

**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**

**11th January 2015**

### ***THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD***

*You are my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on you.*

**First Reading: Is 55:1-11**

**Responsorial Psalm Is 12:2-6**

**Second Reading: 1 Jn 5:1-9**

**Gospel: Mt 1:7-11**



**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD:** Each of the Evangelists in his own way attests to the importance of Jesus' baptism. It is the outward manifestation of his mission. Jesus accepts this outward sign, although in no need of cleansing, so that the Father may send down the Holy Spirit to bear witness as to who he is. "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." John the Baptist's task is now complete. In the second reading St John tells us that it is not only the Spirit who bears witness to the lord, but also the blood he will shed on the cross. Jesus comes into the world not only to share our life but also to share our death so that we may enter with him into eternal life. Although John used the waters of the River Jordan to baptise, special ritual baths were used within the Jewish community especially when female converts were received or men who had already been circumcised. The early Christian community saw the font as symbolising death and rebirth – generally the candidate was plunged beneath the water and fonts were provided with steps down into them. Often the shape of the font was also symbolic, especially in later times when they became smaller. A circular font symbolised the womb, square or with four lobes the four Gospels, octagonal the eighth day – that of the resurrection and new creation. In the Middle Ages octagonal fonts often also depicted the seven sacraments. Baptism marks the beginning of our life in Christ – the life of grace. We can renounce Christ but he does not renounce us – the seal of baptism is indelible. The font illustrated is in Kelibia in Tunisia and dates from the Sixth Century.



**PRAYER NEEDS:** Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially *Delia Cooch, Kay Smith, 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.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Please remember *Canon Francis Dobson, Richard Baldock, Fred Thognett, Violet Gillen, Margaret Barnes, Arnold Worrall, Eileen Polley, Roma Royal, Thomas Martin, Kathleen Wade and Kerry Anderson* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**GARETH TALBOT:** Last week we wished Gareth well for his move to the Gulf States and he was presented with a tee-shirt with a picture of all the Altar Servers on the front. If you would like to be associated with a thank-you gift from the parish, there will be a retiring collection after Mass today.

**MASS VARIATION:** St Benedict's College Governors have a meeting at De La Salle School, Basildon at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday so there will be no morning Mass this Thursday.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Will resume at Kelvedon on **Tuesday 13th January** from **7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.**

**WE REGRET:** To announce the death of Walter Smith, father of Stephen Smith of Messing. Please remember the family in your prayers.

**2014 UGANDA APPEAL:** So far we are in a position to send Fr Gerald **£14,250** which represents all the donations to date, including from St Francis School in Braintree, the proceeds of the lottery, and gift aid received to date. We are planning on sending the funds through shortly but if anyone would still like to donate please do so. It is a wonderful result and on behalf of Fr Gerald I would like to thank all those who contributed, ran the lottery and Tony Hinds and the Finance team who dealt with the tax reclaims and managing the funds received. **Simon Hall**.

**WHITE FLOWER COLLECTION FOR SPUC:** This will be taken up next weekend. Many of you will have read about the court case of two midwives who sought to uphold their right not to be involved in supervising abortions. Sadly they lost their case in the Supreme Court just before Christmas with worrying implications for all nurses and doctors in the field of gynaecology. SPUC supported the midwives during the three year court case to the extent of £406K in legal fees. The 'white flower collection' is one of the principal sources of funding for such work.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** This year the week runs from next Sunday to the following -18th-25th January. **St Bernard's, Coggeshall** will host the annual service for Coggeshall **next Sunday at 4.00 p.m.** In Tiptree this year the emphasis will be on a 'prayer event' at the beginning of February - 4.00 p.m. at the United Reformed Church. There will, however, be the usual invitation to join the community at the Orthodox Monastery at Tolleshunt Knights for Night Prayer on Monday 19th January at 8.00 p.m., or to attend existing services such as our **Rosary Group on Tuesday at 11.00 a.m.** and St Luke's Eucharist on Thursday 22nd at 10.00 a.m.

**PARISH SOCIAL GROUP:** We are a fun, informal group within the parish that organise various events throughout the year for all parishioners. Some of our popular fundraising events are the annual Summer Fete, Christmas Bazaar, Fr Gordon's Curry Night and Quiz Night. We also organise non-profit making events like the Seniors' Meal, Wassail Evening, etc. In 2015, we will bring a few more exciting events that will be focused on community spirit building. We are always happy to have more volunteers join us to help organise such events. If you would like to be a member of our Social Group, there is an opportunity to attend our first Planning Meeting on **Wednesday, 14th January at 10:00am in St Dominic's Room, Kelvedon**. It would be good to have representatives from all parts of the parish. You may contact **Aggie, 01376 573694** or **Pat at 01376 570806** to register.

**VACANCY:** A temporary secretary is required (28 hours per week) at Brentwood Religious Education Service. Details are available from Mgr George Stokes or Sr Jude RSM at Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, Brentwood. Telephone.01277 265285/01277 265284. Email: [Jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:Jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org)/MgrGeorgeStokes@dioceseofbrentwood.org Closing date: Friday 16th January 2015.

**THE HOLY FATHER'S UNIVERSAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2015:** "That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace".

**FINANCE:** Offertory collection for **Sunday 28th December - £614.67** and **Sunday 4th January - £699.85.**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 21st January** after the **7.30 p.m.** Mass at **Kelvedon.**

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW JESUS?:** Starting **Friday 16th January** for six weeks from **7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.** in the Crypt, St James The Less & St Helen, Priory Street, Colchester. A donation of £15 towards the cost of the materials including your study booklet to keep. To be guaranteed a Study Guide on the first night, sign up at The Parish Office, Fr Neil Brett, St James The Less 01206 866317.

**ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY:** The next meeting of the Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society) will be held on Saturday 7th February at 2.30 p.m. at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood. There will be a presentation at the meeting on "*Mercy in World War One*". This is about the work of the Sisters of Mercy in the First World War. For further information please contact Sister Isobel Parks OSU on 07962138287.

**VOCATIONS WEEKEND:** For young women (20s and 30s). Theme: Discerning God's Call in my life. Dates: 23rd - 25th January 2015. Location: Liverpool. The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters! For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com)

**HEALING MASS:** At Abbotswick House of Prayer, Brentwood to be celebrated by Fr Eamonn Power at 2.30 p.m. Wednesday 21st January. All are welcome! Please call 01277 373959 for more information.

**A QUESTION OF FAITH:** You are warmly invited to attend an evening to ask questions including those on Moral Issues and Catholic Social Teaching, Theology and Scripture, The Church and its history and The Church in today's world or any question you may have always wanted to find the answer to. Our experienced panel members will help you! Join us on **Wednesday 21st January** at **St Joseph the Worker Parish Hall, Highview Crescent, Hutton CM13 1BJ** from **7.30 p.m.** No charge and wine and nibbles are provided. Further details from the parish on 01277 221917 or The Commission for Evangelisation and Formation on 01277 265289.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:  
Morning & Evening Prayer: Week 1**

<b>SUNDAY</b> 11th January <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon  Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.  6.00 p.m.	All Parishioners Dec'd members Kilbane, Bradley, Moran & Tierney Families All Parishioners
<b>MONDAY</b> 12th January <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Canon Francis Dobson (ann.)
<b>TUESDAY</b> 13th January <i>St Hilary</i>	Kelvedon Tiptree Kelvedon	8.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 7.30-8.30 p.m.	Secular Clergy New Common Fund <i>Rosary &amp; Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 14th January	Kelvedon	7.30 p.m.	Hannah Wall RIP
<b>THURSDAY</b> 15th January	Kelvedon Coggeshall	NO MASS 7.30 p.m.	Private Intention
<b>FRIDAY</b> 16th January	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Roma Royal (ann.)
<b>SATURDAY</b> 17th January <i>St Anthon y Abbot</i>	Kelvedon	10.00 a.m.	Intention Clark Family
<b>SUNDAY</b> 18th January <i>Second Sunday</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Andy McGonagall (ann.) All Parishioners Marion O'Donnell (ann.)

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

Liturgical Rotas 18th January	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ministers of Welcome
<b>COGGESHALL</b>	Sean O'Leary Ann Ross	Jill Hinds	Clare Gallant
<b>KELVEDON</b>	Steve Smith Jadwiga Smith	Patricia Short	Elizabeth Maxted
<b>TIPTREE</b>	Teresa Hall	Sue Petchey	Celia Butt