



# The Saint Raphael Link

Some Periodic Ramblings of the Prior

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*Dear Friends,*

You may have read on the Web-site of the Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St Raphael that the Grand Master, M E Chevalier Howard F Doe, has recently appointed me as a Senior Chaplain of the Order to serve its members as the Grand Prior.

I do hope that I will have the opportunity of meeting and speaking with many of you next year at the Annual Investiture Service in Peterborough. In the meanwhile, I hope to be of pastoral service to our members; please do not hesitate to get in touch if you feel that there is anything at all that I can do.

With every blessing and best wishes to each and every one of you over the summer holiday period

*+Geoffrey*

## St Raphael the Archangel:

The feast day of Raphael was included for the first time in the General Roman Calendar in the year 1921, for celebration on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. When the reform of the Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints took place in 1969, this feast was then transferred to the 29<sup>th</sup> September for celebration together with Saint Michael and Saint Gabriel.

Within limits, the Roman Catholic Church still authorizes use of the earlier calendar. The Church of England also celebrates "Michael and All Angels" on the 29<sup>th</sup> September.



## Did you know?

For years people have admired the art masterpiece known as "The Praying Hands". Behind this work of art is a fascinating story of love and sacrifice.

In the late fifteenth century two struggling young art students, Albrecht Durer and Franz Knigstein worked as labourers to earn money for their art studies. But the work was long and hard and it left them little time to study art.

Finally they agreed to draw lots and let the loser support them both while the winner continued to study. Albrecht won, but he agreed to support

Franz after achieving success so his friend could also finish his studies.

After becoming successful, Albrecht sought out Franz to keep his bargain. But he soon discovered the enormous sacrifice his friend had made. As Franz had worked at hard labour, his fingers had become twisted and stiff. His long, slender fingers and sensitive hands had been ruined for life. He could no longer manage the delicate brush strokes so necessary for executing fine paintings. But in spite of the price he had paid, Franz was not bitter. He was happy that his friend Albrecht had attained success.

One day Albrecht saw his loyal friend kneeling, his rough hands entwined in silent prayer. Albrecht quickly sketched the hands, later using the rough sketch to create his masterpiece known as "The Praying Hands".

## Prayers for the Sick:

Just recently I have been given some wonderful news that several people, for whom we have been regularly interceding, have had their prayers granted.

If any of our readers have a particular prayer request or names to be added to the list of people who are ill or who have departed this life, please let me know – It will be my privilege to include any such requests at our weekly services.

## Why Not Give it a Try?

I made a list of the things I love  
And the things that give me pleasure.  
It grew and grew and I realise  
That my life holds much great treasure.  
So now if I'm feeling low  
And the world seems so unkind  
I glance along my 'Treasure List'  
And leave my cares behind. (Anon)

## Galatians 6:2

'Bear ye one another's burdens',  
Thus the Bible so commends,  
Bidding us to help our neighbours,  
Care for strangers as our friends.  
For we all are brothers, sisters,  
Children of the Lord above,  
Let us learn by His example:  
Fill the world with gifts of love. (M J Brison)

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In an emergency please telephone: 07817 825624