



**The Parish of
The Immaculate Heart of Mary**
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www.rcmissenden.org.uk
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3rd Sunday of the year **22 January 2012**

1st reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The reluctant prophet Jonah finally does his job and preaches repentance.

2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul urges the Corinthians to put their lives in order.

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Jesus wastes no time, but sets about his mission with urgency.

Freedom from debt

I recall my mother weeping because on her war widow's £150 a year she had run up an overdraft and the bank refused to extend it. "It will be all right", I said, aged 5 – and somehow it was, but I think, after that, she was very careful about money. In fact, during the bank strike in 1970 in Ireland she was paying the workman with cheques which went around Goleen, west Cork, as a sort of currency, so they took months to get presented at the London bank!

Debt is of course the money lender's delight and business but it is a drag on living, especially if people get deeper into debt in order to live, so in Israel there was the idea of Jubilee: every 50 years all debts should be torn up. In the Our Father we pray (in Greek) that God will forgive us our debts as we forgive those in debt to us. So in some places in the early Church, when people joined the Church, they tore up their promissory notes. We have translated the word for debt by trespass – "forgive us our trespasses".

I recall, after three years at university, I emerged free of debt, except £12 to a local bookshop. The state had paid for everything. I fear a student emerging now would be expected to be in debt by about £20,000 as he or she sets out on the bottom rung of the ladder and looks in the estate agent's window at the price of houses.

As a student for the priesthood I got into a £20 debt for an overcoat, since when, though I have never saved, I have never been in debt in 39 years of priesthood owing to the goodness of the church and the generosity of people.

In parts of Italy, I think, when a person gets married, the family rallies round and presents them not with "wedding presents" but rather with a house all ready for inhabitation. Freedom from mortgages! To be able to do such a thing there needs to be a habit of saving in the family and a return on such savings – which is absent at present I think.

Kings used to get into debt and tax wool to get out of it but with the house of Hanover, the national debt emerged to the delight of bankers no doubt. A few years ago I was shocked to learn that the average household was going into debt at £100 a week or £5000 a year but I did not realise that the state (=the household of households?) was doing the same thing at the same rate. In the Euro or out of it (Hungary) a problem is emerging with state indebtedness. Some say, e.g. Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize winner, "Go more into debt with public works in a slump to get things moving". The only other way out of the problem that I can see is a lower mark up on prices throughout the productive process. Then, if wages stay up, they will have greater power to purchase and so get things moving. The first solution is associated with the name Keynes, the second with the name Lonergan (not widely known!).

TVR

Sunday Tea and Coffee

Wendover Christian Centre after 9.15 am Mass at Wendover
Damien Hall after 11 am Mass in Great Missenden

Do come along and meet your fellow parishioners
Visitors are most welcome

Parish News

Philosophy

8 pm Tuesday, in Damien House.
TVR

Anchor Your Faith

Come and find out about this new programme at the Catechists Assembly 10-3 on Saturday 25 February in Luton. It's a great day for people from throughout the Diocese. We'll be led by two Dominican Sisters of St Joseph who wrote and have implemented it. More information from Joanna or from <http://www.nores.org.uk>

Cake sale Sunday 22 January

The Confirmation Group are raising funds for their lux.halo weekend and for CAFOD. Please support them by buying some tasty goodies in Damien Hall after the 11am Mass this Sunday.

Prayer Intentions

Anniversaries: In the coming week we remember the following who have died.

At IHM Mary Bennet, Freddie Wolff, Christina Viola, Joe Rynne, Jimmy Howard, Joseph Zarb, Therese Dureau, Michael Howard, Edward Lowe, Ron Potter, Eileen Nockles, Mary Wilcox.

At St Anne's Catherine Parkinson, Rev, Gordon Simmons, Catherine Keogh, Madge Brackpool.

Seasonal Intentions: During this period of Ordinary Time, we are asked to pray for these intentions.

Peace on Earth;

Christian unity, esp during the octave 18-25 January;

Children, students and teachers, esp on Sunday 5 February;

The unemployed, esp on Sunday 19 February;

The sick and their carers, esp on 11 February.

Coming up for our young people

Parish: next Confirmation session 5.30 to 7 pm this Sunday, 22 January. We'll start in the smaller part of Damien Hall.

Diocese: Lux.halo 3 - 5 February: a great weekend for 11-18 year olds with Fr. Timothy Radcliffe the incredible speaker, author & Dominican priest, being run by NYMO, our diocese's youth office. Details at <http://www.nymo.org/standard.asp?id=3430>

National: Flame Congress 10am-6pm Sat 24 March is the huge National Catholic Youth gathering at Wembley Arena with Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP, Fr Christopher Jamison OSB & Archbishop Vincent Nicholls. It's aimed at those aged 16+, but it's so convenient for us that we could take younger teenagers too if a few adults would like to join us. Details at <http://cymfed.org/congress/flame/2012/>

For more information, please look out for Liz Clark, Roger Platt or Joanna Hale at Immaculate Heart of Mary; or Jackie Aggett or Mary Mooney St Anne's; or contact: Joanna.

Bible Alive subscriptions

Subscriptions to Bible Alive for 2012 are now due: they have once again been held at £17.50 for our bulk subscription. If current subscribers wish to continue with their subscription please let me have cash or a cheque by the end of January so that I can make the necessary payment.

If any one not currently receiving this magazine with its daily reflection on the Mass readings would like to subscribe please let me know.

Peter McLoughlin

Anne Roberts Foundation are extremely grateful to Father Timothy and the Parish for the cheque for £561.18 as a result of a very successful Christmas Fayre (MR)

Newsletter Items

✉ leave at the Presbytery (address on front cover)

Please note deadline 12 noon Thursdays

Enrichment in Faith

The Wednesday night Old Testament DVD Lectures will continue.

25 Jan: The Book of Judges Pt 2

1 Feb Samuel & Saul

8 Feb King David

15 Feb From King Solomon to Pre-classical Prophecy

29 Feb The Prophets and the Fall of the North

7 March The Southern Kingdom

14 March Babylonian Exile

21 March Restoration and Theocracy

28 March Wisdom Literature

18 April Life in the Diaspora

25 April Apocalyptic Literature

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

To mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Churches Together in Wendover is holding a service on **Sunday 22 January at 6.30pm in St Anne's**. The speaker will be Dr Mary Cotes, the newly appointed Ecumenical Officer for Buckinghamshire. Everyone is very welcome to come and hear her vision for our area.

Lent meetings

6 Tuesday evenings from 21 February, 7.30 pm, Wendover Christian Centre

Perhaps you would like to pray, but are not sure how to begin. Perhaps you want to develop your spirituality and would like to explore this with others. This year the Churches Together Lent Meetings will explore ways to pray, meditate and contemplate. Drawing on a range of spirituality, both ancient and modern, we will learn different ways to meet with God. Join the Wendover Churches Together at the Christian Centre for six Tuesday meetings from 7.30 pm for a 7.45 pm start, finishing at 9pm. The opening session is on Shrove Tuesday 21 February when you can also enjoy pancakes with coffee at 7.30 pm.
Jane Larkham

Dates for your diary

Date	Time	Event
Wed evgs as listed	8 pm	Enrichment in Faith – DVD lectures Damien Hall
Sun 22 Jan	6.30 pm	Service in St Anne's to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Tuesdays From 21 Feb	7.30 pm	Lent meetings in Wendover Christian Centre

Hall Bookings

Damien Hall Keyna Godward

W Christian Centre Sue Abbott

This week's services

	Immaculate Heart of Mary Great Missenden	St Anne's Wendover
Mon 23 Jan	8 am MASS (Polish) 9 am Rosary 9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am MASS	9 am Ecumenical morning Prayer 10.15am Service of Word & Communion & Rosary
Tue 24 Jan St Francis de Sales	9 am Rosary 9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am MASS	9 am Ecumenical morning Prayer 10.15am Service of Word & Communion & Rosary
Wed 25 Jan CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	9 am Rosary 9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am MASS 6.30 pm Prayer and Benediction	9 am Ecumenical morning Prayer
Thu 26 Jan SS Timothy & Titus mem	9 am Rosary 9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Service of Word & Communion	10.15am MASS & Rosary
Fri 27 Jan St Angela Merici op mem	9 am Rosary 9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Service of Word & Communion	9 am Ecumenical morning Prayer 10.15am MASS & Rosary 7 pm Vespers & Benediction
Sat 28 Jan St Thomas Aquinas	9 am Rosary 9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Service of Word & Communion 10 am Confession 6 pm MASS	11 am Confession
Sun 29 Jan 4th Sunday of the year	11 am MASS 12.30 pm MASS (Polish)	9.15 am MASS