

CLUB OASIS AUG 07



Surprise surprise

We were surprised and pleased to welcome a visitor, Bishop Dominic of Monmouth, with us for the August L'Oasis. Dominic who used to be part of the same community

as sisters Cecile and Jean, was staying at Prasada to share in Cecile's 50th anniversary celebration as a sister and 10 years as a priest (see article **50 not out!**)

Luke 12 v 32-40 3 "Sell your possessions and give to the poor for where your treasure is there your heart is also"

What All of it ?

There was no way Jesus was going to get away with this one without at least a discussion and a few questions ! Like all passages of scripture, when we looked at this one we needed to put it into context. **Bishop Dominic of Monmouth** who was with us for the day, reminded us it was Luke that was writing "**We need to remember Luke was a doctor**", he said, "**he struggled with those who had wealth and saw the suffering produced by the lack of it and the imbalance in society. He wrote his gospel for those who were in those difficult situations and needed to know Jesus was on their side. Matthew on the other hand wrote for the Jews and dealt with these issues in the context of the Law and the Beatitudes**".

The point was very validly raised that if we gave away everything, where would the resource come from to get out there and help others.....it made no sense. Gradually we came to the understanding that perhaps the focus of this passage of scripture is to challenge **where our real heart is**; is it with Jesus with the passion and energy that He deserves, or is it somewhere else, in our possessions, our ideals, our obsessions. or even our worries. Where is the cross in our lives, central or simply one more thing that fills our busy timetables. Ultimately, choosing to be a disciple is costly, requires difficult decisions and sacrifice. but we need to make those decisions now because **"we know not the hour"**

Are we ready,..... **I guess we can only answer that one for ourselves!**

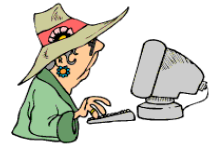
Bread and wine was later shared in remembrance of Jesus and Bishop Dominic closed with a Welsh blessing.

Club oasis hopes to link its friends through the wonders of the web;

OASIS meets on the Second Sunday of Every Month At the home of Shirley and Peter Massey 1801 Chemin des

Pailles **LORGUES** 0494 739337

www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis



DIARY DATES to note

Sep 2nd Worship at Prasada 11.00 am

Sep 5th Connect Prayer Group

Sep 9th Harvest Celebration and Barbecue Arc-en-Provence 4.00pm

Sep 16th Worship at Prasada 11.00 am

Sep 23rd L'Oasis on the Cote

Sep 24th Worship at Maison des Pères Lorgues 5.00pm

October The life Course (details in September) when venues have been confirmed

CONNECT PRAYER GROUP

Connect meets again on the first Wednesday of the month between 6 and 7.30 pm at Domain de St Marc, Chemin des Pailles LORGUES Details from **Peter at 0494 739337** or **Alistair at 067493420**



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SAINTE MARIA MÈRE DE DIEU

About 30 local people from the Lorgues area walked in an act of witness and celebration, on the eve of the feast of the assumption, from the main church in Lorgues to Chapelle Notre Dame de Florièye. We were pleased to welcome them here afterwards to a "pot d'amitie" a cup of friendship. "We are a small community" Père Margeau said, "these things are important"

AND SO NOT OUT

On the 15th August **Sister Cecile** celebrated 50 years as a sister and 10 yrs as a priest. Many of her friends gathered to share the day with her and gave her a statue of the Virgin Mary which now has pride of place in the chapel at **Prasada**. The day and the gift in many ways represented the roles both Cecile and Jean have fulfilled here, namely that of a Mother to their "family", guiding them, teaching them, encouraging them but most of all loving them.



Bishop Dominic preached on Mary's Song, **the magnificat**, and spoke of the less familiar image of Mary as a tough Palestinian girl and carpenter's wife. And within the magnificat there were the seeds of revolution; the **moral revolution** of the proud and self ambitious being scattered; the **social revolution** of the mighty being cast down and the humble being exalted , and finally the **economic revolution** of the hungry being filled and the rich sent away empty. The call to the life of those ordained into holy orders is a call to witness to this revolution. Bishop Dominic closed with this story of **Mia**, which means Mary in Chinese.

Mia lived in a village in China and every day walked to the well to fetch water with the other women. She carried two water pots on a pole one of which was cracked and leaked. One day one of the women asked her why she did not buy a new pot and stop wasting the water which leaked out. Mia replied, " have you not noticed the beautiful flowers growing along one side of the path? That is because I planted seeds and my leaking pot waters the ground and we can enjoy God's beautiful flowers each day.



Well the moral of that story is that we are all cracked pots! – none of us are perfect and we all come to God with our broken-ness and sins, with our imperfections and

failings. And so we give thanks to God who called Mary – and our sister Cecile, and with them we say **My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.** Amen

L' Oasis Christian Fellowship

A "Fresh Expression" of Church



Fellowship

Second Sunday of Every Month At the home of Shirley and Peter Massey

1801 Chemin des Pailles **LOGUES**

Fourth Sunday **COGOLIN** and **ST MAXIME** area

Summer 2007 Programme **Church in Action**

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UCB **Loving the Lord - and others!**

FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE MARK 10:45

No two ways about it, if you love the Lord, you'll love people and lay down your life (your comforts, your rights, your schedule, etc.) for them. Read the Gospels; you can't escape the fact that the Lord's first love was always for people; people of all races, in all situations, whether powerful or not, acceptable or not, young and beautiful or covered with sores - even children. How many destinies were changed when He stopped, and stooped, to bless them? The early church understood this. They shared everything (see Acts 2:44). They were even willing to sell their possessions to take care of one another. Rather than thinking of their own needs, they thought of others first - amazingly, their own needs were taken care of in the process. That's how it works! Their willingness to serve one another humbly also brought them favour with outsiders, who were then introduced to God's love. When you give yourself to God, you become committed to what He's committed to - loving people. Bruce Wilkinson points out: 'God didn't come to the Garden of Eden to tend His prize-winning grapes, He came to tend His children. Christ didn't come to erect public buildings, shore up retirement accounts, write a literary masterpiece, or win a seat on the school board of governors.' No, He came for hurting people, to put their lives on track, to give them joy and hope.

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In Jesus Name

Mary's Song



*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,*

*Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,
The promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever.*

Please remember in your prayers

A beautiful Christian ideal to have before us is that Jesus is in the other person. Jesus is in the person next to me, the person behind me, in front of me, in the person I live with and the person I work with. One person who lived out this truth was Mother Teresa. When she was in hospital in 1983? THIS WAS PART OF HER MEDITATION

“Jesus is the Hungry - to be fed.
Jesus is the Thirsty - to be satiated.
Jesus is the Naked - to be clothed.
Jesus is the Homeless - to be taken in.
Jesus is the Sick - to be healed.
Jesus is the Lonely - to be loved.
Jesus is the unwanted - to be wanted.
Jesus is the Leper - to wash his wounds.
Jesus is the Beggar - to give him a smile.
Jesus is the Drunkard - to listen to him.
Jesus is the Mental - to protect him.
Jesus is the Little One - to embrace him.

Jesus is the Blind - to lead him.
Jesus is the Dumb - to speak for him.
Jesus is the Crippled - to walk with him.
Jesus is the Drug Addict - to befriend him.

Jesus is the Prostitute - to remove from danger and befriend her.
Jesus is the Prisoner - to be visited.
Jesus is the Old - to be served.”

“To be able to love one another, we must pray much, for prayer gives a clean heart and a clean heart can see God in our neighbor. If now we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten how to see God in one another. If each person saw God in his neighbor, do you think we would need guns and bombs?”

Thinking like this means thinking in a new way, putting on a new mind, letting our brains be washed with the Gospel of Jesus. And as Mother Teresa said, it is through prayer that we will receive the grace to see others with this new mind of Jesus. When we put on this new mind then his Kingdom is surely coming to this world

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There 's a Message in there Somewhere

A Shock for Jock !!!

Jock, the painter, often would thin his paint so it would go further. So when the Church decided to do some deferred maintenance, Jock was able to put in the low bid, and got the job. As always, he thinned his paint way down with turpentine.



One day while he was up on the scaffolding -- the job almost finished -- he heard a horrendous clap of thunder, and the sky opened. The downpour washed the thinned paint off the church and knocked Jock off his scaffold and onto the lawn among the gravestones and puddles of thinned and worthless paint. Jock knew this was a warning from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried: "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice: **"REPAINT! REPAINT! AND THIN NO MORE!"**

Jesus and Satan were having an ongoing argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days and God was tired of hearing all of the bickering. Finally God said, "Cool it! I am going to set up a test that will run two hours and I will judge who does the better job."

So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away. They moused. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They sent faxes. They sent e-mails. They sent out e-mails with attachments. They downloaded. They did some genealogy reports. They made cards. They did every known job. But ten minutes before their time was up, lightening suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder clapped, the rain poured and of course, the electricity went off. Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed. The electricity finally flickered back on and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically and screamed, "It's gone! It's all gone! I lost everything when the power went off!" Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of diligent work. Satan observed this and became irate. "Wait! He cheated! How did he do it?"



God shrugged and said, "**Jesus saves.**"



This Autumn we are hoping to run **The Life Course** in a couple of different locations. It is a way of looking at some of the issues and questions that most of us come across and struggle with. It should give an opportunity to both say and hear some of the things we don't normally get a chance to express, particularly in relation to faith and religion which so often appears to have their own agendas.

Isn't Christianity just one way to God? Is God the same in the Old Testament as in the New Testament?

How can I make God more real in my life? **How can we trust the Bible?**

Do good people go to heaven? Is hell for real?

Can a doctor believe in miracles? How can I become a Christian when I have so many questions & doubts?

Isn't religion man made? If God is love, why is the world hurting?

Where does evil come from? **Evolution & creation**

who is it for?

Anyone interested in exploring life and spirituality.

what is it?

An 8-week course. With a short talk and maybe a video clip followed by discussion. We think the morning is the best time with a snack lunch afterwards.

If this might be the sort of thing that would interest you **please let us know** then we can decide the right places to go to and **perhaps your home could be one of those venues.**

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