

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

6th March 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*Your brother here was dead and has
come to life.*

First Reading:	Jos 5:0-12
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 33:2-7
Second Reading:	2 Cor 5:17-21
Gospel:	Lk 15:1-3. 11-32



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: “For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation is gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation.” St Paul sums up what Christ has done for us in these words to the people of Corinth. Jesus tells us the same wonderful truth through the parable of the ‘Prodigal Son’ we hear in today’s Gospel. The Father does not stint his welcome – he restores him to where he was before by giving him the new clothes, the ring and a feast in his honour. When we turn to him in the sacrament of reconciliation the same thing happens. The slate is wiped clean. We are recreated in innocence of soul – the state of grace restored. Christ has paid our debt on the cross. True – we may still have debts of justice to fulfil to others and carry the scars of our wounds but our place in God’s house is restored. St Paul appeals to us too: “Be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.”

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially *Margaret Britain, Paul Britain, Vanessa Dann, Angelina Barber, June Jezierski, Mrs Van Stolk (senior), Denis Wood, Kay Smith, Hayley Hetzel, Julie Trueman, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Pam Loath, Hani Kyan, Karen Kelly, Sheila Faulkner, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Anne Entwistle, Audrey Hopwood* and any unknown to us.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember *Maude Kavanagh, Sydney Evans, Alan Lawes, Paul Buckley, Natalia Mulka, Constance Turner, Lee Saunders, James Dey and Timothy Short* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

‘LAETARE’ OR MOTHERING SUNDAY: The official entrance antiphon invites us to rejoice in Jerusalem as our spiritual mother. In former times the Pope celebrated today’s Mass at the Church of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, and the Epistle was taken from Galatians 4:22-31, where St Paul reflects on the relationship of Abraham’s two wives – Sarah and Hagar and how we are the spiritual children of Abraham through Sarah’s son Isaac. This gave rise to the custom of ‘daughter churches’ honouring the ‘mother church’ from which they sprang and then to paying a visit to and honouring our human mothers. The note of joy means that the Church permits the use of rose pink vestments today in place of the penitential purple of Lent.

WE REGRET: To announce the death of two parishioners: **Margaret (Peggy) Sitkowski** of Driffield Close, Feering and **Margaret (Peggy) Le Good** of Walnut Tree Way, Tiptree. Peggy Sitkowski’s Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 17th March at 11.00 a.m. at Kelvedon followed by cremation at Three Counties Crematorium. Peggy Le Good’s funeral will be a Service at Colchester Crematorium on Wednesday 23rd March at 11.45 a.m. RIP.

MASS VARIATION: This week due to a legal meeting in London at 4.00 p.m. Mass on Wednesday will be at 8.00 a.m. – should be back in good time for Lent Study Group.

TERESA HALL – THANKSGIVING SERVICE: At the time of Teresa’s funeral it was announced that in due course there would be a service of thanksgiving particularly for those unable to attend her funeral. This will take the form of a Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas at **Brentwood Cathedral** on **Friday 18th March** at **12.00 noon** and will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. All are welcome but no on-site parking will be available.

UGANDA APPEAL: We missed Fr Gerald’s visit in the autumn but his work in Uganda continues against a less certain political background. He has kindly provided his financial report copies of which are available after Mass at the back of the Churches. (Further copies can be obtained from Simon Hall on 01206213399). The report explains what our funds were applied to and include the completion of the presbytery roof after 20 years – this building is an important community asset – as well as supporting many children in their primary, secondary and tertiary education. There are some photos of the students we have and are helping, including two graduate teachers and a nurse. Our gifts provide a direct benefit to the individuals identified by Fr Gerald as in most need of assistance. We are having a further collection for the parish to apply to his work and envelopes are on the benches and chairs for you to use either this week or next. If you could include your offertory gift aid number we will be able to recover gift aid to assist.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP: Is extending it's age range. It will now be open to all aged 13 and over. The next meeting is **this evening** in the **St Dominic Room** at **Kelvedon** from **7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.** This week we will be deciding on a new name for the group and sorting out our first trip. Looking forward to seeing you. **Pat Ezra**

LENTEN ECUMENICAL STUDY GROUPS: This year these will take place in all three centres: **Kelvedon & Feering:** Tuesdays 10.30-11.30 a.m. URC and Wednesdays 8.00-9.00 p.m. St Mary Immaculate. This year we will be making use of a book of poems – one for each day during Lent – and will be reflecting on two of them at each session. **Coggeshall:** Mondays 7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. at St Peter’s. ‘Being Christ in the World’. Each week a national or local charity will speak about their work: 7th March: Beacon House, Colchester. **Tiptree: Lent Bible Study 2016** This year our Lent Bible Studies will focus on the way the four Gospel writers and St Paul write about the passion of Jesus. We will be looking at what insights we can draw from each of the descriptions of Jesus’ death and the events that led up to it. The course will run ecumenically in Tiptree on Tuesday evenings at 8 pm at Tiptree URC and on Thursday mornings at 11.00 a.m. at St Luke’s. It will also be run, with different leaders, on Wednesdays at 12 pm at Heath House, Layer Breton, where there will also be a simple lunch. **Session 4 The Passion according to John** Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th March led by Jonathan Greenwood. Wednesday 9th March led by Kit Gray. **Session 5 The Passion according to Paul** Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th March led by Anne-Marie Renshaw. Where groups are scheduled twice a week the content and in most cases the leader will be the same on both days.

FINANCE: Offertory collection for **Sunday 28th February - £697.96.**

WORKS OF MERCY: The Helpers of God's Precious Infants reach out in love and compassion to mothers who are in crisis pregnancies and to those who have suffered the effects of abortion. The number of those who have turned to us for help are many and we are humbled by their thanks. The reasons that parents find themselves in these circumstances are varied and many, but God is there holding out His Hand of Love and Mercy – “where two or more are gathered in prayer, I am there in the midst of them” – why not come and join us and help to hold out God's Hand of Love and Mercy? The next Rosary Procession Vigil, led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, will be held on Saturday 19th March, at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church 557/559 High Road, Woodford Green IG8 0RB. We begin with 9.00 a.m. Mass, followed by our Procession at 9.45 a.m. to Marie Stopes abortion centre, 88 Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5QB, where we pray 15 decades of the Rosary and sing hymns, returning at approximately 12.30 p.m. to the church for refreshments. Full details on poster in church porch.

FREE HALF DAY EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY SEMINARS: For all non Catholic Chaplains, NHS Managers and staff. **'The Catholic Patient in Hospital'** Following on from the release of the NHS Chaplaincy Guidelines 2015 these seminars aim to inform all non Catholic Chaplains, NHS Managers and staff of the reasons and rationale of how Catholic Patients religious needs differ to other faith and belief groups. Seminars will be led by Professor Jim Mc Manus, Director of Public Health Hertfordshire County Council. **Venue:** Free Church Group, 27 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9HH (very close to Euston station). Dates **22nd March & 27th May 2016**. Morning seminar- 09.00 to 13.00 Afternoon Seminar 13.30 to 16.30 Refreshments provided Further seminars will be held in Birmingham on the 8th **June 2016** Venue to be confirmed. Certificate of attendance will be provided. To register please e-mail cath.morgan@CBCEW.Org.uk or Nicholas.Johnson@CBCEW.Org.uk

ST BENEDICT'S COLLEGE: A Midday Assistant is required to join our team as soon as possible. The hours of work will be 7 ½ hours per week, 1 ½ hours per day, between hours of **13.15pm to 14.45pm, Monday to Friday** and this will be required **Term Time (38 weeks)** only. The pay band for the role is **Band 1 (whole range)** £13,614 - £14,338 (a new pay award is imminent). The actual salary for the role is **£2,281.01 to £2,402.32** or with over 5 years continuous service **£2,323.35 to £2,446.91**. Closing Date: Friday 18th March 2016. The College will only accept applications using our own application form, which can be downloaded from our website, or can be requested to be sent in the post by contacting Angela Jones HR Administrator 01206 516818, or by email. Completed applications should be sent to a.jones@stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk, or by post to St Benedict's Catholic College, Norman Way, Colchester CO3 3US.

HEALING MASS: At Abbotswick House of Prayer, Brentwood to be celebrated by Fr Eamonn Power at 2.30pm on Wednesday 9th March. Please call 01277 373959 or visit www.abbotswick.org for more information.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: Clare McCullough talks about the inspiring Pro-Life work of The Good Counsel Network that is bringing hope to women and saving countless babies' lives from abortion. You can watch episode 5 of Three Wise Women on EWTN at 11.00 a.m. on Monday 7th March, 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday 9th March or at 00.30 a.m. Saturday 12th March 2016. You can watch EWTN on Sky 589 or online www.EWTN.co.uk For more information about The Good Counsel Networks life changing and lifesaving work see; www.goodcounselnetwork.com

YEAR OF MERCY: Brentwood Cathedral Year of Mercy Mass on Sunday 13th March at 6.30 p.m. Are you a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) man or woman? Are you the parent, relative or friend of a LGBT man or woman? You and all people are warmly invited to join the community at Brentwood Cathedral and come into the presence of the living, merciful God. Preacher: Fr Dominic Howarth.

FAITH FILMS CLUB: Save the date! We are beginning our new year of films on **Friday 11th March at 2.00 p.m.** in Aggie O'Brien's house. The first showing will be the award-winning movie "*The Passion of the Christ*". This is a "Bring and share" fellowship but coffee and tea will be provided. For further details, please contact Aggie at 01376 573694 or Gloria Streat at 07870 281212.

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE: Are you a practicing Catholic, interested in supporting Catholic education by becoming a school governor? If you would like to know more about becoming a governor at St Benedict's Catholic College please attend our informal information evening to be held on March 16th 2016 at the College. You are welcome to drop in any time between 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. Please confirm your attendance at the information evening via email to johnsont@stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk or by phoning 01206 549222.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE NORTHERN SAINTS: Join parishioners from Basildon on a pilgrimage that will include Saints such as Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert and Hilda, with tours in Durham, Jarrow, Lindisfarne and Whitby, as well as a look along Hadrian's Wall. Accommodation in the Ramada Hotel, Gateshead, with dinner, breakfast and a touring coach throughout. May 29th - June 3rd (half term). £445 per person for twin or double room. Full details from Sarah in the Basildon parish office, 01268 281732 or email parishadministrator@basildoncatholics.org

SSG SPRING STUDY DAY: Hammersmith, March 12th. The Society of St Gregory, which promotes music and liturgy in the church, has arranged study days across the country to look at the meaning of the year of mercy for our parishes. The day lasts from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and the cost is £10 per person which includes lunch. The nearest venue for our diocese is in Hammersmith. Bookings may be made by emailing Mary Rouse at bookings@ssg.org.uk or by phoning John Ainslie on 020 8445 5724.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:
Morning & Evening Prayer: Week 4**

SUNDAY 6th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>'Laetare'</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 5.15 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	All Parishioners Sabu Mathew RIP <i>Stations of the Cross</i> Special Intention (BK)
MONDAY 7th March	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	James Sheldrake RIP
TUESDAY 8th March	Kelvedon Tiptree Kelvedon	8.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 7.30-8.30 p.m.	Secular Clergy New Common Fund <i>Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
WEDNESDAY 9th March	Kelvedon	8.00 a.m.	Private Intention
THURSDAY 10th March	Kelvedon	10.00 a.m.	Intention Anne Cooney
FRIDAY 11th March	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Private Intention
SATURDAY 12th March	Kelvedon	10.00 a.m.	Edmund Brennan RIP
SUNDAY 13th March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 5.15 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Richard & Margaret Browne RIP Timothy Short (anniversary) <i>Stations of the Cross</i> All Parishioners

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

Liturgical Rotas 13th March	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ministers of Welcome
COGGESHALL	Derek Hand Jane Crone	Neville Bridgman	Clare Gallant
KELVEDON	Jadwiga Smith Steve Smith	Helen McInally	Marie Sullivan
TIPTREE	Mary Mann	Simon Hall	Celia Butt