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

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

2nd December 2012

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Your liberation is near at hand.

First Reading: Jr 33:14-16
Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-5.8-9. 10. 14
Second Reading: 1 Thess 3:12-4:2
Gospel: Lk 21:15-28. 34-36



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means 'coming'. It is about the Advent of Christ, the coming of our Saviour into our world. Each year the season of Advent reminds us of our ancestors who responded to God's initiative. The coming of the long-awaited Messiah was prophesied and anticipated for centuries. The Scripture readings throughout Advent urge us to be watchful, inviting us to relive this anticipation today. This season of joyful hope is an opportunity for us to heed the promise of the prophets and prepare our hearts as we await the coming of our Saviour. What is this promise for which we watch and wait? During Advent we recall the first coming of Christ into our world in Bethlehem. He continues to come to us each moment of our lives when we are open to receive him in word and sacrament and when we experience the love and goodness of others. Finally, we are now awaiting the coming of Christ when he will come in glory to complete the work he has begun, the work of bringing all people into his Kingdom. Today's readings - Year C in the Lectionary focussing on St Luke's Gospel - are another reminder of the last days- a *wake-up* call for the final coming of the Lord. The prophet Jeremiah draws our attention to integrity and justice which are central to people's relationships with God and others. St Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians, emphasises the need to pray for an increase of love. In the Gospel of Luke, there is no room for complacency. We are called to be ready for Jesus' second coming at the end of time. This is not the only challenge for us during this season of anticipation. The first coming of God amongst us assures us that he is present to us in the here and now. With the eyes of faith, how do we see him present in each other? We meet Jesus every day of our lives through the relationships and opportunities given to us. To watch and be vigilant for Jesus' coming means, as Cardinal Newman said, "*to be awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in honouring him; to look out for him in all that happens, to be detached from what is present, and to live in what is unseen; to live in the thought of Christ as he came once, and as he will come again; to desire his Second Coming, from our affectionate and grateful remembrance of his first.*" (*Parochial and Plain Sermons*). Sister Nuala Gannon, IBVM.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember **Josephine Grima, John Wood, Kathleen Lee, Lucy Challis, Margaret Farley, Mary McGonagall, Enid Whitaker, Neville Parkin, Beatrix Joyce and Lorna Dowell** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially **Roland Birch, Marion Simmons, Colleen Furse, Audrey Thurlow, Hayley Hetzel, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Hilda Hawes, Pam Loath, Hani Cyan, Sheila Faulkner, Karen Kelly, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Eddie Price, Anne Entwistle, Audrey Holder, Paul Britain, Audrey Hopwood** and any unknown to us. If anybody knows of names to be added or deleted from the sick list please let Fr Gordon know.

MASS VARIATIONS: On Tuesday, due to a breakfast Trustees' meeting at 8.00 a.m., Mass will be at 6.00 p.m. On Thursday a clergy Day of Recollection with the Bishop means that morning Mass will be at 9.00 a.m. On Saturday I have a Mass to celebrate in Ashford Kent at 12.30 p.m., so morning Mass will be at 9.00 a.m. with any confessions immediately after and **no** Exposition.

BAZAAR: Many thanks for your most generous support for our Christmas Bazaar last weekend – not only to those who turned up on the day, gave items or bought tickets, but especially to those who gave of their time and energy in organising the event and clearing up afterwards. You will be pleased to hear that the takings were in the region of £2000. In a way, though, more important is how such events draw parishioners and the wider community together and help to build relationships within the parish family.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE PROMOTION OF VOCATIONS 2ND DECEMBER: To produce materials for schools and parishes, keep the vocations website fresh, provide opportunities for those discerning vocation – all of this costs money. There has been great generosity in the support of seminarians: this year the collection is specifically to help the promotion of vocations. The Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Dominic Howarth, writes: *“In the Year of Faith it is ever more important that people have an opportunity to deeply discern who God is calling them to be – in married life, single life, Religious Life and Diocesan Priesthood. We would also love to supply prayer cards, vocations leaflets and other resources that every Catholic can use. There has never been a fund for this, and this year’s collection is the opportunity to create such a fund. Please do give to support it, and if you would like to know more, or make a personal donation, please email frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org or call 01268 281732. Thank you.*

FINANCE: Offertory collection for **Sunday 25th November - £891.99.**

WORLD AIDS DAY: December 1st is **World AIDS Day** and the global theme this year is ‘Getting to Zero’ - Zero new HIV infections. Zero AIDS-related deaths. Zero discriminations. Much has been achieved in the past 30 years of the AIDS pandemic but if we are to “get to Zero”, we must stand in solidarity with those affected by HIV and AIDS and demand action and commitment from decision-makers to provide support and end stigma and discrimination for those affected. And we, as faith communities, must ensure that we too are playing a leading role in the HIV response.



HEADTEACHER VACANCY: Required at **St Teresa’s Primary School, Basildon.** This school is part of a very strong community of Catholic schools within Basildon. We are looking for an experienced Senior Leader to support and develop the school, which is in the process of converting to Academy status. Leadership scale L12-L18, with a relocation allowance subject to conditions. Start April or September 2013. For more details contact Carolyn Ataman at the school, 01268 553502, admin@st-teresasrc.essex.sch.uk. School visits warmly welcomed. Closing date 4th January 2013.

PRAYER EVENINGS AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE: For any one aged 16+ on 20th December, 7th February, 28th March, 23rd May and 11th July. Come and join the Walsingham house team from 7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. for an evening of prayer. For more information contact Jon@walsinghamhouse.org

DIOCESAN QUESTIONNAIRE

You may be wondering about the information you contributed to the Diocesan Questionnaire at the beginning of October. I have now had a chance to pull the data together for sending to Brentwood. 153 questionnaires were completed but not everyone answered all the questions and occasionally these were themselves somewhat unclear. The age breakdown was: under 18 – 23; 18-30 – 4; 30-65 – 75; 65+ – 52. Of these 4 were 'newly arrived', 14 had lived in the parish less than 5 years, 29 less than 10 years and 84 more than 10 years. These figures reflect a fairly stable population and also the lack of affordable housing for young single people or those starting out on married life. 14 respondents were at primary school, 8 at secondary school, 3 at college (or gap year) and 1 at university. The ethnic mix was overwhelmingly mono-cultural. 130 respondents described themselves as 'white British or Irish', 1 as Latin American (mixed descent), 3 as Asian and 14 as other – I suspect mostly European or North American – but none as African or Caribbean. Perhaps more surprising was the number of converts at 27 – 22 from C of E, 1 unspecified Protestant and 4 from non-religious backgrounds. There were also 2 non-Catholic respondents. The question on Catholic schooling was a little unclear – judging by the number of over-65's who said their children were not attending Catholic schools many had misread the question – so, taking these responses out, 9 were sending their children to Catholic Schools and 24 were not. However this is a little misleading since many children go to local primary schools but Catholic secondary schools, so some had circled both options. When it comes to Mass attendance unsurprisingly no one had ticked Christmas and Easter only, but 5 attend only on special occasions, 12 monthly, 18 fortnightly and 117 weekly. This suggests that many of those we do not see here each week are in fact attending Mass elsewhere in the weeks we do not see them – a source of encouragement. The diocesan response sheet had a breakdown of occupation into various categories but some replies were hard to fit into those provided. By far and away the greatest numbers were those who described themselves as 'retired' (53) or 'housewives/home-makers' (18). Other designations fell broadly into the following categories: accountancy (1); business (4); catering (1); cleaning (1); finance (5); I.T. (2); legal (2); management (11); medical (4); nursing (2); social work (2); teaching (7); quantity surveyor (1); building (1); ground work (1); general office or administration (3); garden design (1); art and design (2); public relations (1); unemployed (1). This totals 124 so when we add 26 in education only 3 people did not complete this section. It suggests that at least among Mass goers unemployment is at a very low level in this parish. There are also curious gaps – surprisingly few parishioners in manual or factory work or the various branches of the civil service.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:
Psalms for Morning Prayer: Week 1

SUNDAY 2nd December <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	John Wood RIP All Parishioners Ivy Newman RIP
MONDAY 3rd December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Private Intention
TUESDAY 4th December <i>St John Damascene</i>	Kelvedon Tiptree Kelvedon	6.00 p.m. 11.00 a.m. 7.30-8.30 p.m.	Louise Grant RIP <i>Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
WEDNESDAY 5th December	Kelvedon	7.30 p.m.	Church in Czech Republic
THURSDAY 6th December <i>St Nicholas</i>	Kelvedon Coggeshall Kelvedon	9.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m. 8.00-9.00 p.m.	Int. Bishop Thomas McMahon Private Intention <i>Prayer Group</i>
FRIDAY 7th December <i>St Ambrose</i>	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	James Sheldrake RIP
SATURDAY 8th December <i>Immaculate Conception of BVM</i>	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Edwin Hand (anniversary)
SUNDAY 9th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	All Parishioners Ellen & John Quigley RIP Barbara Kewell (anniversary)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: This Saturday immediately after Mass;
 NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction**

Liturgical Rotas 9th December	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ministers of Welcome
COGGESHALL	Ann Ross	Benedict Crone	Edwina Abram
KELVEDON	Tom McInally Patricia Short	Giulia Horrocks	Marie Sullivan
TIPTREE	Sue Petchey	Michael Wigley	Celia Butt