



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

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

1st Sunday of Lent

21 February 2010

1st reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses commands the people to remember how God saved them from slavery in Egypt so that he might lead them into the promised land.

2nd reading: Romans 10:8-13

Paul tells us that anyone, Jew or Gentile, who calls in faith upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Just as Israel was tested in the desert, Jesus enters into the wilderness to be tested by Satan.

11 am Sunday Mass Settings

Sanctus 439 Acclamation "When we eat this living Bread"
Our Father 585 Agnus Dei 454

Lighting up

I have taken to putting the lights on in the church here at sunset in the hope that it will deter the gentlemen with screwdrivers and light fingers who prefer the cover of dark. I recall the late Fr Woodard of Burnham saying that the way to keep the church open is to have nothing of great value there. The fact that the church is open means that we all have another room to our house, a place we can go, looking for courage or comfort or grace.

People have noted the holiness of the place. One old lady said, "It is just a barn, but God is there" and she became a Catholic.

The Temple of old had the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. The idea was, it was a place where God could dwell in the midst of his people.

A church, by contrast, is a place where the Christian people can assemble in order to celebrate and pray. The first St Peter's was actually a structure above St Peter's tomb – it had an east-facing altar beneath a window and atop the tomb. There was also a place for baptism (total immersion) which I suppose must have been filled by buckets carried from a less polluted Tiber. There was nothing to betray the place was Christian or the lions would have been better fed. The pagan custom was to assemble at the tomb of one's family for any sort of party and to pour out a libation, a drink, for one's ancestors so that they did not get jealous and start interfering with the happiness of the living. If they were disturbed during Mass it would appear that with bread and wine there was some sort of ancestral offering going on. After Mass the Christians would have a meal together and so foster their fellowship. I suspect as numbers grew this became less and less possible. The meal was called an agape. With such things there

is always a danger of cliques. Our Lord urged a hospitality which reached down to those who could not repay.

After the Mass the Eucharist would be taken to the sick, often with the oil of the sick. So the Eucharist came to be kept with the oils in a secure place in the sacristy. I think things stayed like this for a thousand years and more so that one would notice and honour the Blessed Sacrament either at Mass or when it was taken to the sick.

What led to the much more explicit veneration of the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle which we are well used to as Catholics now, was that doubts were expressed about the real presence, and the Church reaffirmed her faith in a very visible way. The feast of Corpus Christi was instituted.

I will try in these bulletins to back this up with chapter and verse, so that as we move towards Corpus Christi, after Pentecost, we will be in a good position to make something of that feast.

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 23 Feb, at 8 pm in Damien House. TVR

Parish Council meeting Gt Missenden

Monday 8 March at 8 pm. Any items for discussion to Mrs Keyna Godward, please. TVR

Deanery Council meeting

Wednesday 10 March, Damien Hall at 8 pm. TVR

Stations of the Cross

We were a bit thin on the ground on the first Saturday of Lent. That leaves you only five more opportunities to join in this great devotion at 9.30 am each Saturday in Lent. Why not make a date(s) in your diary? David Carter

The Parish Communications

group next meet on Thu 25 Feb. If you would like to make any comments or suggestions please speak to Paul Wooderson.

Prayer Intentions

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

At IHM on 21 Feb Isabelle Kennedy, 24 Mrs Vera Moger, Rosamund Burnett, 25 James Archbold, 26 Len Donovan, 27 Nora Edmonds.

At St Anne's on 22 Feb Norrie Furlonger, 23 Vincent Corbishley, 24 Dorothy Cullen, Margaret Crowe, 27 John Holt.

Seasonal Intentions: During Lent we are asked to pray for the following intentions

Candidates for the Sacraments, esp on Sundays;

The needy and hungry of the world, esp on 26 February;

Penitents and wanderers;

Women's World Day of Prayer, Friday 5 March.

If you have not yet picked up the Signs of a Thriving Catholic Community questionnaire, it is also possible to access it on the parish website (address on front cover).

The Women's World Day of Prayer (IHM) will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary this year at 11 am on 5 March. On 26 February there will be Bible Study at 7 pm in Damien Hall for anyone who would like to prepare the readings. Please see the posters for further details. J Morgan & Lynne Newton

Bible Alive

I have to pay the bulk subscription for the 2010 copies of Bible Alive within the next few days. Would those subscribers who have not yet paid please let me have their subscription of £17.50 as soon as possible. Peter McLoughlin

Lent: a renewed call to Prayer and Fasting

During Lent we're particularly called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. If you'd like to add an extra dimension(s) to your Lenten Prayer:

- join us at IHM for some or all of the time between 9 and 10 am on weekday mornings
- Saturdays in Lent we follow the Stations of the Cross from 9.30 am
- Thursday evenings half an hour of Prayer and Benediction from 7.30 pm
- read three psalms a day (or even better, join us for Morning Prayer from 9.15 to 9.30 am)
- join one of the house groups 'Take & Read The Gospel of Luke'
- use some of the great Lent reflection material that's available for personal use.

Fasting: see elsewhere for details of CAFOD's Fast Day and Give it up campaign

Newsletter Items

✉ leave at the Presbytery (address on front cover)

Please note deadline 12 noon Thursdays

This year's Lent Calendars – with prayers and actions suitable for all ages - are available at the back of the church for you to take and use at home. Contact Joanna Hale for more details.

Churches Together Great Misenden Lent programme

Talks at IHM, at 8 pm, Bishop Peter Doyle, Wed 24 February: *Walking Humbly with our God*.

Canon David Winter, Wed 3 March: *Hope in the Wilderness* (Exodus 3).

A **Lent series**, Sundays 21 & 28 Feb, and 14 & 21 March, at Oldham Hall, 6 – 7 pm. *Experiences with the Cross* Joseph Wolyniak & Elizabeth Costello. This exciting series will move us out of our comfort zone. Maurice Roberts

Lent Course in Chesham

There is a great series of talks 'Here is Love' organised by Churches Together in Chesham at the Broadway Baptist Church Wednesdays at 8 pm from 24 February to 24 March. Joanna Hale

Minutes of St Anne's Pastoral

Council have been sent to everyone on my emailing list. If you would like to receive them electronically, please email Jane Larkham. There are a few printed copies available at the back of St Anne's.

Lent in Wendover

Our Lent course of 5 sessions entitled 'The Things He Carried'. Tuesdays 23 February and 2, 9, 16 & 23 March from 7.30 pm. Mary Sketch adds: "Having read the material in advance, I would particularly recommend this series for Lent, but do come to whatever you can manage."

50 years of Giving at Lent

Lent 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the first Family Fast Day, in aid of mothers & babies in Dominica. The organisers expected to raise £500 but actually raised a remarkable £6,000. The next year they reached a staggering £27,000! Envelopes will be available this weekend, the first in Lent. The traditional Lent Family Fast Day is Fri 26 Feb but if you are inspired by the posters to "Give it up" giving the money saved to CAFOD then please take a collecting box as well.

Fairtrade Fortnight

It is always possible to buy Fairtrade goods from @stmarys in Wendover High Street. In addition, during Fairtrade fortnight, why not join the Big Brew at 10.30 am on Tues 23 Feb or the Big Breakfast from 8.30 to 11 am on Sat 8 March. Both events in Wendover Christian Centre.

Thriving Catholic Community

We'll will show the 15 min DVD to illustrate the Thriving Catholic Community, in Wendover Christian Centre on Sun 28 Feb after Mass. All are welcome to watch & stay to discuss for as long as they can. The meeting should not take longer than an hour in total.

World Women's Day of Prayer in

Wendover This annual event takes place on the first Friday in March, this year Fri 5 March at 2 pm in St Anne's. It has been prepared by the women of Cameroon and Rev Heather McIntyre, our new Free Church minister, will speak so this is your opportunity to meet her if you haven't done so yet. Men are very welcome. Jane Larkham

Everyone at Workaid has expressed their thanks to parishioners for their extra donation of £500 to this charity which helps poor people in Africa to help themselves out of poverty. Peter Harper

Date	Time	Event
Tues, 23/2, & 2,9,16,23 March	7.30 pm	Wendover Lent Course, Christian Centre
Wed 24 Feb	8 pm	Lent talk — Bishop Peter, IHM
Wed 3 Mar	8 pm	Lent talk—David Winter, IHM
Sat 6 Mar	8 pm	Piano concert at Challoner's High School
Mon 8 Mar	8 pm	Parish Council, Gt Missenden, in Damien Hall

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 22 Feb CHAIR OF ST PETER	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 23 Feb St Polycarp	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 24 Feb	9 am Rosary 9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am MASS 5 pm MASS & Rosary (Polish)	9 am Ecumenical morning Prayer
Thu 25 Feb	9 am Rosary 9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Service of Word & Communion 7.30 pm Prayer and Benediction	10.15am MASS & Rosary
Fri 26 Feb	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 27 Feb	9 am Rosary 9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Service of Communion with Stations of the Cross 10 am Confession 6 pm MASS	11 am Confession
Sun 28 Feb 2nd Sunday of Lent	11 am MASS 12.30 pm MASS (Polish)	9.15 am MASS