



ECHO

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE
www.ourchurch.fr

THIS WINTER'S MUST-HAVE ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR CAR ?

If you live in 12 of the 13 Departments of Occitanie, it is possible that the area in which you reside may be covered by new legislation which is coming into force on 1 November this year, requiring you to have a set of snow chains or snow 'socks' in your car capable of being fitted to the driving wheels in the event of snowy conditions.

The "Loi Montagne II" was passed in 2020, but does not come into effect until 1 November this year. The rules will remain in force until 31 March 2022. There will be no traffic penalties for non-compliance until winter 2022.

However, knowing that you live in, say, the Aude, is not enough to know whether you have to go shopping for chains or socks, as each Department's Prefecture will decide at commune-level whether these rules are to apply. The Prefects of Haute-Vienne and Correze have already announced that they will not impose this rule at all ! Other Prefects and local mayors are expressing objections, and so it will be necessary to keep an eye out for local announcements over the next few weeks.

A basic rule is emerging that only communes of which some part are more than 800 metres in altitude will be included, and newspapers like La Depeche are starting to publish maps of which communes will be affected.

What must I do ?

If the commune where you live or any commune which you intend to drive into is designated as being subject to these rules, you must have a set of chains or socks in your vehicle. All tyre centres, most auto-accessory shops and some supermarkets sell these and the size of wheels which they fit is marked on the packaging. You should note the numbers printed on your tyres (e.g. 155/50 SR15). They can also be bought online from suppliers like Amazon.

You can also buy special long gloves to let you fit them without getting yourself and your sleeves covered in slushy, wet snow.



With effect from 1st November this year, it will be compulsory for all cars driving in certain parts of Occitanie to have one pair of snow chains or snow 'socks' in the boot of the car capable of being fitted to the driving wheels in the event of snowy conditions.

Snow socks are much quicker to fit but can only deal with lighter snow conditions.

Some cars may be fitted with All Weather Tyres and have the letters **M+S** (standing for Mud and Snow) printed on the side wall or possibly **3PMSF** which indicates a higher standard of capability in snow. If all 4 wheels of the car have these fitted, then you are exempt from having to carry snow chains or socks.

Failure to have these with you could eventually (but maybe not until winter 2022) lead to a fine of €135, plus the car being immobilised by the Police until snow chains or snow socks are obtained.

"As long as the world exists,
there will be a time for planting
and a time for harvest.
There will always be cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night"
Genesis 8:22



HARVEST

is a time to **REMEMBER**
that **GOD** made the world.
He made the land we live on,
the air we breathe,
the water we drink and the food we eat.



HARVEST
is a time to **SHARE**
with others all that
GOD has given us.



HARVEST
is a time to say
THANK YOU to **GOD**
for giving us all the
things we need to live.



NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP AT

ECO

We have set out below our programme of worship for next week. For all details of our latest worship, always go to the Home Page of our website:

www.ourchurch.fr

Sunday October 10th

10:30 am Online Harvest Thanksgiving with Communion

This Sunday we will be celebrating a Harvest Festival online including Communion.

As you cannot present harvest gifts online, we invite you to make a donation to Secours Catholique, Restos du Coeur or another charity of your choice which brings food to the hungry so that they may share in God's bounty

Tuesday October 12th

19:00 - An Iona Service of Evening Prayer

This is a short service of prayer and readings from the Bible which is available as a video and also as a Podcast to download and listen to at the close of the day. We also provide the order of service in .PDF for you to download and keep so that you can follow it on your smartphone, tablet or computer if you wish.

Thursday October 14th

19:00 - A Service of Prayer for Healing

Each week, we come together to pray by name for God's healing touch for those who are in special need at this time. We are happy to include anyone known to you in our prayers (we only refer to people by their first names)

Please send any names of people whom you would like to be included to

healing@ourchurch.fr

by Wednesday evening 13th October please.

THE VENDANGE:

THE FRENCH (GRAPE) HARVEST FESTIVAL

As in the UK, the farmers celebrate the gathering in of the crops, and give thanks for a good harvest, so here in the Occitanie, celebrations focus on *Le Vendange* when the administrative prohibition on the picking of grapes is lifted.

This is supposed to occur exactly 100 days after the vines come into flower. Like a Harvest Festival, the *Vendange* occurs at the end of what is usually about 15 days of intensive grape picking. Most of us have probably spent a few minutes at this time of year in slow-moving lines of cars following tractor-drawn trailers laden with grapes heading for the presses or the Caves Co-Operatives.

A single worker picking grapes in a vineyard can harvest up to 1 tonne per day. A grape harvesting machine can harvest 200 tonnes per day.

When one thinks of the Parable Of The Labourers In The Vineyard, (Matthew 20 vv 1—16) 1 tonne is a lot of grapes to harvest to earn one penny.

The dates for picking vary from region to region, and get later the further North one travels owing to the climate.

And of course some grapes don't stay in the wine bottles very long. In 2021, Thursday November 18 will be the day to sample this year's Beaujolais Nouveau - wine made exclusively from grapes harvested by hand.

But whether we celebrate with bread made from this year's wheat or wine made from this year's grapes, let us always remember to give thanks to God for the miracle of His bounty.



Worship for the Young and the Young At Heart

If you are joining us for worship with younger members of your family, each Sunday we are now also broadcasting a short video reflection on the readings for the day from our colleague and friend Margaret Pritchard Houston, who is a member of the Children's Ministry Team in the Diocese of St Albans. This Sunday's video also celebrates Harvest Festival.