



**The Parish of  
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Newsletter available online at  
[www.rcmissenden.org.uk](http://www.rcmissenden.org.uk) and  
[www.rcwendover.org.uk](http://www.rcwendover.org.uk)

## **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

### **3 January 2010**

#### **1st reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

Jerusalem shines out because the glory of the Lord appears above her.

#### **2nd reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6**

The pagans now share through the Gospel in the inheritance brought by Christ Jesus and are parts of the same body.

#### **Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

The wise men come to do homage to the infant king of the Jews and offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

#### **11 am Sunday Mass Settings**

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

# World Day of Peace

As well as man's inhumanity to man there is man's degradation of creation. Our care of the world around should reflect God's care of us. The world with snow and cold, sun and warmth, blossom and fruit, stair cases and lifts is God's gift to us as well as our achievement. We should treat it with care and hand it on in good order to the next generation. Looking after the wide world well is a way to promote peace. Such is Pope Benedict's message for the World Day of Peace which over here we are celebrating on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Is it not alarming that a young man can think it his duty to blow up a civilian plane. One must conclude he would be quite willing to blow up almost anything almost anywhere. It is true that religion works to develop man's total commitment but it works too to direct that commitment to goodness. Among the values to be loved and fostered is another human life. It is an utter distortion of a religious tradition to foster widespread murder. A thing I discovered reading Gibbon was that though the prophet Mohammed carries a scimitar he first used it in self-defence. A humane story Gibbon recounts is about Mohammed's father who was a sort of local mayor. He had to surrender a town which had a Temple. He made an agreement guaranteeing the safety of the people. His enemies pointed out he had made no stipulation about the Temple. He replied, "The gods can look after themselves"! A genuine value propounded by Mohammed was to pay your bills as soon as possible. He thought water should flow so I presume he would disapprove of soaking in hot tub. Alcohol is out, and sex uncontrollable for the male of the species.

There was a work by Frederick Heiler in 1959 which listed 7 areas where world religions agreed. One point was that all of them including Islam thought the path to God involved seeking their neighbour's wellbeing and even the well being of their enemies. Our Lord taught "Love your enemies, do good to those that hate you."

The perversion of a religion which leads to a suicide bomber is surely an evil. I find here a reason for more earnest prayer even unto an extra rosary. Roy Campbell the poet found himself saying the rosary earnestly when the Spanish civil war raged around him. Let us pray that the fanatic suicidal spirit may die down – here is earnest reason for prayer. The last parish I worked in was founded in the Second World War and well dedicated to "Our Lady Queen of Peace".

Respect for creation is also respect for nature and so human nature. Respect for others prohibits random murder. Respect for oneself prohibits suicide. May such respect grow.

Human nature is set in a historical context. So the fathers in Salamanca developed the notion of innocent human life which should never be directly taken. This is a challenging teaching for our Western world with its weapons of mass destruction. May the prayers we say for others to respect life also help us to appropriate better our own tradition and the challenge it poses to our war scarred contemporary life.

TVR

## Parish News

**The Sewing Group** will meet this Friday, 8 January, at 10 am in Damien Hall. All welcome. Veronica Carter

### **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.

### **St Vincent de Paul Society Annual Party Sun 10 January 3 to 5.30 pm.**

If you would like to attend the SVP party, please contact Diana Dove, Keyna Godward or any other member of the SVP for further information.

## Prayer Intentions

**Anniversaries:** In the coming week we remember the following who died around this time.

**At IHM** on 27 Dec Irene Strickland, 28 Daphne Harris, Fred Rutland, Charles Caine, Muriel Johnston, 29 Marion Davis, Fr Arnold Sloots, 30 Gladys Diaper 31 Eryl Griffiths, Robert McHugh, 1 Jan Gladys Swindlehurst, 2 Fernand Sulann, John Healey, 3 Noel Smith, 7 Regina Chases, 8 Fr Bogdan, Annabele Senior,

**At St Anne's** on 27 Dec Bertha Kirlew, 29 Siobhan Cushing, 30 Josephine Wilson, 1 Jan Edward Stevenson, Amy Larkham, Ron Larkham, Robert Parkinson, John Cronin, 3 Jan Violet Stevenson, 5 Reginald Gosney, 6 Patrick Murnane, 7 Agnes Gornall, 8 John Mimmagh.

**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.

# This week's services

	Immaculate Heart of Mary Great Missenden	St Anne's Wendover
<b>Mon 4 Jan</b>	<b>8.00 am MASS (Polish)</b> 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
<b>Tue 5 Jan</b>	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer <b>9.30am MASS</b>	9.00am Ecumenical morning Prayer 10.15am Service of Word & Communion & Rosary
<b>Wed 6 Jan</b>	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer <b>9.30am MASS</b> <b>5.00 pm MASS &amp; Rosary (Polish)</b> 6.30 pm Holy half hour with exposition	9.00am Ecumenical morning Prayer
<b>Thu 7 Jan St Raymond of Penyafort</b>	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion	<b>10.15am MASS &amp; Rosary</b>
<b>Fri 8 Jan</b>	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion	9.00am Ecumenical morning Prayer <b>10.15am MASS &amp; Rosary</b> 7.00pm Vespers & Benediction
<b>Sat 9 Jan</b>	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion 10.00am Confession <b>6.00pm MASS</b>	11.00am Confession
<b>Sun 10 Jan THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	<b>11.00am MASS</b> <b>12.30pm MASS (Polish)</b>	<b>9.15am MASS</b>