

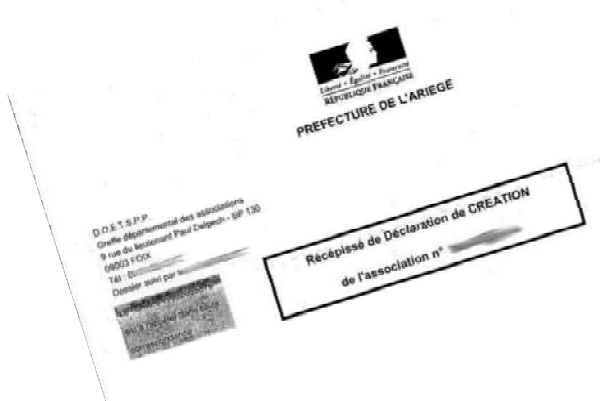


# ECHO

22ND JULY 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE  
[www.ourchurch.fr](http://www.ourchurch.fr)

## IT'S OFFICIAL—ECO IS NOW A REGISTERED ASSOCIATION CULTUELLE



In order to enjoy the rights and privileges accorded to a religious organisation in France, it is necessary to form and register an Association Cultuelle.

In June we reported that ECO had held its formation meeting - a necessary first step in order to be registered with the French authorities. Following this, there were many forms to be completed.

All paperwork having been duly assembled, our formal application for registration was submitted to the Prefecture of the Ariège, who with great speed and efficiency have dealt with the registration process with us.

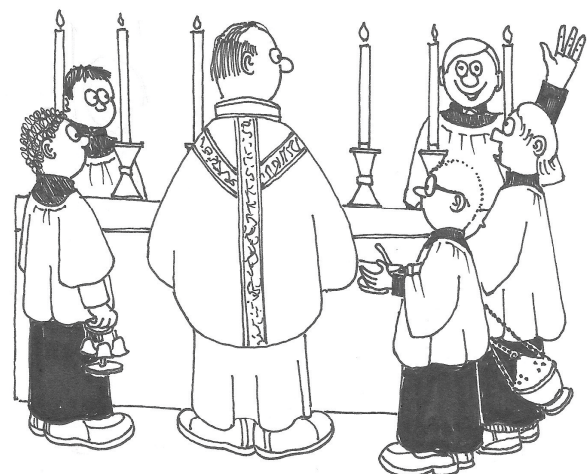
Having now completed this essential step, ECO can now transact business with other organisations.

## HEALTH PASS UPDATE - KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regrettably, France is experiencing a fresh wave of Covid infections and a great many new rules are being put into place to try to maintain public safety without having to force people back into lockdown.

The key part of the Government strategy is to promote vaccination against Covid and then require the production of a confirmation of vaccination (on paper or on your cellphone) in order to gain admittance to a growing list of public locations.

Travel rules are changing almost from day to day and we strongly recommend you to keep a close eye on announcements from the British Embassy in Paris as well as stories in Connexion and The Local



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One of the problems with live-streaming worship was that there was always someone who wanted to wave to their family on the camera....



## 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](http://www.ourchurch.fr)**

#### **Sunday July 25th - Trinity 8 - Proper 12**

##### **10:30 am Online Sunday Worship**

This Sunday's service will be a service of Morning Prayer which will be broadcast on Zoom. The service will be led by Bob and Deb Carr and the Reflection will be presented by Deb Carr. We hope that you will join us in our Zoom Virtual Coffee Bar after the service. The Zoom co-ordinates will appear on our website on Sunday morning by 9 am.

#### **Tuesday July 27th**

##### **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 July 29th**

##### **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](mailto:healing@ourchurch.fr)**

by Wednesday evening.

## **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** **SPECIAL OPEN-AIR COMMUNION SERVICE** **THURSDAY 29TH JULY AT 3 PM** **IN ALET LES BAINS**

Next Thursday, we will hold a special open-air Communion Service in Alet les Bains, starting at 3:00pm. The service will be recorded for broadcast the following Sunday (1st August) but only those leading the worship will be video-ed.

We will be taking all proper precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and the communion will be a "Bubble Communion" where you bring your own bread and wine which you only share in your own personal "bubble" (e.g. members of your own household)

The service will be led by Reverend Neil Batcock who is also celebrating his birthday with us that day, and would like to invite everyone coming to the service to stay to enjoy cake and something bubbly ! (Because we will be on a restaurant premises, provided we maintain proper social distancing, this is a permitted activity.)

At present, you are not required to present a 'health pass' either to attend the service or to enjoy the refreshments afterwards. If you would like to come and join us, please let us know by Tuesday July 27th at the latest by e-mailing

**[contact@ourchurch.fr](mailto:contact@ourchurch.fr)**

Please remember to e-mail as space is limited by the health regulations.



#### **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 Childrens Ministry Team in the Diocese of St Albans

We will put a link on our web page for each Sunday Service. We hope that you and any younger members of your family will enjoy these

This Sunday's video is entitled "The Bread of Life" and is based on the Gospel Reading from John 6



## The Lord Is In His Place

Following on from the article published in **ECHO** last month, the Revd Michael Burgess, Rector of the Parish of St Peter, Oughtrington, Cheshire, has written this reflection about the painting 'Jacob's Dream' painted by Jusepe de Ribera.

In the 3rd century a Chinese philosopher, Chang Tsu, had a very vivid dream. He dreamed he was a butterfly, happily flying here and there. When he awoke, he thought to himself, 'Did Chang Tsu dream that he was a butterfly, or did the butterfly dream that it was Chang Tsu?' Dreams are often like that: crucial experiences which cause us to ponder and wonder about their meaning. The prophet Joel suggested that it was old men who dream dreams, while young people see visions. But dreams invade and colour our sleeping hours, whatever age we are.

In the Bible dreams are vital events. Think of Joseph in the Old Testament dreaming of his superiority among his brothers, the dreams of the cup bearer and baker at Pharaoh's court, Daniel interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, and Joseph's dreams in the Gospels that were so crucial for the safety of the Holy Family. This month in our paintings we focus on 'Jacob's Dream' by Ribera.

Jusepe de Ribera was a Spanish artist, whose most productive years were spent in Naples, where he died in 1652. This painting from 1639 is based on Genesis 28. After depriving his brother Esau of his birthright, Jacob is sent to Laban. At Bethel he rested and in his sleep received the vision of God's angels on the ladder to heaven with God's reassuring words of promise and blessing. When he awoke, Jacob set up an altar at Bethel, which he declared was the house of God and the gate of heaven.

To baroque artists, this scene in Genesis was seen as a prefiguration of the coming of Jesus, and in John's Gospel Jesus Himself told Nathanael that he would see the angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man. For Ribera the subject of Jacob's dream is treated with great tenderness as



Jacob sleeps beneath the luminous expanse of sky, which occupies a major part of the canvas. Not for him the depiction of winged messengers; no, the light of heaven falls down upon the sleeping figure, casting shadows on the ground. The angels, ethereal and insubstantial, are contained in the glory of light. The tree at the other side looks like a fallen cross, and Jacob almost like a sleeping disciple in Gethsemane. But here, he is in deep repose as his face is lit up with the golden glow of the heavenly messengers.

For Jacob, the dream is the golden assurance of God's blessing. As his saga continues in Genesis, he marries Laban's daughters, wrestles with the divine stranger, is given the name Israel, and his 12 sons become the ancestors of the 12 tribes of God's people. So, the blessing of the dream is worked out in his life and the life of Israel.

Dreams can come to give visions of the way life should be. Like Jacob, or perhaps like Martin Luther King and his prophetic words in 1963. In this month of August many of us will go on holiday to enjoy rest and recreation. As we end the days with sleep, we pray that like the Psalmist we will lie down in perfect peace and safety and know the refreshment Jacob found at Bethel: a repose which will restore our souls and bodies to bring life and vision wherever we may be.