

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

7th May 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

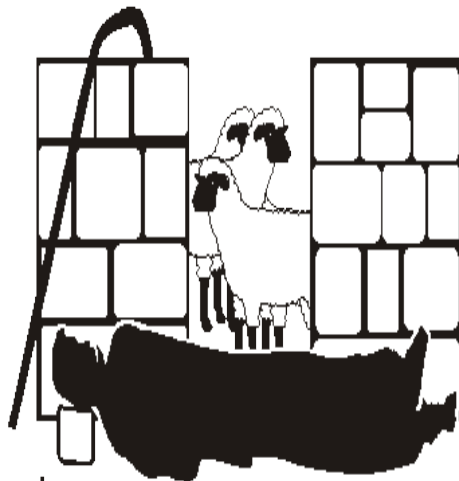
I am the gate of the sheepfold.

First Reading Ac 2:14.36-41

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-6

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:20-25

Gospel Jn 10:1-10



I AM THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: Today is known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' and is the annual day of prayer for vocations for the priesthood and religious life. The 'Good Shepherd' discourse from St John's Gospel is divided into three sections spread over the three years of the Cycle of Readings. In the first part Jesus begins with a slightly different image. Jesus first identifies himself, not as the Good Shepherd, but as the gate for the sheep. In the ancient walls of Jerusalem, there was a gate on the north of the city, by which animals were brought in from the surrounding areas for sacrifice. It was called the sheep gate. Once inside the city and within the temple courts, there was only one door where the sheep went in, and no lamb ever came back out after entering the temple precincts. They travelled in only one direction, and there they were sacrificed for the sins of human beings. For that first audience who heard Jesus' teaching about sheep, such knowledge added to the shock of his words: "I tell you the truth. I am the gate for the sheep. ... I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture" (John 10:7, 9). In the very temple area filled with sheep on their way to slaughter, Jesus declared there was a way out: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11).

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, 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 *Thomas Murphy, Frank Walsh, Melloney Kentish, Betty Rebhahn* and *Thomas Buckland* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

CANON LAW CONFERENCE: I shall be away this week for the annual conference of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain & Ireland. This year it is being held in Rome to mark the centenary of the Code of Canon Law revised in 1983. There will be **no Mass Tuesday to Friday**. In an emergency please contact Fr Tom Lavin at Lexden (01206 576898).

PASTORAL VISIT OF BISHOP ALAN: Bishop Alan will be with us for all Masses next Sunday and at 11.00 a.m. Mass will be conferring the sacrament of confirmation on **Felix Ruiz, Kate Sheppard** and **Madeleine Johnson**. Please remember them in your prayers.

WE REGRET: To announce the death of **Mrs June Jezierski** last Sunday – she had been in a care home in Stanway for the last few weeks. Her funeral has now been provisionally arranged for 3.00 p.m. on Thursday 18th May.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS' LUNCH: Will take place on **Saturday 17th June** in **St Dominic's Room, Kelvedon** from 12.30 p.m. Please make a note of this date and we will give you further details next week.