



**The Parish of
The Immaculate Heart of Mary**
High Street, Great Missenden HP16 9AA

St Anne's
Aylesbury Road, Wendover HP22 6LJ

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Newsletter available online at
www.rcmissenden.org.uk and
www.rcwendover.org.uk

4th Sunday of Advent

20 December 2009

1st reading: Micah 5:1-4

The prophet Micah foretells how the one who is to rule over Israel will be born in Bethlehem.

2nd reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Christ comes into the world to obey the will of God.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who greets her as the mother of her Lord.

11am Sunday Mass Settings

Gloria 406 Sanctus: 428 Acclamation: 446 Agnus Dei: 453

God and peace

God placed our world on tectonic plates which move around like giant turtles causing earthquakes, volcanoes and mountain ranges. The emission of gasses including CO₂ from volcanoes has enriched our atmosphere and allowed plant life, animal life and human life to develop. Plants breathe in CO₂ and breathe out oxygen. More CO₂ suggests we need more forests. The heat generated by tectonic plates with hot springs could be a CO₂ free way of energy. Huge commercial investments to make CO₂ free energy would lift our economy out of depression.

Dangerous things, though, tectonic plates... could not God have just made a decent atmosphere for earth and left it at that? He makes a world so that one thing comes out of another. Existence witnesses to him but so too does the emergence of higher forms which is not entirely explained I think by Darwin's "survival of the fittest". Man's discoveries allow new arrangements so that man can develop and praise God. The world which comes from nothing by God's creative will reaches back up to him in a conscious way, even achieving union with him as we see in the lives of the saints.

"Let love be genuine", said St Paul and for angels and men that genuineness is proved by the alternative option which ultimately is to hate. So shaped by DNA man is also shaped by history with clashes, wars, councils, treaties. As well as a zoosphere man lives in a culturesphere belonging to a tribe or nation and from the beginning this went wrong with God. Consequences are many and the result is a widespread ignorance but also a widespread fear of God.

Original sin leads to the reign of sin and rational man ceases to act rationally finding himself ruled by events and emotions that are less than God. There needs to be a shift back, a restoration of right order, and renewed love between man and God. With Israel a progressive history with God's help moves things in the right direction though it is a painful struggle and the prophets get sawn in two or dropped into wells. It is partly the very cursedness of man which causes him to remember the prophets and their rejected message. The law of the Cross precedes the Cross of Jesus.

The fact that God himself enters the contest and helps his servants means that triumph must ensue, but how? Endless ages make endless improvements a way but with Christmas we find God acting in history to give us himself in the person of his Son as Virgin born man, one of us, free from sin, communicating grace to shepherds and gentile wise men. With Christ ascended a new age moves forward with a holy people, with saints and even Christian kings and nations – I was touched to learn that the first French king to become a Catholic did so after witnessing a miracle at the tomb of St Martin de Tours.

While it is necessary that scandals should come, and how terrible they can be, the holy people moves forward in history, so the last century was the greatest century for the missions. The rule is that Christ's kingdom can only spread through the efforts of Christ's people. As Tertulian put it, the principle of salvation is the flesh.

Our poor human bodies find themselves raised to share in a great task. May our Lady's prayers and example help us rise to the occasion. Happy Christmas 2009 AD.

TVR

Prayer at the lighting of the Advent candles

Let us pray that we remain alert and watchful as we await the coming of Christ so that faithful to his teaching we may hasten to meet him with lamps alight.

Sunday Tea and Coffee

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

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

Parish News

Christmas Eve 6 pm Mass

The younger children are invited to gather on the altar after the homily to sing a carol with the choir. We have a Mary and a Joseph! So those who wish to dress up as angels or shepherds are encouraged to do so on this special night. Margaret van Duyvenbode

Found in IHM church

A small amount of money. Please see Emma Haven at the 11 am Mass or between 9 and 10 am daily.

Parish Christmas Post Box – will be available as in past years. Maurice Roberts

Prayer Intentions

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

At IHM on 20 Maude Biggerstaff, 21 Barbara Janaway, 24 Carryl Henriques, Fr Arnold Sloots, Keith Humphrey, 25 Dennis & Ann Gantley, Winnie Carr, Peter Murphy.

At St Anne's on 20 Dec Pat Connory, 21 Ann Hayes, 22 Dennis O'Callaghan, Paul Shanahan, Kathy Winter, May Magowen, 23 John By-south, 24 Mrs Rigby, 25 Przemyslaw Lubek, Thomas Gornall, 26 Michael O'Reilly.

Seasonal Intentions: During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Migrants and refugees;

Openness to God's word;

The bishop, clergy and people of the diocese;

Expectant mothers, esp on 20 Dec.

Bible Quiz

In aid of the Anne Roberts Foundation of Hope for Children and the Friends of the Belarussian Children's Hospice. Susanna Challinger has once again produced a Quiz to test our knowledge. If you haven't already collected the Adults and Children's quiz sheets, please do so and have fun over the Christmas holidays. Sheets are 50 pence each or £ 1 for a family. Thank you. Maurice Roberts

Giving Tree, St Anne's

Many thanks to everyone who has brought their gifts for Aylesbury Women's Aid. They will be taken on Tuesday 22 December so if you have forgotten your present, please bring it to St Anne's as soon as possible. Jane Larkham

A Thriving Catholic Community

Northampton Diocese has drawn on their experiences and produced a DVD so that everyone can catch their vision, reflect on it at a local level and contribute to the conversation that is shaping our future. Please refer to the poster that is displayed at the back of our churches and check the Vine which contains relevant information. There is an opportunity to see the DVD at St Anne's after 9.15 am Mass on Sunday 20 December. Keyna Godward and Jane Larkham

Laptop needed for headmaster of school in deprived area of Lusaka, Zambia. Can anyone help? For more information contact Margaret Chitty

Newsletter Items

✉ leave at the Presbytery (address on front cover)

Please note deadline 12 noon Thursdays



No newsletter next weekend,
26/27 December.

Please note that services in
the week beginning Sunday
27 December will be as nor-
mal, except that there will be
no Mass on Monday 28 De-
cember, and there will be
Masses on New Year's Day
at 9.30 am at Great Mis-
senden and at 11 am at
Wendover.

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 21 Dec St Peter Canisius	8.00 am MASS (Polish) 9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion	9.00am Ecumenical morning Prayer 10.15am Service of Word & Communion & Rosary 8 pm Reconciliation Service
Tue 22 Dec	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am MASS 8 pm Reconciliation Service	9.00am Ecumenical morning Prayer 10.15am Service of Word & Communion & Rosary
Wed 23 Dec St John of Kanty	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am MASS 5.00 pm MASS & Rosary (Polish) 6.30 pm Holy half hour with exposition	9.00am Ecumenical morning Prayer
Thu 24 Dec	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion 6 pm MASS 9.30 pm Carols 10 pm First Mass of Christmas	7.30 pm Carols and readings 8 pm First Mass of Christmas
Fri 25 Dec THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST	11.00 am MASS	9.15am MASS
Sat 26 Dec ST STEPHEN	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion 10.00am Confession 6.00pm MASS	11.00am Confession
Sun 27 Dec THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	11.00am MASS 12.30pm MASS (Polish)	9.15am MASS