Ruiz & Companions

Wednesday 29th September, Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

10.30 -11.30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 30th September, St Jerome

Friday 1st October, St Teresa of the Child Jesus

Saturday 2nd October, The Holy Guardian Angels

6 pm Mass for the intentions of the Parish

Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time, 3rd October

Prayer of the Church Week 3

10 am Mass Pat Clegg RIP

11.30 am Mass Christian White's intentions (request of Val Perry)

Please pray... for the repose of the soul of Thomas Manning RIP, a former parishioner who died last week and we pray for all parishioners in particular need at this time.

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.

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.

The Acts of the Apostles You are welcome to join a DVD course, led by Jeff Cavins, on this wonderful account of the beginnings of the Church. The course runs at 8 pm on Mondays, for twenty weeks, meeting monthly at church and by Zoom during the other weeks.
Phone or text Kathy 07899 788146 for more details.

First reading Numbers 11:25-29 The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again. Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

Psalm 18(19):8,10,12-14

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

So in them your servant finds instruction;
great reward is in their keeping.

But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me.

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin.

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

Second reading James 5:1-6 An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48 John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. 'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward. But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

Homily notes 26th Sunday of the Year, 26th September 2021, GDF

How often do we only see what we expect to see?

How often do we only hear what we expect to hear?

If I mentioned to you a certain name or a particular situation

I am sure you would know what you wanted to say before I'd had another word to say.

Boris Johnson, Keir Starmer, Ed Davey:

I bet that those names evoked instant responses in all of us,

even if we didn't all think the same thing, and I haven't said a word about them!

Don't worry: I am not going to either.

I understand this because that is often how I am.

I think we are all pretty much of a muchness, if you will excuse my saying so.

How often do expect the worst of a situation in our lives and find out that the worst is what we get?

Do we, just as often, expect the best and find that that is what we get?

Joshua did not expect anything like the best of Eldad and Medad.

He had not seen them at the Tent to receive the Spirit of God;

so he knew for himself that they could not possibly prophesy.

Joshua, like so many of us, knew better than God what God can do.

John spoke up for the apostles

when he warned Jesus that there were people casting out devils in Jesus' name,

even though they were not part of the chosen group.

So he 'knew' that it must be wrong.

Joshua and John both expected it all to be wrong ...

but mercifully they at least had the gumption to bring their thoughts to Moses and to Jesus.

Both of **them** could always see the best.

Jesus says to John and the apostles much the same as Moses said to Joshua and all the people:

Anyone who is not against us is for us.

Moses hoped yearningly:

If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his spirit to them all.

In his earthly ministry Jesus Himself caused people to divide themselves

into those who expected the best and the worst.

His followers had seen in Him from the very first moment all that was good and holy.

They had dropped everything to follow Him.

Others heard Him speak, saw Him heal, felt the power of His love in the lives of others

and immediately rejected Him.

They expected only the worst to the extent that they plotted to catch him and to kill Him.

We have recently heard from Jesus teachings that people would have felt as threats

to the ways in which they chose to live.

Last week Jesus took a child into the midst them and told them that if anyone wanted to be first he must make himself last and servant of all.

How would that have sounded to the priests and the Levites, the Pharisees and the invading Romans?

How would that have chimed with their various urges

to power and to pomp, to riches and to prestige?

Today's gospel reading is very pointed.

It addresses each of us who indulges our failings and our habits of sin:

'If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of heaven with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where the worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

As they heard that what did Jesus' first listeners fear?
As we hear those words what do we fear?

Often in confession I hear the same formula: I say it just as much when I make my own confession.
'It's all the same old sins Father; nothing original, nothing new, just the ones I cannot seem to shake off.'

What Jesus says today He says about cutting off our hands and feet, and gouging out our eyes, is telling it like it is.
Those same old sins, committed as a matter of daily course, deprive us of our sight and our touch and our true capacity to be human.

Our sins mutilate and despoil us.
An example: if we watch nothing but the worst of TV our eyes become coarsened and we always see the worst in others.
If we read nothing but the poisoned lies of some of our press and social media or accept their invitations to indulge in titillating gossip and rumour and hate, we come to see the world through their cynical eyes.

We are creatures of habit.
The gift of our faith brings us the opportunity for habits which are wholesome and edifying, fulfilling and pure.
An example: if we begin every day with a time of prayer the day will live up to our hopes, never down to our fears.
October gives us the opportunity to return to one of the most habit forming of all prayers: the rosary.
Those who pray it often say that they hardly hear the words: it becomes so much part of them.

I have, on occasion, been at the side of someone holding rosary beads between their fingers as they are approaching their death.
When we prayed she or he joined in with words that had been part of their being all of their life.
Their habit of prayer would have prepared them, I am sure, for the new habit of heaven.

Let me bring these thoughts of habits to the practical and the concrete.
We have been listening lately to the letter of St James, who says that there can be no faith without good works. The two go inextricably together.

This Friday is CAFOD Harvest Fast Day.
Our good works need to be not just for the neighbour that we see but also for the neighbour in dire need whom we will never see.

Can I urge that all of us use this Friday to put into practice good works, by fasting, abstaining and then giving to CAFOD.
Let's give sufficient to help ourselves feel what it might be like to be in real need.
If we expect the best of ourselves this Friday we will share something of the best for those whom we will support through our giving.

[October; a month for Praying the Rosary](#)

Two resources for praying the Rosary are to be found by entering [Bishop Barron Rosary](#) in your search engine or by downloading the Hallow app:

[Hallow – The #1 Catholic Meditation, Prayer & Sleep App](#)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be To The Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary Monday & Saturday

The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary

Mary is chosen to be the mother of Jesus.

The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

Elizabeth recognizes Mary as the mother of our Lord.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus is born and laid in a manger.

The Presentation of our Lord

Jesus is presented in the Temple of Jerusalem.

Finding Jesus in the Temple at the age of twelve

Jesus is found discussing God's laws in the temple.

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary Tuesday & Friday

The Agony of Jesus in the Garden

Jesus prays when confronted with the sins of the world.

The Scourging at the Pillar

Jesus is whipped before His execution.

Jesus is Crowned with Thorns

Jesus is mocked with a painful crown of thorns.

Jesus Carried the Cross

Jesus carries the weight of our sins to His crucifixion.

The Crucifixion of our Lord

Jesus Christ dies to save all mankind.

Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary Wednesday & Sunday

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Jesus rises triumphant over death.

The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven

As Jesus ascends, He gives us a special task.

The Descent of the Holy Ghost

At Pentecost the Church is born.

The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

The Virgin Mary is gloriously assumed into heaven.

Mary is Crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth

Mary is honoured above all creatures.

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary Thursday

The Baptism in the Jordan

God proclaims Jesus is His Son.

The Wedding at Cana

Jesus performs a surprising miracle at a wedding.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom

Jesus calls us to do something important.

The Transfiguration

Jesus is gloriously transformed.

The Institution of the Eucharist

Jesus shares His Body and Blood for our salvation.

Rosaries wanted please: St Thomas More School would be grateful for any rosaries you might have to donate for the children to use. If you have suitable rosaries please leave them with our Parish office or take them direct to school for the attention of Mrs Takacs.

St Michael and All Angels Patronal Feast

The Feast of our Patrons, St Michael and All Angels, is this Wednesday.

There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.30 am – 11.30 am The needs of our Parish will be Canon Gerard's intention at Mass while he is on retreat that day.



*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.*

Cafod News Cafod Fast Day, Friday 8th October approaches. Tim Collins, our Cafod representative, will speak at our Masses this weekend 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 me. 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:-

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 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](#)

Forthcoming collections

Friday 1st October Cafod Harvest Family Fast Day
16th & 17th October Foreign Missions

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 a payment or donation to our 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.

Just lately at St Michael's



.... our Memorial Garden hedge fell victim to the same fate as many others locally, and died away. We have had to have it removed. Providentially we were able to use the very capable Community Payback Team for this work. Parishioners have remarked most positively on the new open vista so we will mark the boundary between the parking hardstanding and the Memorial Garden less obtrusively. We have also very kindly been promised funding for a new statue of Our Lady and look forward to this, which we hope will arrive early in 2022.


RETROUVAILLE
A LIFE LINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

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

A Karaoke Night

On Saturday 2 October 2021.

7 to 11 pm. In the Church hall

At long last it is on, a party night with music for all tastes. Just bring your own snacks, drinks and voice.

We are very mindful of our friend Covid, and we will seat groups at tables together. We also have very high tech equipment to sterilise our microphones etc. before and between use.

Any Queries Contact Colin Cooper 07955036880

