



**The Parish of
The Immaculate Heart of Mary**
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Newsletter available online at
www.rcmissenden.org.uk and
www.rcwendover.org.uk

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10 January 2010

1st reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

The Lord is coming to lead his people home.

2nd reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

God's kindness and love for humanity are revealed in Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Jesus is baptised – the new age dawns.

11 am Sunday Mass Settings

Gloria 406 Sanctus: 428 Acclamation: 434 Agnus Dei: 453

Protect creation, make peace!

The Holy Father seeks integral human development going on alongside our protection of the environment but such development may involve a change in life style, what we consume, how we produce. In our human development we should see the world as a gift to mankind from God out of love rather than just as a freak chance. Our love for God will urge us on to appropriate care.

If agricultural land deteriorates or turns into desert then food production may fall, lead to hunger and a scramble for resources. So if land is well looked after and made productive it helps mankind towards peace. As I read this I find myself thinking of the fenland of Cambridge-shire around Ely – which perhaps is still the breadbasket of England.

As you drive along the roads they are perhaps fifteen feet higher than the fields. The fields have ditches and no trees, so what you get is year on year erosion. The planting of trees and hedges would help protect God's gift of the land. If farmers understood the matter better and felt secure about the future of their families on the land they would surely plant trees and prevent erosion.

There is an earlier story of course. The fens were reed-beds full of fish and eels and of birds too which provided food for the people of Ely (from eels) as well as protection for Hereward the Wake. In the early seventeenth century common land was enclosed and the people of Ely lost their cheap living. I suspect there was a heartlessness here with many enclosures but can one see here a little strand which contributed to the English civil war?

Sometimes one is moved in a positive way by a photo. In a missionary magazine there was a picture of young, black African men doing some hoeing in a field full of beautiful plants. The men looked happy and every plant was in place. In fact they were seminarians. The food would help their college and no doubt the wider community to health.

One might think, well a tractor could do the job better, with its single driver going up and down three rows at a time, but there is something to be said for men working together and breaking the soil by hand. Augustine records how gladly men sang when they gathered the harvest in.

Maybe a more labour intensive mode of production can raise the quality of the product, at least in some cases. Such an idea would mean "a change in our style of life". The Pope writes, "Technology is never merely technology. It reveals man and his aspiration towards development".

Care for integral human development means care that the earth should be bountiful, and the benefit is for all. Enclosures made some rich and others poor. When the Pope writes of "solidarity" I think he means making legal and technological decisions which benefit all.

The Pope mentions loss of biodiversity but he does not mention the tiger. 100 years ago there were 300,000 tigers in the forests of the night. There are just over 3,000 now. If I hear of people looking after such creatures my heart stirs positively. I recognise a common humanity being achieved. This recognition is a little strand of peace.

TVR

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

Bishop's visit

The Bishop will be visiting our parish on Tuesday 19 January to meet the clergy and members of the Pastoral Area Steering Group. He will say Mass at The Immaculate Heart of Mary at 7 pm to which all are welcome. There will be a short opportunity to meet the Bishop after Mass before he meets the Steering Group. TVR

St Vincent de Paul Society

Annual Party

Sunday 10 January

Because of the bad weather, the SVP party has been cancelled. We are intending to hold it later in the year. Diana Dove

Prayer Intentions

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

At IHM on 10 Jan Josephine Godfrey, Mary Caul, Naomi Williams, 11 Gerald Meakin, 12 Paddy Cleary, 13 Pauline Zarb, 14 Albert Feenan, 15 Ted Quirk.

At St Anne's on 12 Jan Christine Adnitt.

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.

A Thriving Catholic Community

Bishop Peter asks that we all reflect on our parish and to identify what makes it 'A Thriving Catholic Community'.

A diagram outlining what a renewed, fully alive and active church might look like and a questionnaire will be available at all Masses this weekend. This is a unique opportunity for us all (all ages) to contribute to the forming of the plan for the future shape of the Parishes in our Pastoral Area. It is hoped that all Parishes and ultimately our Pastoral Area will identify which of the 12 marks represent what "we do particularly well at the moment and those "we would aspire to develop in the future".

Your opinions are invaluable. Letters and emails are also very welcome. Please return to Canon Timothy Russ or John Lumsden (address at the bottom of the questionnaire)

Parish quiz night

We will be having our Parish Quiz Night on Saturday 6 February and the price of £7.50 includes a fish and chip supper. Please supply your own drink and glass. Tickets now available from members of the Social Group. All tables seat 8, book early! Keyna Godward

Piano concert

Alexander Ardakov piano concert in aid of Friends of the Belarusian Children's Hospice. Saturday 6 March at 8 pm at Challoner's High School, Little Chalfont. Programme to be announced shortly. Tickets £15; students and retired £10. To book tickets, please ring Daryl Ann Hardman; Antoinette Ferraro.

Friends of the Belarusian Children's Hospice were delighted to receive this week a cheque for £441.48 being their share of the proceeds of the Christmas Fayre in December. Thank you to the parish for its ongoing generous support. Antoinette Ferraro

Newsletter Items

✉ leave at the Presbytery (address on front cover)

Please note deadline 12 noon Thursdays

Coping in a Crisis

Saturdays 16 and 30 January
from 10 to 11 am

The announcement that 800 jobs are to go at HBOS in Aylesbury reminded us all of the reality of the recession. Year on year data shows a tripling of the number of people in Wendover claiming Job Seekers Allowance. You are welcome to join us for coffee and croissant from 9.45 am with discussion from 10 to 11am in Wendover Christian Centre on Aylesbury Road (opposite Wharf Road). The forum will explore how the Churches in Wendover might respond to issues of Unemployment, Redundancy and Debt and give practical support. Please tell your friends. We hope you can help us: we hope we can help you and the people you know. Revd. Canon Peter Louis (St Marys)

Christian Aid in Wendover

St Anne's need another Christian Aid rep to help Diane Marston with this valuable work. If you would like to witness a meeting with no obligation, please reserve Thursday 14 January and contact Jane Larkham.

Ten years of Christian Unity in Wendover

10.30 am Sunday 24 January, St Mary's

Although the churches in Wendover have been working and worshipping together for many decades, it is ten years since a covenant was signed with pledges to continue to work together and learn from one another, to be open and honest with one another and to pray for one another. This tenth anniversary will be marked in various creative ways throughout 2010 at services and events organised by Churches Together in Wendover. All are welcome at the first special service is on Sunday 24 January at St Mary's Church at 10.30 am. This occasion has been chosen for its significance in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Jane Larkham

Dates for your diary

Date	Time	Event
Tues 19 Jan	7 pm	Bishop's visit—Mass at IHM
Sat 6 Feb		Parish Quiz night at IHM
Sat 6 March	8 pm	Piano concert at Challoner's High School, Little Chalfont

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 11 Jan	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
Tue 12 Jan St Aelred of Rievaulx op mem	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am MASS	9.00am Ecumenical morning Prayer 10.15am Service of Word & Communion & Rosary
Wed 13 Jan St Hilary op mem	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 14 Jan	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion	10.15am MASS & Rosary
Fri 15 Jan	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion	9.00am Ecumenical morning Prayer 10.15am MASS & Rosary 7.00pm Vespers & Benediction
Sat 16 Jan	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion 10.00am Confession 6.00pm MASS	11.00am Confession
Sun 17 Jan 2nd Sunday of the year	11.00am MASS 12.30pm MASS (Polish)	9.15am MASS