

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

17th June 2018

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF YEAR

It is the smallest of all the seeds; yet it grows into the biggest shrub of them all.

First Reading	Ezk 17:22-24
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 91:2-3. 13-16
Second Reading	2 Cor 5:6-10
Gospel	Mk 4:26-34



ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF YEAR: In Biblical times the Holy Land was much more heavily forested than it is today and many different kinds of tree are mentioned. Some like poplar and willow need plentiful water. Others such as ebony were imported. Sandalwood was used ceremonially because of its fragrance. Figs and olives are short but productive. Oaks seem to be mostly solitary trees. Fir, pine and cypress were used for building purposes. Palm trees can grow to 100' tall but the Cedar is regarded as special, not only because of its size, but its fragrance. It normally grows on mountain sides between 2000 and 6000 feet in altitude, can reach 130' in height and trunks 8' in diameter. For Ezekiel it is a fitting symbol for Israel – and is still the main feature of the Lebanese flag today. For the prophet it is not just a feature of the natural world but a sign of God's power and protection. In today's Gospel Our Lord speaks in the same way about the humble mustard seed. It looks insignificant yet the power of God enables it to grow into a great shrub if not a mighty tree. For Ezekiel the focus is on the magnificence of the cedar. For Jesus it is not so much the size as the hiddenness of God's transforming power at work that speaks to us of the Kingdom of God. It is not size alone that makes for greatness.

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially *Elizabeth W, Rona R, Ann R, Rosemary T, Michelle B, Samantha U, Margaret B, Paul B, Vanessa D, Mrs VS (Snr), Denis W, Hayley H, Julie T, Deborah L, Bill S, Pam L, Karen K, Sheila F, Mike G, Donovan B, Rebecca D, Brian H, Anne E, Audrey H* and any unknown to us.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember *John McGee, Daisy Cattini, Kathleen Azzario, Brian Vanson, Pat Vallely, Florance Wood, David Edwards, Lancelot Hill, James Mullen, Ted Farley* and *Fr Edward Thomas* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

CONGRATULATIONS: To the following children baptised at Kelvedon last Saturday: **Tommy James Taylor; Princess Tiana Taylor; Martinsam Taylor; Levi Nelson Taylor.**

NOTE FOR READERS: Next Sunday the Feast of the Birthday of St John the Baptist takes the place of the liturgy for 12th Sunday of Year.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE: This takes place at Brentwood Cathedral on **Saturday 14th July at 4.00 p.m.** There are special printed invitations for any couples celebrating special anniversaries this year. If you would like one please ask Fr Gordon.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAY & FASTING FOR LIFE: Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in the British Isles, on **Saturday the 23rd June**, the Vigil of the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist. In light of the increased number of abortions happening in England and Wales and the disastrous results of the Irish abortion referendum, it is even more important for us to call on God's Grace. For more details, see www.goodcounselnetwork.com