



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

St Anne's
Aylesbury Road, Wendover HP22 6LJ

Canon Timothy Russ 01494 862049
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Newsletter available online at
www.rcmissenden.org.uk and
www.rcwendover.org.uk

4th Sunday of the year

31 January 2010

1st reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Jeremiah is consecrated and appointed as prophet.

2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Without love we are nothing; the greatest gift is love.

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Jesus teaches in the synagogue, but his words are rejected and he has to escape through the crowd.

11 am Sunday Mass Settings

Sanctus: 428 Acclamation: 434 Agnus Dei: 453

Alexander McCall Smith

... has a character called Isabel Dalhousie who lives in Edinburgh and who does moral philosophy and is always thinking of the rights and wrongs of everything. One agrees with her most of the time. When she tells the daily woman that she is going to marry her live-in lover, the woman expresses her gladness that she will no longer be "living in sin". Isabel is outraged by the expression.

Evelyn Waugh wrote *Brideshead Revisited* on the theme of such sin and subsequent repentance and Nancy Mitford on reading it was astonished to find an irregular sexual liaison was regarded by Catholics as "a sin".

I suspect actually that many Christians from other churches agree with the Catholic Church's teaching on the importance of chastity for salvation. In our traditional language we are dealing here with "grave matter", one of the conditions Gregory the Great, I think, postulated for mortal sin. The other conditions were full knowledge and full consent. Presumably Nancy Mitford, before reading *Brideshead*, did not have full knowledge. I recall Bishop Grant saying that other churches would melt a bit toward the Catholic Church when they realised that it taught what they too hold dear.

The truth of the matter though is that many who are born and baptised Catholics actually don't bother with marriage let alone sacramental marriage in church. There is a frightening statistic which shows nearly 200,000 marriages in the Catholic Church per annum fifty years ago reduced to about 20,000 last year. It is, I guess, a more essential task to guide our own folk than to dream of an ecumenical one day, and, for whatever reason, we are not doing too brilliantly here.

I came across a concept from Husserl that each person lives in a "life world" in which certain things matter and certain things don't and these "life worlds" can be quite different. Politicians have the unenviable task of finding the politically correct lowest common denominator, so child porn is out but everything else is in so long as it is consensual. Those who declare marriage to be the sole norm might even end up behind bars for being so provocative and intolerant.

I have been doing a bit of work on metaphysics and the task seems to be to help people in different "life worlds" to find that they are living in the same world, a knowable world, a world where certain moral principles apply universally. There are certain norms which have to be fulfilled if we are to achieve authenticity. One of them is to recognise that we are largely shaped by traditions, bad as well as good. It is as if our modern world has lost its grasp of tradition and is shaped by the mass media, this way and that. Fish die when they flip flop around in water which is too shallow. A deal of happiness is lost in the thrill of temporal and transient relations.

Personally I find quite helpful to think that the day I die will be one day and it might be today. I find very helpful our Lord's words, "If you love me, keep my commandments".

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

Philosophy

Tuesday at 8 pm in Damien House.
Try it! TVR

At the Heart of a Thriving Catholic Community

Let your voices be heard!

Please help our Parish, the Pastoral Area and Diocese get a complete picture of the strengths, weaknesses, hopes and inspirations of our Parishioners and return your questionnaire sheets as soon as possible, preferably before 14 February. A basket on the Credence table at the Immaculate Heart of Mary and a box on the table at the back of St Anne's are available for your replies. Thank you Keyna Godward

Take & Read

Here's an opportunity to learn about and share our faith: 'Take & Read: The Gospel of Luke' has study material on 12 gospel passages for use both in small groups and individually. If you'd be interested, please contact Joanna Hale with a note of the time (s) of the week that it might be possible for you to join a group (or just to let her know to order copies for individuals or continuing groups). Joanna would be especially pleased to hear from anyone who might consider hosting or leading a group.

The Sewing Group will meet at 10 am in Damien Hall this Friday, 5 February. Everyone welcome. Veronica Carter

Prayer Intentions

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

At IHM on 31 Jan Robin Beesom, 2 Feb John Arthur Roberts, 3 Patrick Griffin, Stan Kleman, 4 Iris McLaughlin, 5 Lyster Hocknell.

At St Anne's on 31 Jan Mary & Joseph Drynan, 1 Feb Gerard Dorrity, 3 Bill Hayes, John Donnelly, 5 Stella Smith, 6 Doris Cheney.

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

Peace on earth; Christian unity,
Children, students & teachers, esp on Sun 31 Jan;
The unemployed, esp on Sun 14 Feb;
The sick & their carers, esp on 11 Feb.

Reconciliation service

Next Saturday 6 February there will be a Sacramental Reconciliation Service during the usual time for confessions at Immaculate Heart of Mary, from 10 to 10.30 am. Joanna

Lent 2010

Churches Together have produced material in partnership with BBC Radio which can be used by individuals or groups to reflect upon People on the Edge of His Pain for the 6 weeks of Lent. It's downloadable from http://www.ctbi.org.uk/pdf_view.php?id=424 or contact Joanna Hale for a photocopy.

Parish Quiz Night Sat 6 Feb

Thank you to those who have booked for the quiz night & to those who have also paid and confirmed a place. We have a short waiting list and we'd be grateful if you could please confirm /pay for your ticket asap. Thank you. Keyna Godward

SVP Party—Sun 7 Feb, 3 to 5.30 pm

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

Diocesan Directory

The 2010 Northampton Diocesan Directories have arrived. The Directory is full of useful information about our diocese, its clergy and parishes. They are available from the bench near the back of Church at IHM. The cost is £4.50. Please put money in the papers box in the narthex. Copies should also be available at St Anne's. Liz Clark

Churches Together Gt Missenden Lent programme in IHM

Bishop Peter Doyle, Wednesday 24 February. " Walking humbly with our God"

Canon David Winter from the Anglican Diocese of Oxford. Wednesday 3 March. "Hope in the Wilderness."

Catch the Fire Ministries — Soaking in God's presence

Friday 12 / Saturday 13 February, at 10 am , 2 pm & 7 pm, at Holmer Green Baptist Church, The Common, Holmer Green. To register phone 01978 - 353984 or e-mail uk@ctfministries.com.

Cost: Single £30; Married couple £45 further details on leaflets at back of church. Maurice Roberts

Newsletter Items

✉ leave at the Presbytery (address on front cover)

Please note deadline 12 noon Thursdays

Lent Course Churches Together in Chesham

There is a great series of talks organised by Churches Together in Chesham at the Broadway Baptist Church Wednesdays at 8 pm
24 February – Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP - "Love in a Cold Climate".

3 March - Jonathan Edwards - General Secretary of the Baptist Union - "Sharing Love in a Post Christian Society".

10 March - Lucy Winkett – Canon Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral- "Listening for God's Song of Love in a Noisy World".

17 March - Debra Green – Director of City Links - "Redeeming Our Communities".

24 March - John Bell – Iona Community - "The Love of God and Global Warming".

Next Justice and Peace lunch in the Wendover Christian Centre is next Tuesday, 2 February. Delicious soup will be served from 12.30 pm – all are welcome. Wyn Woods

Lent in Wendover

Lent, the six-week preparation for Easter, is a period of reflection marked by the Churches in Wendover according to their various traditions. However, Lent meetings organised by Churches Together in Wendover are open to anyone. Our Lent course this year is entitled 'The Things He Carried'. There will be five sessions: Tuesdays 23 February and 2, 9, 16 and 23 March from 7.30pm
Jane Larkham

Churches Together in Wendover

Last Sunday in St Mary's we held a service to celebrate 10 years since the signing of the Covenant as Churches Together in Wendover. Many people have expressed an interest in the presentation of the history of how the Churches started to come together as a direct result of Vatican II. If anyone would like a copy of the transcript, please contact Jane Larkham. Please note that this was the first of three major services planned this year to mark the anniversary. The next will coincide with Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, and the final service will be at Harvest.

St Anne's Pastoral Council

Thur 4 February, 8 pm, Wendover Christian Centre

The minutes of the last meeting were sent by email to anyone on the list. Paper copies are available at the back of St Anne's. The agenda will also be circulated by email with paper copies for those who cannot be contacted electronically. If you would like to receive communications in this way, please email Jane Larkham with details.

Pancakes & Prayer

7.30 pm Tue 16 Feb, Wendover
Christian Centre

Everyone is welcome to 'Pancakes & Prayer' on Shrove Tuesday 16th February at 7.30pm for quiet space for personal reflection, an introduction to the Lent meetings and hot pancakes and coffee. This meeting takes place at Wendover Christian Centre.

Date	Time	Event
Thur 4 Feb	8 pm	St Anne's Pastoral Council, Christian Centre
Sat 6 Feb		Parish Quiz night at IHM
Sun 7 Feb	3–5.30pm	SVP party
Tue 16 Feb	7.30 pm	Pancakes & Prayer, Wendover Christian Centre
Sat 20 Feb		Quiz Oldham Hall, for Anne Roberts Foundation
Wed 24 Feb		Lent talk – Bishop Peter, IHM
Wed 3 Mar		Lent talk—David Winter, IHM
Sat 6 March	8 pm	Piano concert at Challoner's High School,

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 1 Feb	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 2 Feb THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am MASS	9.00am Ecumenical morning Prayer 10.15am Service of Word & Communion & Rosary
Wed 3 Feb St Werburgh 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 4 Feb	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion	10.15am MASS & Rosary
Fri 5 Feb St Agatha	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 6 Feb SS Paul Miki & companions mem	9.00am Rosary 9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of Word & Communion 10.00am Sacramental reconciliation service 6.00pm MASS	11.00am Confession
Sun 7 Feb 5th Sunday of the year	11.00am MASS 12.30pm MASS (Polish)	9.15am MASS