

**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 July 2017

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF YEAR

Anyone who does not take his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.

First Reading	Kgs 4:8-11.14-16
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 88:2-3. 6-19
Second Reading	Rom 6:3-4.8-11
Gospel	Mt 10:37-42



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY: "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me". Hospitality is an important virtue – especially in a desert climate. However, Jesus is not simply praising hospitality in general but making the point that if we see God in the person we encounter, then we will receive God's blessing. A human act of kindness is taken to a higher level. The Church has chosen our first reading to emphasise this point in a practical way. A childless woman recognises the holiness of Elisha and offers a spare room for his use whenever he passes. In return Elisha promises her the blessing of a child. The presence of God in those we encounter is often not so obvious. Indeed it may be well hidden by their human characteristics. Yet we are all made in the image and likeness of God. The story of St Christopher may be legendary but it tells of a Christian convert who was tall and strong, and counselled by a hermit to offer his assistance to those seeking to cross a dangerous river. After Christopher had performed this service for some time, a little child asked him to take him across the river. During the crossing, the river became swollen and the child seemed as heavy as lead, so that Christopher could scarcely carry him and found himself in great difficulty. When he finally reached the other side, he said to the child: "You have put me in the greatest danger. I do not think the whole world could have been as heavy on my shoulders as you were." The child replied: "You had on your shoulders not only the whole world but Him who made it. I am Christ your king, whom you are serving by this work." The child then vanished.

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially *Alec Ross, 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 *Julie Hillyard, Catherine Trim, Jimmy Pachowski, Susan Praynall, Paul Wilson, Jozsefa Matejek, Edith Kenney, Emmett O'Reilly, Margaret Durell* and *Roma Palmer* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASS VARIATION: Due to the memorial Mass for Mgr George Stokes at the Cathedral Mass on Thursday will be at 9.00 a.m.

SEA SUNDAY: Next Sunday is 'Sea Sunday', when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. You are invited to help the work of the Apostleship of the Sea by using the special envelopes in your pack or those provided at the back of the Church, and placing them in the offertory bags as usual. This provides practical and spiritual support for seafarers visiting our ports. For information visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk or ask Pat Ezra who is currently working as a port chaplain.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR MGR GEORGE STOKES RIP: There will be a Memorial Mass for Mgr George Stokes RIP on Thursday 6th July in the Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. All are welcome.