

**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)**

Monsignor Gordon Read

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

6th January 2019

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*We saw his star and have come to do
the king homage.*

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel

Is 60:1-6
Ps 71:1-2.7-8.10-13
Eph 3:2-3.5-6
Mt 2:1-12



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: The earliest reference to Epiphany as a Christian feast was in A.D. 361, by Ammianus Marcellinus. The name is Greek and means 'manifestation' and was a general celebration of the manifestation of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, including the commemoration of his birth; the visit of the Magi; all of Jesus' childhood events, up to and including his baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist; and even the miracle at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. In the Eastern Churches the emphasis is mainly on the baptism with the blessing of fonts and outdoor areas of water. In the West these elements became the theme of the Octave (13th January) with 6th focusing on the Magi. Saint John Chrysostom identified the significance of the meeting between the Magi and Herod's court: "The star had been hidden from them so that, on finding themselves without their guide, they would have no alternative but to consult the Jews. In this way the birth of Jesus would be made known to all."

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick and housebound.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember *Susan Ambrose, Peter Joyce, Patricia Brady, Richard Bowen, Arthur Waite, Sr Mary Jude OP, Susan Kiff, Joan Moran, Margaret Whitty, Stella Bushell, Sheila Harpur, Canon Francis Dobson* and *Richard Kiff* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

EPIPHANY BLESSING: In Central Europe there is the lovely custom of blessing houses on the Feast of the Epiphany. In memory of the visit of the Magi people use blessed chalk to mark the lintel over their door with the signs: 20 + C + M + B + 19 (the last two digits of the year). As they do so they may say. "Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar followed the star which led them to God's Son made flesh 2019 years ago. May Christ bless our home, we who live here, and all who visit us throughout this New Year." Please feel free to take some blessed chalk home with you if you would like to do this.

WELCOME: To **Alexander Johnson**, a second year student at Oscott College, who will be spending a few days with us.

FUNERAL GRAHAM MURRAY: Graham's body will be received into Church at 4.00 p.m. Monday. His Requiem Mass will take place at 10.30 a.m. Tuesday followed by cremation at Chelmsford. RIP. This means that there will be no 8.00 a.m. Mass this Tuesday.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - COGGESHALL: This year Churches Together in Coggeshall plan a joint social evening at **Christchurch** on **Saturday 19th January at 7.00 p.m.** Please do make a note in your diary and also sign up on list in porch so that we have an idea of numbers. an idea of numbers.

FINANCE: Offertory collection for **Sunday 30th November - £769.10.**

WHITE FLOWER COLLECTION: The Annual 'White Flower' collection for the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child will be taken up after Mass next Sunday.



STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL UPDATE

The first meeting of our new Parish Partnership took place on December 14th with our parish acting as host. Fr Gordon – the only priest present on this occasion – and stewards representing Maldon, Burnham on Crouch, Danbury and Kelvedon, met over lunch to talk about the nature and situation of each of our parishes. This is the first step in the long process of discernment in which we are about to embark. Priests and Stewards will have to meet frequently during 2019 to work out how we will operate in the future and contribute to the renewal of our diocese as envisaged in the Vision document. By Easter 2020 we will have to present a detailed plan to the Diocese. While this first partnership conversation was light and amicable, as we move into the exploration of resources, weaknesses, strengths, financial situations and explore individual visions and possibilities, the discussions will become more complicated and serious. As you might appreciate, this is a mammoth task and an enormous responsibility for both priests and stewards. Please, keep us constantly in your prayers. Pray that the Holy Spirit be present in all our conversations and our work be always centred in Christ and in the Divine Will. Next meeting will take place on January 25th in Maldon. Thank you.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (ENGLAND & WALES): Have a vacancy for a full time, fixed term contract until July 2019, Admin Assistant to join a small team at the Society's busy National Office in London SE1 (£19,207 pa). Starting ASAP. The St Vincent de Paul Society is an international Christian charity providing practical help to those in need through local community projects and a network of 10,000 volunteer members. For an application pack and further details contact **Moira Dawe** on **0207 703 3030** or E-mail: moirad@svp.org.uk **Closing date:** Tuesday 8th January 2019 5.00 p.m. **Interviews:** w/c Monday 14th January 2019.

NEW HALL SCHOOL: Have the following staff vacancies - **1) Class Teacher**, closing date for application 21st January 2019. **2) Head of Economics**, closing date for application 30th January 2019. **3) Head of Biology**, closing date for application 31st January 2019. **4) Head of French**, closing date for application 23rd January 2019. For details and an application form please visit www.newhallschool.co.uk/job-opportunities or the HR Department on 01245 467 588.

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

SUNDAY 6th January <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Stella Bushell RIP David Bartlett (anniversary) Steven Barrett RIP
MONDAY 7th January <i>St Raymond of Peñafort</i>	Kelvedon Kelvedon	9.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.	Intention Isabel Cully <i>Reception of body: Graham Murray</i>
TUESDAY 8th January	Kelvedon Tiptree	10.30 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	<i>Requiem Mass: Graham Murray RIP Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration</i>
WEDNESDAY 9th January	Kelvedon Kelvedon	7.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	<i>Eucharistic Adoration Secular Clergy Common Fund</i>
THURSDAY 10th January	Kelvedon Kelvedon	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	Thomas Wall RIP <i>Parish Prayer Group</i>
FRIDAY 11th January	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	William Sheldrake RIP
SATURDAY 12th January <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	Kelvedon	10.00 a.m.	Brian Longhurst RIP
SUNDAY 13th January <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Private Intention All Parishioners Marion O'Donnell RIP

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