

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

2nd April 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

I am the resurrection and the life.

First Reading Ezk 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm Ps 129

Second Reading Rm 8:8-11

Gospel Jn 11:1-45



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT: Today begins Passiontide with its increasing emphasis on the cross as the means of our Redemption. During this period the customary veiling of crosses and statues reminds us that without the cross there would be no salvation or access to the heavenly Jerusalem – no saints to help us with their prayers. However, the *Triduum Sacrum* is a single unit – Last Supper, Crucifixion & Resurrection – and today's Gospel is the story of the raising of Lazarus. It points to the triumph of the Lord over the powers of death and the promise not of resuscitation in this world but of eternal life. The Third Century Synagogue at Dura-Europus in Syria has this charming illustration of the Valley of Dry Bones from Ezekiel – our First Reading today. You can see the hand of God reaching down from heaven, literally raising people from their graves.



PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially *Michelle Bryant, Samantha Upton, Margaret Britain, Paul Britain, Vanessa Dann, Angelina Barber, June Jezierski, 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* & any unknown to us.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember *May Collins, Harry Roberts, Sr Mary Pascal OP, Ray Nixon, Tessa Binder, Richard Clarke, Norah Stanley* and *Edward Gregory* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

SEDER SUPPER: A last reminder if you wish to take part in this symbolic meal and preparation for Holy Week – Christchurch, Coggeshall, Thursday at 7.00 p.m. Any names to **Fr Gordon TODAY**. Each year members from all the Churches in Coggeshall gather for this meal that reflects in structure the 'Seder' or Passover meal as a preparation for Easter. It takes place on the Thursday before Holy Week (6th April) so as not to clash with Maundy Thursday services.

FUNERAL – MRS JANICE THOM: Please remember Rev. Ken Thom and his family in your prayers. Janice's funeral will take place at Tiptree URC on Thursday at 1.00 p.m.

REQUEST FOR ROSARIES: Do you have any spares rosaries? If so would you be prepared to donate them to the Apostleship of the Sea so they can be given as a small gift to seafarers? I will leave a box at the back of each church for them to be left in. *Thanks Pat Ezra AoS Chaplain, Haven Ports.*