

**WELCOME TO THE
PARISH OF ST MARY IMMACULATE & THE HOLY ARCHANGELS KELVEDON
ST. BERNARD COGGESHALL & ST JOHN HOUGHTON TIPTREE
(Twinned with St Joseph's Mission, Besters, KwaZulu-Natal)**

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

10th December 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Make his paths straight.

First Reading	Is 40:1-5.9-11
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 84:9-14
Second Reading	2 Pt 3:8-14
Gospel	Mk 1:1-8



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: The message of Advent is one of healing and hope. God says to Isaiah, "Console my people"! We can be consoled because our sins are atoned for by Jesus Christ on the cross. Now he comes as shepherd to gather his flock into his arms. We received his healing touch on the day of our baptism when the life giving gift of grace flowed through our souls. St Peter tells us that during this time of expectation we should be living saintly and holy lives. However, we know that we still have to battle with temptation. Original sin left us weakened. We cannot rely on our own strength to live holy lives but must rely on the grace of God. Failure does not destroy hope but invites us to open our hearts to the Lord to ask forgiveness and prepare us for his coming. Our Advent preparation should include the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Although we will not have a reconciliation service in the parish there is one at St Teresa's, Lexden, this Friday (15th) at 7.30 p.m.

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially *Rona Roberts, Ann Ross, Rosemary Tuite, Michelle Bryant, Samantha Upton, Margaret Britain, Paul Britain, Vanessa Dann, Angelina Barber, Mrs Van Stolk Senior, Denis Wood, Hayley Hetzel, Julie Trueman, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Pam Loath, Karen Kelly, Sheila Faulkner, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Anne Entwistle, Audrey Hopwood* and any unknown to us.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember *Bertha Beasley, Kenelem Bourfield, Hilda Davey, Lilian Taylor, William Neary, Anthony Said, Agnes Bamford* and *Eileen Condon* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY: On Bambinelli Sunday, traditionally the Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday, the Baby Jesus from every crib and nativity scene in homes throughout each parish is brought to church to be blessed. This is a wonderful tradition which has been popular in Italy for many years and now is spreading across the world. In this way, the children, parents and grandparents are able to focus on the preparations that Advent should be about on the very day which marks our expectation and rejoicing of the Birth of Our Lord. We encourage the families of our parish to bring the figure of the infant Jesus from their own cribs to church for a blessing next Sunday whichever Mass they attend. You will be joining with our Holy Father, Pope Francis, as he will be again be blessing all the Baby Jesus' from thousands of cribs in Rome and beyond. No crib at home? It is not too late to remedy this!

'REDISCOVER JESUS – AN INVITATION': The Diocese has sent us sufficient copies of this book by Matthew Kelly to give a copy to each parishioner at Mass on Sunday. I understand they have been provided free of charge by the publisher. There are short chapters – about three pages each – inviting us to reflect on our relationship with Jesus and enter a closer relationship with him. You might like to do this over Christmas or perhaps keep it in reserve for the forty days of Lent, but please do take your copy.

FINANCE: Offertory collection for **3rd December - £841.09.**

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS: These are available for you to collect **today**, those not collected will be posted. If you live in the parish and do not receive one please let us know so that we can update our records. If you see a card addressed to some one you know who may not be at Mass, please take it and deliver it to them.

ST PAUL SUNDAY MISSALS 2018: These have now arrived for those who ordered them. They are priced at £5.00

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR: Please return filled boxes to your respective church by next Sunday **17th December**. The boxes will be collected from all 3 churches and distributed to the Night Shelter and Women's Refuge on 21st December.

BISHOP ALAN'S VIDEO: A kind reminder to all parishioners that we will be showing Bishop Alan's video after every Mass next **Sunday December 17th**. The video, which lasts for 10 minutes, is Bishop's Alan personal message on the publication of the diocesan restructuring plan. A hard copy of the plan can be found on the Stewards of The Gospel board in every church. Printed copies available on request.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: A kind reminder to all parents to get in touch with Angie Hart as soon as possible if your children would like to take part in any of the ministries available for young people: lectors for the readings and psalm, bidding prayers, offertory, laying baby Jesus to the crib, singing with the organist and welcoming people. Contact Angie Hart on mahart66@outlook.com or 07719-577923.

DAY OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER IN TIPTREE: St John Houghton is opening its doors to parishioners and the whole community who find themselves overwhelmed in any way during the run up to Christmas. This time of family celebration, can be particularly difficult for those who are bereaved, suffer depression or find themselves alone. The church will be open on **Tuesday 19th December**, straight after Rosary, from 12:00 noon till 2.30 p.m. Refreshments available. All welcome.

SACKCLOTH & ASHES: Please join us for an EXTRA day of prayer and fasting, on Monday the 11th December, the vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives. **Please also pray especially that politicians and councillors won't hinder the pro-life presence outside abortion clinics and that buffer zones won't be introduced.** For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting see: www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

KELVEDON PRAYER GROUP: A small group of people continues to meet every Thursday in Kelvedon after 10.00 a.m. Mass to pray for all parishioners and their intentions. All welcome. If you would like us to pray for your particular intentions, a prayer book is now permanently placed next to the Tabernacle.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:
Morning & Evening Prayer: Week 2**

SUNDAY 10th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Mary McGonagall (anniversary) All Parishioners Barbara Kewell (anniversary)
MONDAY 11th December <i>St Damasus I</i>	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Mgr George Tutto RIP
TUESDAY 12th December <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	Kelvedon Tiptree	8.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	Private Intention <i>Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration</i>
WEDNESDAY 13th December <i>St Lucy</i>	Kelvedon	7.30 p.m.	Private Intention
THURSDAY 14th December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	Kelvedon Kelvedon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	Private Intention <i>Parish Prayer Group</i>
FRIDAY 15th December	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Private Intention
SATURDAY 16th December	Kelvedon	10.00 a.m.	Private Intention
SUNDAY 17th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> <i>'Gaudete'</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Edwin Hand (anniversary) All Parishioners Sydney Doyle RIP

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: this Saturday 10.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. with
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.*

Liturgical Rotas 17th December	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ministers of Welcome
COGGESHALL	Lanette Bridgman Neville Bridgman	Jill Hinds	Mollie Blackwell
KELVEDON	Helena McInally Tom McInally	Giovanna Austin	Gloria Streat
TIPTREE	Isobel Kersey	Valerie Bartlett	Jude Cody