

**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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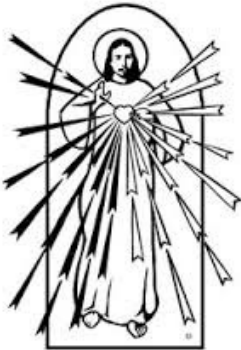
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PARISH NEWSLETTER

12th April 2015

LOW SUNDAY - FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

Eight days later, Jesus came.

First Reading:	Acts 4:32-35
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24
Second Reading:	1 Jn 5:1-6
Gospel:	Jn 20:19-31



LOW SUNDAY - FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY: Today goes under various names. From the first words of the Entrance antiphon it is known as 'Quasimodo': "Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia" 1 Peter 2:2. These words address the newly baptised, who are on a 'learning curve' as disciples and must be given milk at first rather than meat. In ancient times it was the custom to give them the symbolic food of milk and honey. The term 'Low Sunday', or in Latin 'Dominica in Albis' likewise refers to the completion of the Easter octave and the laying aside of the white robes of baptism. More recently it has become known as the Feast of Divine Mercy in response to Our Lord's request made to St Faustina Kowalska. This focuses on the theme of forgiveness contained in the Gospel where Jesus appears a second time in the upper room and grants to the Apostles the power to forgive sins. The mercy of God is a constant theme in the words of Pope Francis and today he will formally announce a special Holy Year to run from 8th December 2015 with this as its keynote. I am sure it is no coincidence that will begin shortly after the special Synod on marriage and family life. It might be an appropriate occasion to think about a parish pilgrimage to Rome during 2016. It may well be that the Bishop will want to have a diocesan pilgrimage but accommodation is bound to be at a premium so early planning will be needed.

"In St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis announced today, March 13, 2015, the celebration of an "extraordinary Holy Year". This "Jubilee of Mercy" will commence with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 2015, and will conclude on November 20, 2016 with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. At the start of the new year, the Holy Father had stated: "This is the time of mercy. It is important that the lay faithful live it and bring it into different social environments. Go forth!" The Jubilee announcement had been made on the second anniversary of the election of Pope Francis, during his homily for the penitential liturgy with which the Holy Father opened the "24 Hours for the Lord". This initiative, proposed by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, promotes throughout the world the opening of churches for an extended period of time for the purpose of inviting people to the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The theme for this year has been taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, "God rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4). The opening of this next Jubilee will take place on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council in 1965. This is of great significance, for it impels the Church to continue the work begun at Vatican II. During the Jubilee, the Sunday readings for Ordinary Time will be taken from the Gospel of Luke, the one referred to as "the evangelist of mercy". Dante Alighieri describes him as "*scriba mansuetudinis Christi*", "narrator of the meekness of Christ". There are many well-known parables of mercy presented in the Gospel of Luke: the lost sheep, the lost coin, the merciful father. The official and solemn announcement of the Holy Year will take place with the public proclamation of the *Bolla* in front of the Holy Door on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast instituted by Saint John Paul II and celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. With the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis focuses attention upon the merciful God who invites all men and women to return to Him. The encounter with God inspires in one the virtue of mercy. The initial rite of the Jubilee is the opening of the Holy Door.

This door is one which is only opened during the Holy Year and which remains closed during all other years. Each of the four major basilicas of Rome has a Holy Door: Saint Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major. This rite of the opening of the Holy Door illustrates symbolically the idea that, during the Jubilee, the faithful are offered an "extraordinary pathway" towards salvation."

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially *Teresa Hall, Mary Cody, Alphonso Ciaravella, Delia Cooch, 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, Eddie Price, Anne Entwistle, Paul Britain, Audrey Hopwood* and any unknown to us.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember *Hubert Jackson, Lena Vallely, Edward Walkley, Gary Fox, Patrick Christi, Ellen Harper, Hilda Hawes and Tadec Nuromberg* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASS VARIATION: I shall be away on a short retreat until Wednesday evening so there will be no Mass this Tuesday morning.

WHERE YOUR FUTURE MP STANDS ON LIFE ISSUES: You like to know about a new website which allows voters to find out where their future MP stands on life issues: <http://wheredotheystand.org.uk/> This website is one of a number of new edemocracy projects designed to help better inform the electorate.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DRESSES: Nell'amore of 14 High Street, Halstead CO9 2AP have a selection of First Holy Communion Dresses. For more information call 01787 478987 or info@nellamore-bridalwear.co.uk or www.nellamore-bridalwear.co.uk

JOB VACANCY: Assistant Manager of Walsingham House required from September. Walsingham House is the Youth Retreat Centre for our Diocese. This role involves the delivery of evangelistic day and residential retreat programmes for young people age 11-18. Salary £11,000 - £14,000 (depending on prior experience) plus live-in accommodation including utility bills. Please contact the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service Director, Kevin Ferros, for further details: info@bcys.net or 01277 265286. **Closing date 20th April.** Start date mid August.

PARISH SECRETARY: Required in Basildon. 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Monday-Friday, start late April, £10,400. We are looking for a friendly, caring and warm person with proven computer, communication and administration skills, discretion, and the ability to manage busy diaries very effectively. Full details at www.basildoncatholics.org or call Fr Dominic on 01268 281732 (not 7-11 April). **Closing date 20th April.**

SOCIAL GROUP MEETING REMINDER: Meeting on **Wednesday 15th April** in **St Dominic's Room 10.00 a.m.** to plan for the **Quiz Night** which takes place on **Friday 24th April.**

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:
Morning & Evening Prayer: Week 2**

SUNDAY 12th April <i>Low Sunday</i> <i>Feast of the Divine Mercy</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 Birthday remembrance (Mam, Julie & Pat)
MONDAY 13th April <i>St Martin I</i>	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Intention Sister Camilla
TUESDAY 14th April	NO MASS Tiptree Kelvedon	11.00 a.m. 7.30-8.30 p.m.	<i>Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
WEDNESDAY 15th April	Kelvedon	7.30 p.m.	Private Intention
THURSDAY 16th April	Kelvedon Coggeshall	10.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Private Intention Private Intention
FRIDAY 17th April	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	William Sheldrake RIP
SATURDAY 18th April	Kelvedon	10.00 a.m.	Intention Clark Family
SUNDAY 19th April <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Intention Teresa Hall Violet Gillen (anniversary) All Parishioners

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

Liturgical Rotas 19th April	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ministers of Welcome
COGGESHALL	Sean O'Leary Ann Ross	Gabrielle Ruiz	Clare Gallant
KELVEDON	Steve Smith Jadwiga Smith	Patricia Short	Elizabeth Maxted
TIPTREE	Isobel Kersey	Sue Petchey	Celia Butt