

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

Monsignor Gordon Read

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

8th December 2013

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

First Reading: Is 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17

Second Reading: Rm 15:4-9

Gospel: Mt 3:1-12



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: St Thomas More wrote a book entitled 'Utopia' in which he set out a vision of an ideal world. It is a world that does not exist – the title comes from the Greek words for 'Nowhere'. Isaiah's vision can seem like this – people use 'utopian' as a way of saying 'unrealistic'. How can the lion and lamb lay down together? Isaiah's vision is for the end of time and the Second Coming of Christ. Only God can make such profound changes not only to human beings but the natural order. However this does not mean that we cannot take steps towards a world that more closely resembles God's ultimate purpose. Christ has already come and brought with him the gift of the Holy Spirit. Sinful though we are, the grace of God is already available to us. Just as a candle brings light into darkness, so the grace of God at work in us can make small, incremental changes to us and to our world. Advent is a time for us to reflect on both what we are and what God wants us to be. If we examine our consciences each night before we go to bed we can identify some point, perhaps in our relationships with others, where we could have done better and make a resolution for tomorrow. If we work at just this one point over a period of time, by the grace of God the world will be a better place by Christmas!

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember **Lorna Dowell, Richard Farley, John Need, Bertha Beasley, Kenelem Bourfield, Hilda Davey** and **William Neary** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially **Kay Smith, Halina Pieckielon, Helen Felgate, Isobel Kersey, Julie Trueman, Audrey Thurlow, Hayley Hetzel, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Pam Loath, Hani Kyan, Karen Kelly, Sheila Faulkner, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Eddie Price, Anne Entwistle, Paul Britain, Audrey Hopwood** and any unknown to us.

WE REGRET: To announce the death after a short illness of **Marlene Kennedy**. Her Requiem Mass will take place at **St Bernard's, Coggeshall, on Wednesday 11th December at 11.00 a.m. RIP.**

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Many thanks to all who helped make it such a successful occasion, both socially and financially. The total realised on the day, before deduction of expenses, was **£2513.00!**

ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION: This will take place on **Wednesday 18th December at Kelvedon 7.30 p.m.** **Fr Tom Lavin** from Lexden will help with Confessions.

TIPTREE CAROL SERVICE: This year the Carol Service will take place at **St Luke's on Sunday 15th December at 4.00 p.m.** If anyone is planning to attend and would be willing to do a reading, please let me know.

FINANCE: Offertory collections for **Sunday 1st December - £654.21.**

ATTENTION CHILDREN: CHRISTMAS POEM COMPETITION: To celebrate the birthday of Jesus on December 24th, we are **inviting all the children** in the parish to write a short poem (12-20 verses) to baby Jesus in the manger. What baby Jesus means to you? What would you like to tell him on his birthday on behalf of all the children in the parish? A poem will be selected by a panel to be read on the Children's Mass on December 24th by the author, or by somebody else if so he/she wishes. All poems must be delivered by hand to Fr Gordon or by email to mahart66@hotmail.com by **Wednesday December 18th**. A certificate and small gift would be given to the winner. Please, help us to make Jesus' birthday celebrations special!

BURSARY: The Pastoral Parish Council is happy to announce that a special bursary has been created to help the spiritual and academic development of those who generously and actively serve the parish through the different ministries available. From January 2014, a maximum of £250 will be available annually to subsidise (totally or partially) courses, retreats or workshops that can improve the skills or spiritual development of the applicant. More information on how to apply and conditions will be available in the New Year.

CATHOLIC BIBLE SUNDAY: This weekend in many different Christian communities we celebrate Bible Sunday. Since the Second Vatican Council Catholics have been taught to treasure the presence of Christ in the Mass, not only in the Eucharist, but also in the Word. We are fed both by the 'table of the Word' and the 'table of the Sacrament'. It is not always easy to understand the words of Scripture, and the priest or deacon cannot explain everything in a short homily. This is why it is good to have read the readings quietly before Mass. You will find that when they are proclaimed during Mass they will have a deeper effect. You can find the readings on the internet at www.universalis.com, or in a Sunday missal. Why not return to the readings also during the following week? Best of all, track down the readings in your own Bible. You will find weekly reflections on the Sunday gospel on www.whatgoodnews.org www.thewordofthelord.co.uk or www.catholicbiblesunday.org

ST JOHN PAYNE ADVENT SERVICE: You are warmly invited to attend our annual Advent Carol Service on Thursday 19th December at 7.30 p.m. in the Upper School Hall. This will be a wonderful way to end the school term and begin Christmas festivities, reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas before the hustle and bustle gets in the way, as well as an opportunity to socialise afterwards with some refreshments. Please do join us – we'd love to see you there.

UGANDA APPEAL: Some weeks ago we made an appeal asking for support for those students continuing their education at Fr Gerald's former Parish, Kakumiro. If you have not already made a donation but would like to, then this is your final opportunity to do so as we would like to send the total amount collected to Fr Gerald before Christmas. Many thanks for your generosity.

CONGRATULATIONS: To **Akinsola Famubode Oluwabigi Oladokun** and **Jasmine Ekhomwan Gaius-Obaseki** married at Kelvedon last Saturday.

CAROL SINGING IN KELVEDON: Subject to confirmation members of the Churches in Kelvedon will be singing carols at The Angel on Thursday 12th December from 7.30 p.m.

FOOD BANK - COGGESHALL: Last week Jane Crone took 200k of food from Churches Together in Coggeshall to the centre in Braintree. St Bernard's are responsible for this task four times a year. As she has resumed part time work she would appreciate offers of help for next time. Clearly whoever volunteers will need a car with sufficient space to transport this quantity and to be reasonably strong! Secondly, consideration is being given to opening a distribution centre in Coggeshall rather than clients having to pay the bus fare to Braintree. The food would come pre-packed from Braintree. Apparently it would need a core of about 20-24 volunteers to staff this. We will discuss this at a future meeting of Coggeshall Churches Together, but it would be helpful to have an idea how many of our own people would be willing to help with this.

MASS FOR VOCATIONS: At **Holy Trinity Church, 71 Wickhay, Basildon SS15 5AD 11.30 a.m. Monday 30th December.** You are warmly invited to join seminarians from the Diocese, along with those considering Priesthood and the Religious Life, for a special Mass for Vocations. Everyone is welcome - feel free to turn up! If you are discerning a vocation to Priesthood or Religious Life and would like more information, please contact Fr Dominic, Vocations Director, 01268 281732 or frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org. Holy Trinity is close to the A13, A127 and Basildon station (c2c main line from Southend or London).

CHRISTMAS EVE 6.30 P.M. MASS: If you are a **Eucharistic Minister** and are intending to attend the **6.30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve at Kelvedon**, can you please contact **Pat Short** on **01621 929254** so that she can make sure there are sufficient Ministers.

CATHOLIC SINGLES: Is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicsingles.org.uk or email info@catholicsingles.org.uk

ST JOSEPH'S JUNIOR SEMINARY MARK CROSS: The junior seminary at Mark Cross, that served the Archdiocese of Southwark and the Dioceses of Arundel and Brighton and Brentwood, closed in the 1970s. A small group of former 'Mark Cross boys' are organising the first ever re-union of seminarists who studied there. Some were ordained, some were not. All are invited to the Amigo Hall, Southwark SE London on Wednesday 19th March, the Feast of St Joseph. Canon John O'Toole, Dean of Southwark cathedral, and the organising committee, would like to hear from any former student, even if they are unable to attend. Email: jotoole@stgeorges.org.uk or seanj Dunne@yahoo.co.uk

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:
Psalms for Morning Prayer: Week 2**

SUNDAY 8th December 2nd of Advent	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Edwin Hand (anniversary) All Parishioners Barbara Kewell (anniversary)
MONDAY 9th December <i>Immaculate Conception of BVM (transferred)</i>	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Private Intention
TUESDAY 10th December	Kelvedon Tiptree Kelvedon	8.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 7.30-8.30 p.m	Edmund Ward & Family <i>Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
WEDNESDAY <i>St Damasus I</i> 11th December	Coggeshall Kelvedon	11.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	<i>Requiem: Marlene Kennedy</i> Guy Sewell RIP
THURSDAY 12th December <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	Kelvedon Coggeshall	10.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Private Intention Private Intention
FRIDAY <i>St Lucy</i> 13th December	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Private Intention
SATURDAY 14th December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	Kelvedon	10.00 a.m.	Private Intention
SUNDAY 15th December 3rd of Advent 'Gaudete'	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Peter Hall RIP All Parishioners Private Intention

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

Liturgical Rotas 15th December	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ministers of Welcome
COGGESHALL	Teresa Hall Derek Hand	Simon Hall	Ann Ross
KELVEDON	Valerie Bartlett Patricia Short	Jadwiga Smith	Elizabeth Maxted
TIPTREE	Mary Mann	Michael Wigley	Celia Butt